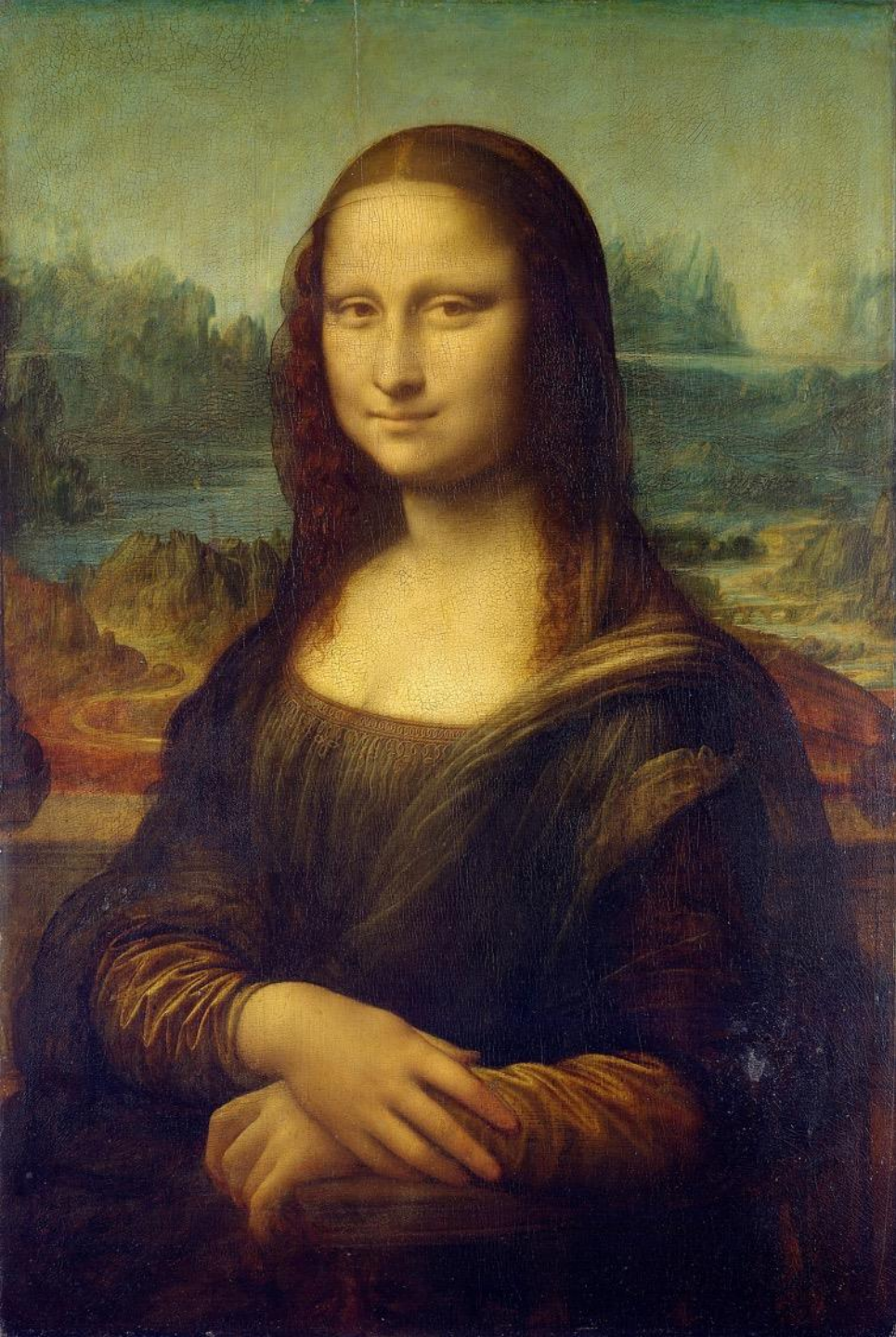


Can Chess Collecting Save the World?

“As collectors, they are naturally tempted to exaggerate the value of their possessions, and even when not collectors, they may attach undue importance to their observations and discoveries.”

(Anonymous)

Can Chess Collecting Save Cultural Treasures?



Mona Lisa
c. 1503-1506



Mona Lisa
c. 1503-1506

Chessboard said to be of St. Louis.
Late 15th and 17th centuries



Echiquier dit de saint Louis
Fin du XV^e et XVIII^e siècles
Cristal de roche, bois de cèdre,
argent doré, orfèvre doré

Original *Encyclopédie* set
with 1st Edition of
Diderot's *Encyclopédie*,
Paris, 1751-1780



**Can Chess Collecting
Save Lives?**

HOW TO CHECKMATE A VIRUS: LESSONS FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT

By Tom Gallegos, the Absentminded Antiquary
Presented by Luann Woneis



The Seventh Seal (1957) directed by Ingmar Bergman. On the left Death (more specifically the Plague), is played by Bengt Ekerot. The Knight, Antonius Block, is played by Max von Sydow.

“Note also if there be any swampy ground, both for the reasons given above, and because certain minute animals, invisible to the eye, breed there, and, borne by the air, reach the inside of the body by way of the mouth and nose, and cause diseases which are difficult to be rid of.”

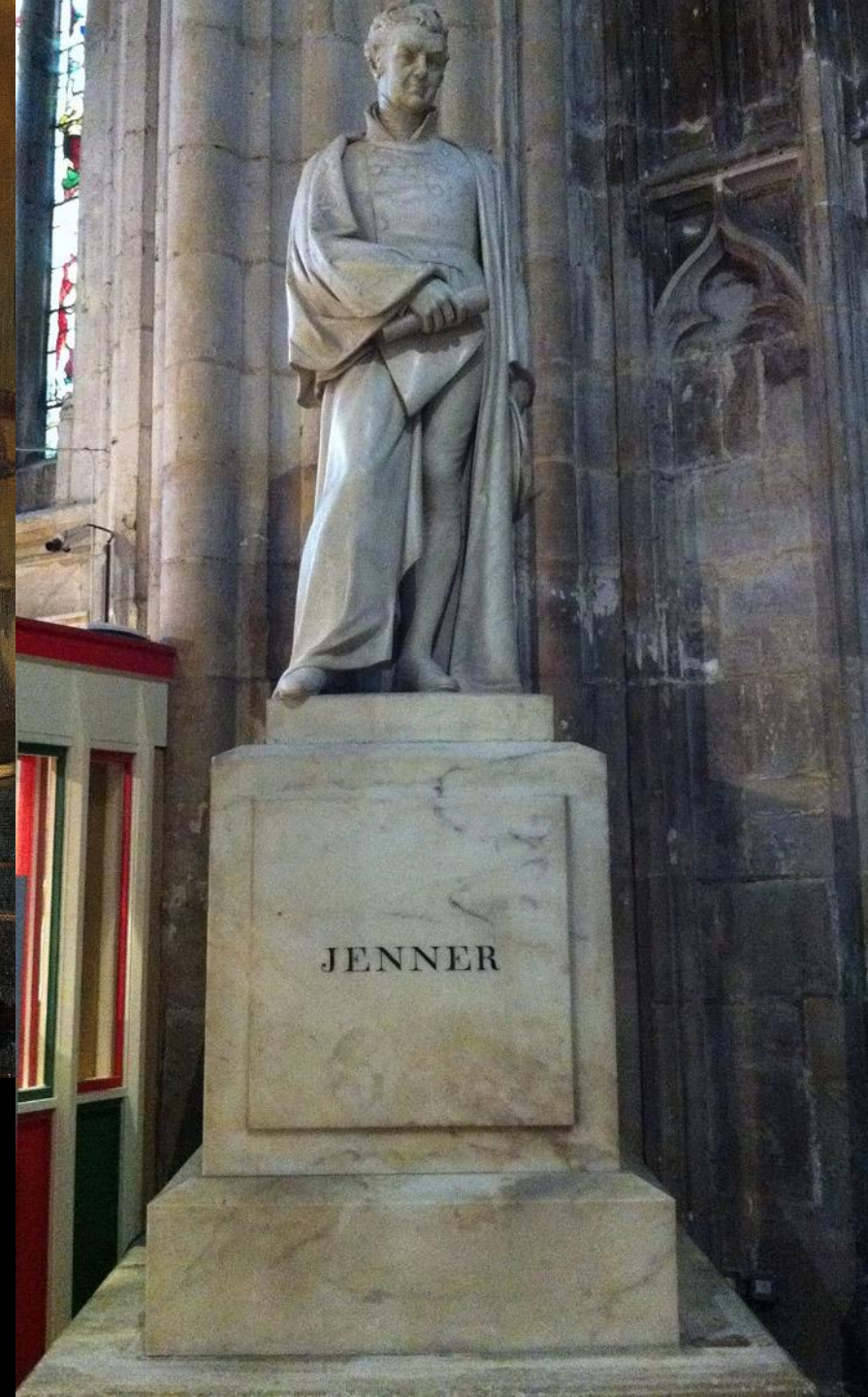
Marcus Varro, *Rerum Rusticarum Libri Tres*, c. 30 B.C.

Imagine a chessboard, set up in the normal way – almost. You have sixteen pieces set up on the squares in front of you; a king, a queen, two bishops, two knights and two rooks. Eight pawns stand just in front of those. You look over at your opponent’s side of the board and see something strange. There’s nothing there. The squares on your opponent’s side of the board are all empty. Or are they?

The arbiter says to start your game. You feel a bit smug, thinking that you must be looking at an easy forfeit if your opponent doesn’t show up soon, and bring his half of the chess set. You play e4 and start your opponent’s clock. A few seconds tick by and then, your pawn on e4 ...



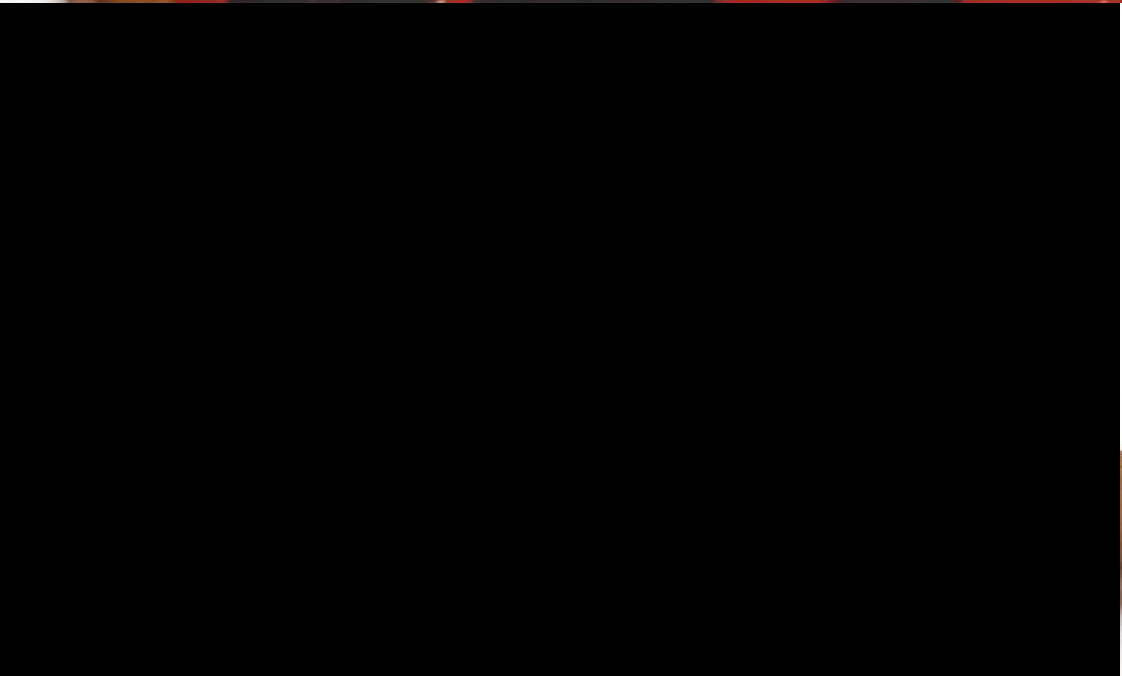
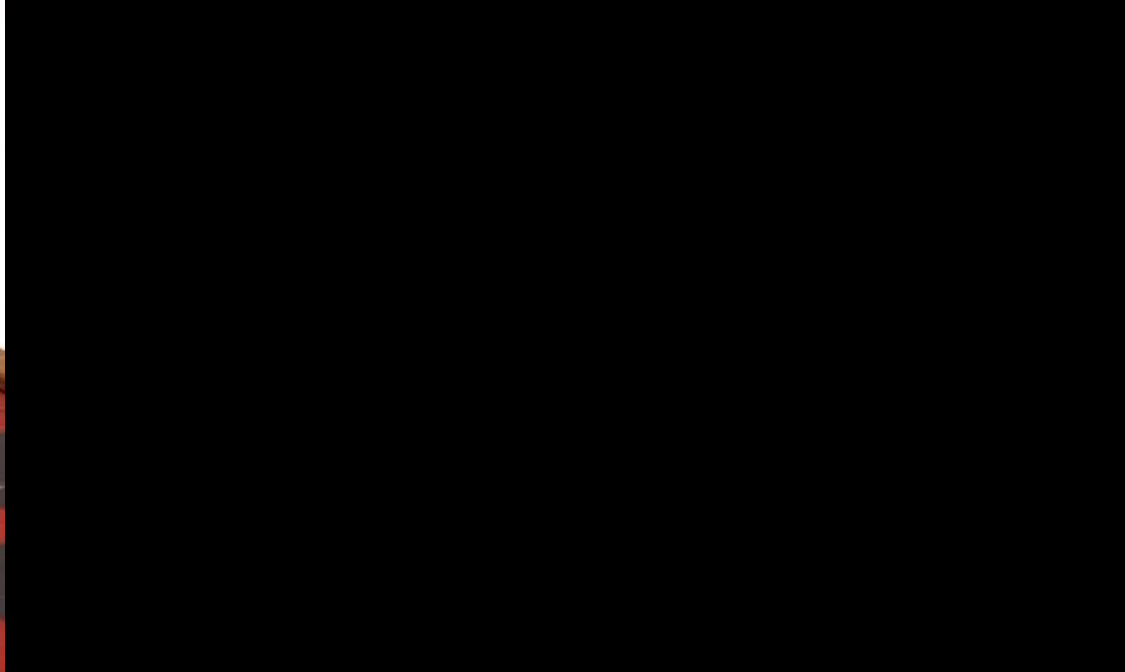
Edward Jenner, FRS, FRCPE (1749-1823)
The Father of Immunology
Freemason, chess player





Joan McFadden (NC)
Folk Art Medical Set
Doctors vs. Patients





Can Chess Collecting Save the Environment?

The Strange Tale of Glass Beach

Ft. Bragg, CA



**Glass Beach,
Fort Bragg, Northern California
Circa 1920's thru 1959**











**A Sun-Streamer
for porch or patio,
to catch the light**



Jewelry



More Jewelry ...



Even a chess set or two ...





Our Past Through Our Trash

Smoldering Model Ts on the Bluff



*The Making
of Glass Beach
circa 1920*



The strange and beautiful objects found along this beach started out as trash. Until 1959, this site was Fort Bragg's garbage dump. Years of smoldering fires and salt-water spray melted and twisted old cars, household trash, electrical materials, and myriad other discarded items, turning them into fantastical shapes. Meanwhile, the constant rolling of the surf ground bits of glass and ceramic into smooth beach confetti.

Unfortunately, this historic treasure is disappearing as both locals and visitors cart off interesting objects and take handfuls of glass "jewels." The amount of glass on our beaches today is a fraction of what it was in the early 1980s.

Enjoy our town's history, but please don't take our sea glass away. Ask others to leave our treasure on the beach.



Interpretive Design: Janet A. G. Jones, Fort Bragg State Park, 2011

Leave glass at Glass Beach!
¡Deje el vidrio en "Glass Beach"!



It is illegal to remove beach glass from Glass Beach



Violations are punishable by fines of up to \$500.
Port Begg Municipal Code Sections 1.12.010, 9.06.010 and 9.06.040

WARNING

**Use extreme caution on
trail steps!**

There is no handrail.

Steps are steep.

Slippery when wet.

USE AT YOUR OWN RISK!



**Can Chess Collecting
Save History?**



Old Microfiche Reader





e

d



**The Lewis
Chessmen in
the British
Museum
(Wikipedia)**



**Lewis
Chessmen in
the National
Museum of
Scotland
(Wikipedia)**



**Lewis
Chessmen in
the National
Museum of
Scotland
(Wikipedia)**



**Uig Bay, Isle of Lewis
(Wikipedia)**



**Lewis Warder, collection of
Ronald Lauder,
Neue Galerie, New York**



**Lewis
Chessmen in
the National
Museum of
Scotland
(Wikipedia)**



**Uig Bay, Isle of Lewis
(Wikipedia)**



**Lewis
Chessmen in
the National
Museum of
Scotland
(Wikipedia)**



**Uig Bay, Isle of Lewis
(Wikipedia)**





**The Elgin Marbles
and the
Staunton Chessmen**



**Acropolis
(left)**

**Acropolis Museum
(right)**



**Can Chess Collecting Save
our Soul, or our Sanity?**

A still from *Chess Story* (2021)



Underwood & Underwood Publishers



Underwood & Underwood Publishers

12337-Playing chess in an underground shelter on the firing line in France.
© Underwood & Underwood, 1914

Chess in the Trenches, World War I. Stereocard (Wikipedia)

**Can Chess Collecting
Save our Democracy?**

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAYING BY THE RULES

By Tom Gallegos, the Absentminded Antiquary

"On the Chess-board lies and hypocrisy do not survive long. The creative combination lays bare the presumption of a lie; the merciless fact, culminating in a checkmate, contradicts the hypocrite."

Emanuel Lasker, 1925

An obvious, yet rarely stated corollary to Lasker's statement is of course, that off the chess-board, it's a different story. Lies and hypocrisy do just fine for themselves out in the real world, thank you very much.



Chess is often said to be a war game. Chess is widely used as a metaphor for war, for intellect, and even for life in general. In this article I would like to briefly examine these notions, to see if they hold up under scrutiny. Along the way, I will pose questions, and even throw out a few thought experiments which I hope will help illustrate the importance of playing by the rules. John McCrary's recent, excellent series on the history and evolution of chess rules, which appeared in CCI's Biennial program for 2020, and later, online for US Chess, has helped to inspire this foundational inquiry: Why do we – why *should* we – play by the rules?

(A warning: While this magazine usually tries to steer clear of politics, if we are going to sincerely compare chess to things like war and life, some politics and current events must unfortunately leak into the discussion on this occasion. If readers feel I am unfairly "politicizing" the game, my response would be that our alternative is to stop claiming

that chess has any lessons to teach us about life. Why is this article appearing in a magazine about collecting, you may ask? Only because chess is inextricably intertwined with the history of ideas, the history of civilization, and the history of warfare and yes, even politics. This is the primary reason why I and many others are so attracted to the game, and enjoy collecting chess sets and chess artifacts, in the first place.)

Were You Raised By Wolves?

I am not a chess teacher, a school teacher, nor even a parent, but there were a few times over the years, mostly at family gatherings, when I was called upon to try and teach the game to some very young nieces and nephews. Mostly too young, for as soon as the object of the game (checkmate) was explained to some of them, their favorite opening move immediately became 1. PxK, and no amount of dissuasion on my part could correct this behavior. Glad to see that they were at least having fun, I indulged them up to a point, and we had a grand time flying the pieces through the sky like model airplanes. Rooks and bishops would come swooping down like hawks from great distances, scooping up helpless kings and queens, in the most blatantly illegal moves we could devise. After a time, I explained again that these moves were illegal, and tried to get them to refocus their attention on really and truly playing the game as I had described it. But this was mostly unsuccessful.

I had no way to *force* them to play by the rules. All I could do was patiently explain that, "Well, if you don't play by the rules, you're not really playing chess. You're only using the pieces as meaningless toys." I tried to help them to understand the difference, but they were just fine with the whole concept of meaningless toys. In fact, it was all I could

**NO CHESS PLAYERS ANYWHERE
IN THIS PHOTO, APPARENTLY**



January 6, 2021, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.

Can Chess Collecting Save the Elephants?





























Club Sized Jaques Ivory Set
Case Dated 1873

Collection of Dr. Thomas Thomsen





BGE Modern Studies

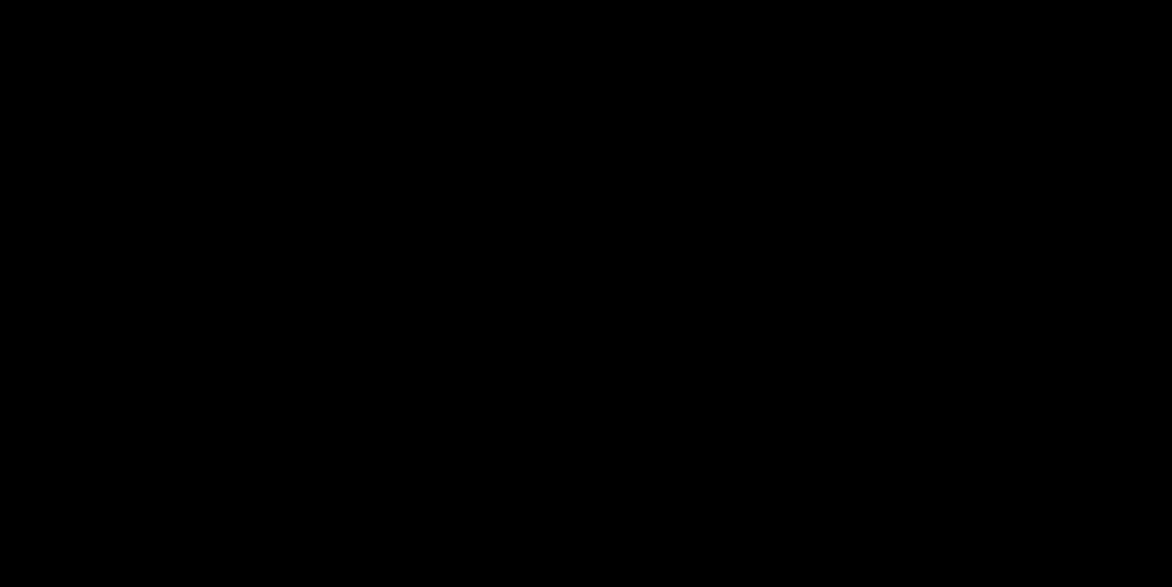
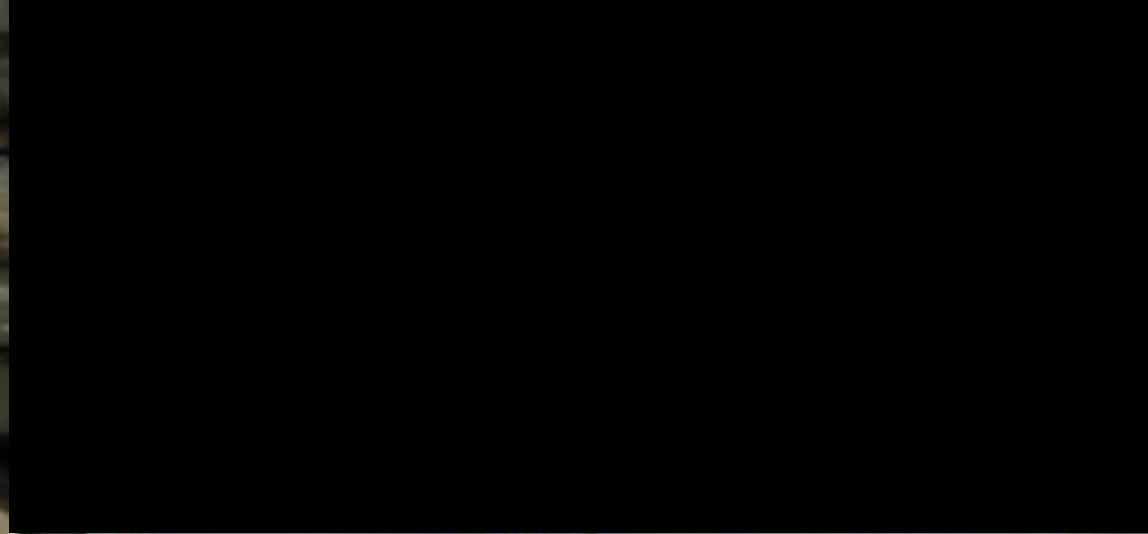
Development in Africa

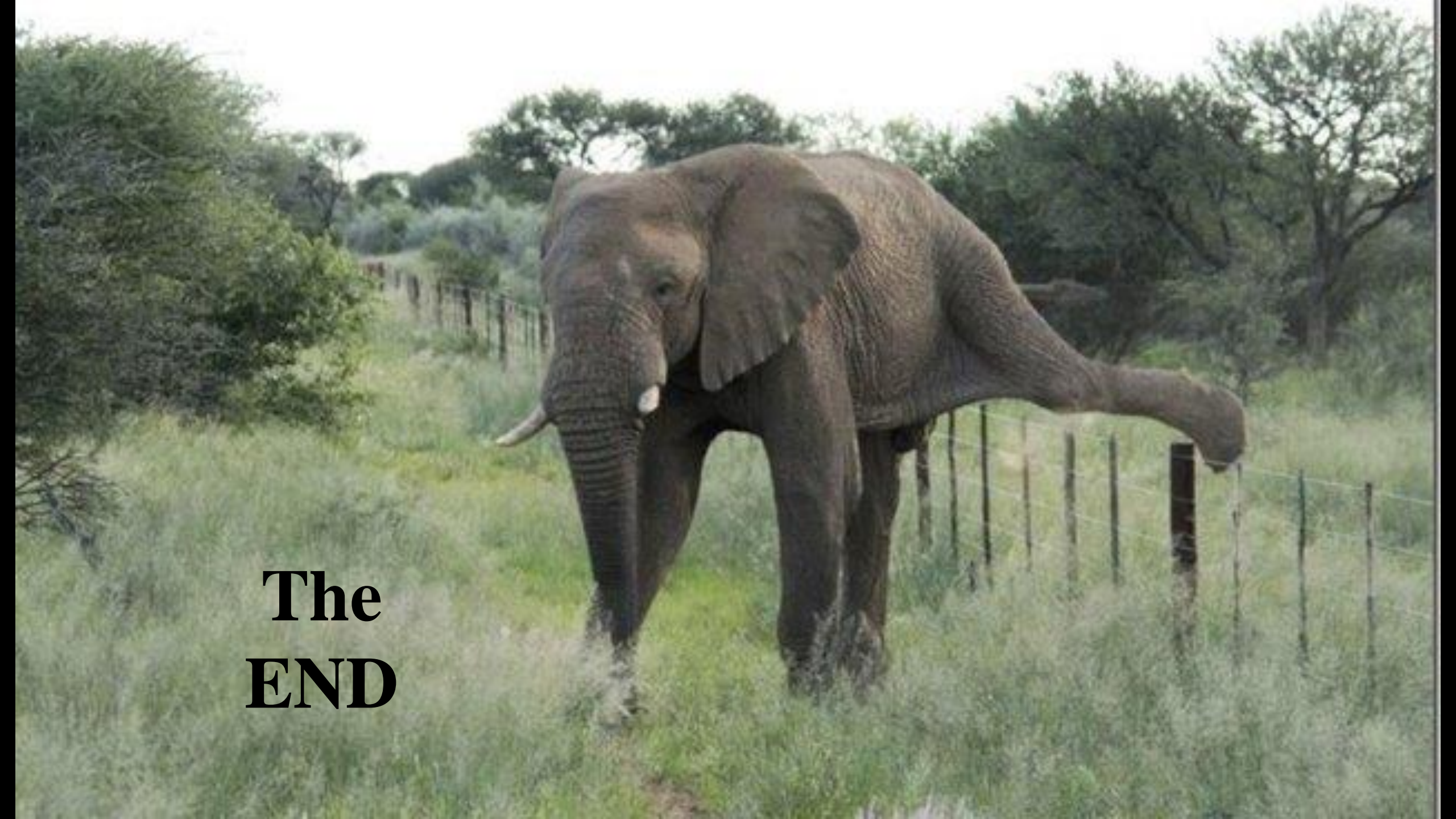






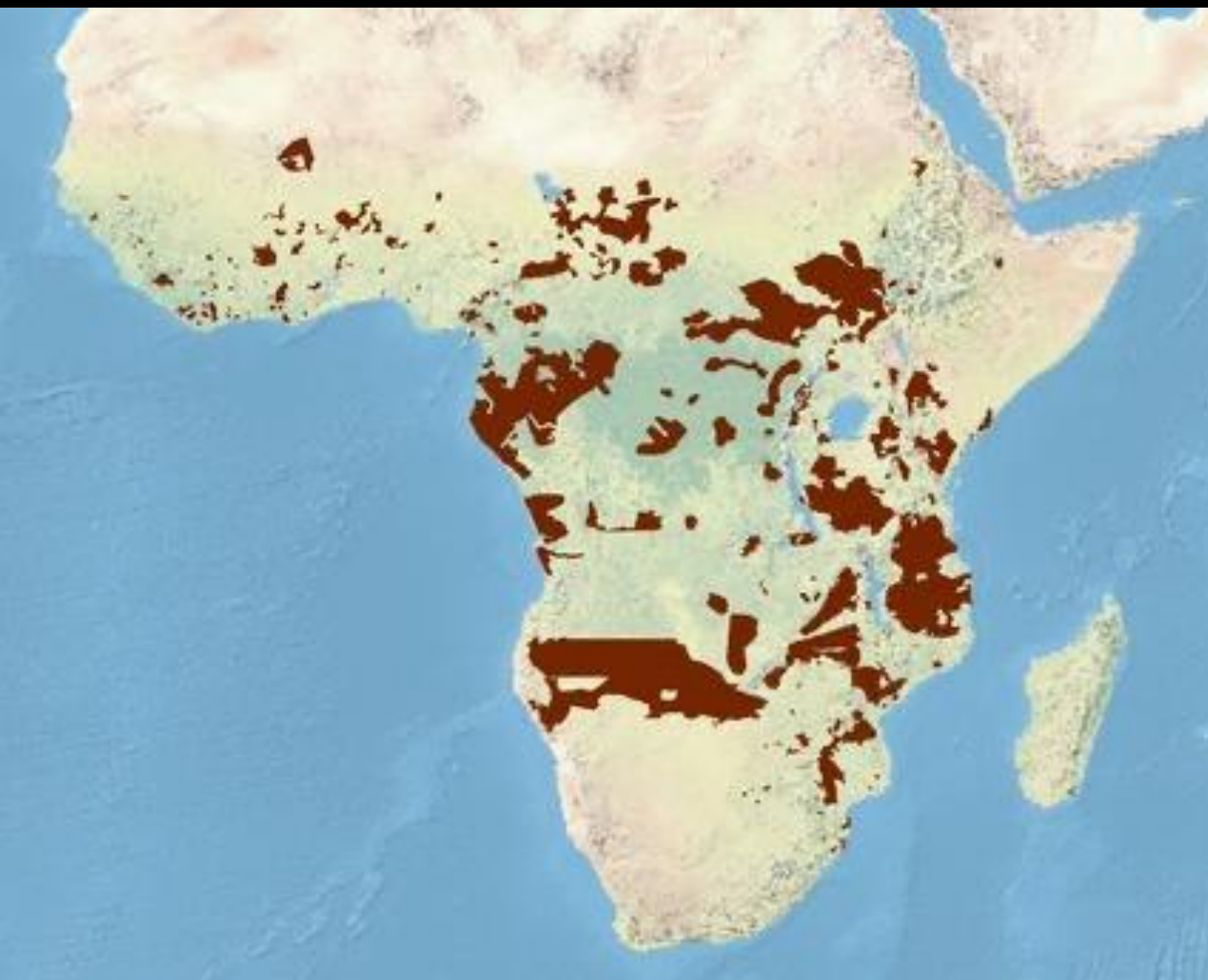




A photograph of an elephant running through a grassy field. The elephant is captured in mid-stride, with its trunk tucked under its body and its legs extended. It is running towards the left side of the frame. In the background, there is a wire fence and a line of trees. The sky is overcast.

**The
END**

Elephant Range Map



Human Population Centers

