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Movies Books Travel Food Other Sign In Since trailblazers like Sailor Moon took the Western world by storm, many anime series have risen and fallen over the past few decades. Some have been incredibly successful, while others have fallen short of viewers' expectations for various reasons. Others end up being banned. It's not often, though, that a country will ban anime titles. In some cases, the country would ask to have the offensive material edited or removed from the series. However, over the course of the years, China has banned certain anime series from being viewed and many manga series from being read within their borders for various reasons. Updated on April 24th, 2023 by Casey Coates: This list has been updated to reflect CBR's current publishing style. 15 My Hero Academia One of the most shocking bans by the Chinese government was that of My Hero Academia. It's unexpected because the series is generally PG-13, especially since the anime censors most of the gore found in the manga. However, My Hero Academia still got banned in China because a character was named after a horrific war crime. Of course, this wasn't just controversial in China — it sparked widespread outrage in the fandom. Dr. Daruma Ujiko's real name is Maruta Shiga. His real name sparked controversy because "maruta" is the Japanese word for the primarily Chinese and Korean victims of human experimentation during World War II. Even worse, the character is a scientist who experiments on others. Kohei Horikoshi has since apologized for this controversy. High School DxD follows Issei Hyoudou, a high school student who got reincarnated into a Devil after being slaughtered on a date. His goal is to become the "Harem King." Unfortunately, this anime was banned in China for its highly sexual and lewd visuals. Especially considering that this anime surrounds high school students, it was deemed as far too inappropriate for the Chinese general public to watch. China is not the only country to ban High School DxD, since New Zealand did as well. Devil May Cry tells the tale of a demon hunter named Dante who is half demon and half human. He wields a sword named Rebellion along with two guns named Ebony and Ivory. His business, aptly called "Devil May Cry," provides hunting and demon killing solutions. Unfortunately, Devil May Cry was deemed inappropriate by the Chinese government because of its immense violence. Even adults may find the gore in this anime disturbing. Additionally, some believe that its visual depictions of demons pushed the envelope just a bit too far. Aesthetica Of A Rogue Hero was banned before Chinese audiences could even give the anime a chance. The anime tells the story of Akatsuki Ousawa, the "Rogue Hero," who leaves his former life behind to fight against a dystopian, oppressive government. Akatsuki Ousawa forms a team of people to help him out with this, and they all have special abilities. Considering the nature of the Chinese government, it's not surprising why they never wanted it to see the light of day in any of their territories. High School Of The Dead is a dystopian anime that tells the story of a pandemic that transforms humans into zombies. The main cast consists of ordinary high school students and their school nurse as they search for a curse to this outbreak. There are several things revealed about society as it starts to collapse because of this pandemic, such as corruption, questions of morality, and what life truly means to each character. Unfortunately, the Chinese Ministry of Culture banned this anime because of its overly sexual content. The Ministry describes the content of the anime as "borderline pornographic" in the reasoning for banning High School Of The Dead and 37 other titles. Attack on Titan follows the story of Eren Jaeger and his journey to eradicate the Titans. Titans are a race of humanoid giants that terrorize, destroy, kill, and devour humans to the point that they're almost extinct. Because of the themes in this anime series, it has been rated R, which is understandable considering the amount of gore and extreme violence that is incorporated into almost all of its episodes. For that reason, the dark seinen anime was banned in China and was deemed unsuitable for public consumption. Corpse Party is a horror and mystery series. It's also a gore-filled and violent supernatural anime that's rated R. In this series, students gather in their high school to say goodbye to their friend who is moving away. However, their ritual was linked to the Heavenly Host Academy, a school that was torn down and abandoned after a series of horrific murders. The remains of the Academy happened to lie underneath their current school. Transported to another dimension, they have to survive the supernatural beings or risk staying there forever. Due to the horrifying content, the Chinese government banned this anime for being too violent. Sword Art Online II involves Kirito as he plays the new games known as Gun Gale Online (GGO) so that he can enter a tournament to investigate a player who can apparently kill players in real life by killing their GGO avatar. Even though this anime has a PG-13 rating, it has been banned in China. It's still unclear as to why it has been banned, as it isn't as violent as some of the other anime that have been banned. However, many speculate that this ban is due to the use of guns and offensive materials. Parasyte is an anime revolving around parasitic aliens that have come to Earth and burrow into easily influenced and unsuspecting humans. They are then able to take control of their host and feed on whatever they deem to be prey. This psychological horror and supernatural anime is rated R, and for a good reason. It's incredibly violent and gory, contains graphic and vicious killings, and many of these scenes are highly detailed and realistic in appearance. Because of the level of violence and gore, it was banned from being viewed in China. Based on the dark manga series, Death Note became another anime that got banned in China. This psychological thriller and supernatural anime series was rated R for its level of violence and profanity and was banned by the Chinese government for being too extreme for viewing. But that wasn't the only reason why this anime was banned. Many children around the world who'd seen Death Note were creating their own Death Notes—books filled with the names of people who they didn't like. Authorities were afraid that the owners of these real-world Death Notes would become killers. Although many of the most well-known anime today spawned from manga, the origin of the wildly popular anime Sword Art Online is less on the traditional side. Beginning as a light novel series by Reki Kawahara, Sword Art Online was adapted into manga form and soon followed by the anime. Although Kazuto "Kirito" Kirigaya's story plays out much the same through his adventures in virtual worlds, there are qualities of the light novel that allow for more in-depth characterization, which is naturally lost translation to the anime. One of the favorite heroines of Sword Art Online's Project Alicization Arc, Alice Zuberg, is introduced in the light novel's ninth volume, Alicization Beginning. She carries some unique differences when compared to her character in the animated series. 10 Alice Is Much More Stern And Motherly, Even As A Child Alice is first introduced in the anime when she brings Kirito and Eugeo their lunch, as she is known to do each day. She jokingly scolds the boys for goofing off and then urges them to eat their food before spoiling quickly. However, Alice appears to be much more serious and motherly with the boys in the light novel. She makes them wait for the food and then instructs them to chew slowly and carefully, expecting them to eat too rapidly. Following this encounter, she is often described as scolding them as a mother and accusing the boys of acting childishly. Although she and her animated counterpart are both wise, she appears much less easy-going in the light novel. In the light novel, Eugeo recalls the sword practice that all the young children of the village took part in. He remembers Alice as being particularly skilled at swordplay. She was often able to hit Kirito and Eugeo with her stick that substituted a sword. He even postulates that if Alice had been able to continue practicing her sword skills, she might have become the first female guard for their village. Perhaps her body remembered what her mind could not, and her skills with a sword as an Integrity Knight were a result of the times she had played with her friends as a child. In the anime, Kirito and Alice head to the floor, which she states must be where the Senators reside, conducting their work of watching over the humans, ensuring that those who act out against the Taboo Index are punished. Although she warns against the powers of Senator Chudelkin, she is not concerned with facing the other Senators. However, in the light novel, Alice expresses her concern with having to fight the Senators due to their high magical skill and asks Kirito to advance while she wards off their sacred arts if they are not able to sneak up on the Senators. Alice does make one request—that she be the one to cut down Chudelkin. In the anime, upon learning the truth of the Senators, Alice claims that what the Pontifex, or the Administrator as some know her, has done is unforgivable. However, in the light novel, Alice shows much more dismay and horror at what has been done to these humans who have been forced into unjust servitude as surveyors of disobedience. She likens their experience to her own, being robbed of humanity, memories, and a life of their own. What's worse, these men have been forced to live in small boxes, treated as less than animals. She even questions whether to put the Senators out of their misery and end their life, but is stopped by Kirito. This unjust sight further steals her resolve to bring down the Pontifex. In the light novel, Alice recalls the moment she awakened as a Knight. She recalls the fear she felt as she was introduced to the Pontifex for the first time, and this fear is carried with her into her fight. She also remembers being carried down from the chambers of the Pontifex on a circular orb, much like an elevator. This essential memory helps the pair find their way to the 100th floor before Eugeo unceremoniously joins them, and the battle between the former friends ensues. During the fight between Eugeo, Alice, Kirito, and the Administrator, Eugeo is tragically defeated. After he passes away, Eugeo is seen holding hands with the younger Alice. They then walk off into a black distance. Although it is alluded to in the anime, the light novel clearly explains what has happened when little Alice leaves with Eugeo. As Eugeo's fluctlight is distinguished, the fluctlight holding the memories of Alice Zuberg, before she became Alice Synthesis-Thirty, also is removed from its cube and joins the soul of the young Eugeo, ceasing to exist and leaving the only true Alice to be Alice the Integrity Knight. Alice is found caring for Kirito on the outskirts of the town she had once called home in the anime. However, not much is explained about how they came to live there. In the light novel, Alice recalls how she had sought help to learn how to cut down the wood and construct the building from a woman impressed by Alice's strength. She explains that their new home is located in the meadow where she and Eugeo had secretly played as children, although she has no actual memories of this. Upon her return to her former village, Alice is reunited with her younger sister, Selka. The light novel explores in-depth the inner battle that Alice feels about the two sisters' reunion. Although Alice greatly wanted to be introduced to her sister and reclaim the memories she had lost of her former life, she recognizes that the original Alice Zuberg has departed, leaving with Eugeo's soul. She questions whether she, the Integrity Knight Alice, reserves the right to call Selka her sister or whether she does not deserve the joy of a family. Alice's complete rejection of her understanding of her world and decision to bring down the Pontifex upends her belief system. At the time of their fight, she believes she is doing the right thing to protect the human world's people. However, once she is faced with the ugly truth of humanity, she begins to question all of her decisions. Because of this doubt, Alice is no longer able to wield the mighty sword she was given as an Integrity Knight. It is not until she strengthens her resolve to protect the Underworld people that she can pick up her sword again. In the anime, viewers were surprised to find that Alice had fallen in love with Kirito and is battling Asuna for his affection. However, in the light novel, the development of her attachment to Kirito is a bit better explained. During their battle with the Pontifex, Kirito and Alice had each risked their lives for each other. This was not something to be taken lightly, and Alice feels an intense debt to Kirito. As Kirito is paralyzed, having lost all sense of consciousness, Alice feels lost and declares that her only sense of purpose is to care for and keep Kirito safe. It is no wonder she becomes so attached to and feels love for Kirito. NEXT: Sword Art Online: 10 Differences Between The Anime & The Light Novel This is our list of the top 13 Anime Bans In China. Banning shows and series is not a new concept in any country. But in the past few years, China has banned numerous anime shows for pretty weird reasons. Two of the most shocking bans Attack on Titan And Death Note. Global viewers were furious after knowing that the Chinese government does not want the anime industry to flourish in their territory. But there is nothing we can do in the face of a strong firewall. Today, we have here a list of the 13 most shocking anime bans in China. Do check out the reasons that were given following the takedown. So, here is a list of the 13 Anime Bans In China! Back in 2015, the Chinese Ministry of Culture put a lifelong ban on 38 anime shows. Deadman Wonderland was one of them. While the reason for the ban for each was not clear, but we can easily speculate why this one exists no more. Deadman Wonderland is a pretty dark show with several inappropriate visuals. The inaugural arc of the show itself has a pool of bloodshed in a massacre scene. Thus, the Chinese government marks this anime as unfit for impressionable audiences. This was one of the shocking events when China put a ban on this massively famous anime. Attack On Titan was outlawed among many other anime shows because of its excessively violent depictions. Moreover, fans believe that Attack on Titan displays the story of resistance towards an authoritative system. The Chinese government does not want its citizens to entertain such ideas. Hence, the Chinese audiences can never enjoy this grandeur of a show. Anime Devil May Cry is yet another gritty anime that had to say goodbye to the Chinese audiences. Fans believe that the murder scenes of this show were a little too much for even adult viewers. Even the dark visuals went too far in depicting demons. Therefore, the streaming of this one is on a break since 2015. Almost every anime that was put off from China was because of excessive violence, graphic pornography, or acts of terrorism. As for High School DxD, many global audiences believe that the contents of this show have highly sexual visuals. Being a high school-based drama, the target audience of this show is not fit to watch the sexualization of high school pupils. Hence, this anime is available no more in China. High School DxD This is a pretty recent ban that came in April 2020 after a long stretch of controversies. All this starts after one of the characters in the show turns out to be Maruta Shiga. Little to the knowledge of the creators, Maruta is not a household name in China. Maruta was a symbolic codeword during the Second World War, which led to the deaths of many Chinese and Korean soldiers. Thus, China put a lifelong ban on My Hero Academia. The China Digital Times reports in 2015 that a number of violent anime will say goodbye to Chinese viewers. One of the anime on the list was Highschool Of The Dead. The authorities stamp the contents of this anime to be overly sexual in nature. Some people believe that the ban is only a ploy to kick-start a homegrown anime industry in China so as to keep the revenues in the country itself. Anime Tokyo Ravens are yet another show among the 38 bans. Much like the earlier anime that got a mention, this one was also taken down because of the violent nature of its filmography. There are also fan theories that suggest that the Chinese government does not like the idea of Supernatural concepts that prove to be stronger than the authorities. Thus, even a sprinkle of supernatural belief might get an anime banned in China. Another member of the fallen thirty-eight was Aesthetica Of A Rogue Hero. If you have seen this show, you probably know why the Chinese government does not want the viewers to watch this one. The story follows a group of rebels who overthrow a dystopian system of governance. Thus, this anime never saw the light of the day in Chinese territories. Anime Parasyte is a massively popular show worldwide. But it seems like the North-East did not like the show. Even though the concept and visuals of Parasyte are pretty, dog Show could not make it past the censor board of China. CBR suggests that the visuals of bodily transformations are a bit too much to project on the screens. If that’s the reason the show is no more in China, then we don’t know how many anime shows will survive in the future. Another anime that the Chinese Ministry of Culture showed the back door was The Testament of The Sister New Devil. The decision came after the show’s portrayal of supernatural elements. The existence of a devil, a dark lord, and a hero who takes them down was enough to make this anime vanish from China. It’s sad that Testament of The Sister New Devil is on the list of Anime Bans in China. Many isekai anime series struggle to release in Chinese and Russian territories. This is because of the creative content of these shows. The idea of a separate world where the protagonist can operate at his will is not acceptable in these nations. The same happens with Sword Art Online is it displays a separate world of video games where the protagonist can escape from his own world. Along with Attack on Titan, Tokyo Ghoul was also taken down from many websites. This came after the show was considered too dark for younger audiences. CBR reports that the imagery of Tokyo Ghoul is not acceptable in the country of China. This comes after the representations of demons and ghouls are taken to be ‘violent inciting.’ Anime Death Note has seen a ban in many countries already. And now, it is one of the saddest ones on the list of Anime Bans In China. Whatever be the core theme of the show, its impact on impressionable minds is not desirable. After the ban, the Chinese Ministry of Culture explains that the concept of a Death Note can turn regular people into criminals. However, according to a report by BBC, the ban came after authorities noticed that many young kids were making their own death notes and writing down the names of officials. Hence, the new viewers can never witness how awesome this show is. So, these are all the anime shows that are no more available in China. What are your thoughts about these bans? Let’s discuss this in the comment section down below. For more such articles on anime, keep visiting The Anime Daily. Thanks For Reading!Next: Discover 10 Best Sad Anime On Amazon PrimeFind out More Although Alice is not as popular as Asuna from the Sword Art Online franchise, she made waves when she first made her appearance in the Sword Art Online: Alicization arc as the main heroine. Whether she is Alice Zuberg or Alice Alice Synthesis 30, she is adored by fans for her tsundere tendencies and her refreshing take on the series' first main heroine since the debut arc. Despite her appearing like a knock-off Saber from Fate/stay night, she is much more when it comes to her backstory and motives throughout the story, as the second half is told through her perspective. 10 She Is 1 Day Older Than Eugeo In an official Japanese tweet by the author Reki Kawahara, he explained Eugeo and Alice's birthdates. The author's tweet expressed gratitude for the positive feedback and letters he was receiving for Eugeo's character, as well as the fact that Alice's birthday was April 9, one day earlier than Eugeo's birthday of April 8. This makes Alice Zuberg one day older than Eugeo. This is a question that is asked a lot in the Sword Art Online fandom ever since Alice made her official appearance. The distinction between Alice and Yui is that Yui is a program created with parameters and an objective, while Alice is a copy of a fluctlight—esentially a human soul—that is not coded to react or think, in a certain way. In more scientific terms, Alice is a bottom-up AI while Yui is a top-down one. While Alice Synthesis 30 stated this fact when she made her first appearance after Eugeo and Kirito discovered their long-lost childhood friend had been turned into an Integrity Knight, this was glossed over. However, the fact that Alice was ranked 3rd in the Axiom Church full of other Integrity Knights is quite an amazing feat that shows how strong she truly is as an enemy and ally. While it is unclear whether this was intentional or not by the author Reki Kawahara, this fact rings true. Rath is a company affiliated with the JSDF that has the goal of developing weapons independently for Japan, as the country can only have a self-defensive force. However, Alice's name is alike to the name and concept of their plan, which is the "Artificial Labile Intelligence Cybernated Existence" that happens to spell out her name, "A.L.I.C.E." The Dengeki Bunko popularity poll for the cover of abec's artworks for the light novel, to be exact. While Alice Synthesis 30 ranked 6th, her younger counterpart Alice Zuberg ranked 5th. This was the 2016 popularity poll, so it was taken at a time where Alice and Eugeo were both new characters to the franchise. Eugeo ranked in 5th place while Asuna (Knight of the Blood Oath Ver.) ranked 1st. Fans may not be aware of this, but Reki Kawahara wrote up to the Sword Art Online: Alicization arc in the original web novel. In it, a few things were changed, while some things remained the same. One of the things that changed was the number given to Alice, meaning which number she was given as a part of the Integrity Knights. She was originally the 50th member to join, but this was changed to make her the 30th member. The reason is unknown. Alice goes through a lot of changes throughout Sword Art Online: Alicization and her age has a lot to do with it. As opposed to other AIs, the ones in Project Alicization are advanced, and as such grow and have fluctlights akin to humans. At the beginning when she was Alice Zuberg, she is 11-years-old. In chapter 1 of the light novel, she is 17-years-old. And in chapter 5, she is 19-years-old. As fans can notice, she has grown into a young lady. She Was Sitting Under The Osmanthus Tree is Alice's official theme, composed by the famed composer Yuki Kajiura. The theme is a sad one and one that was heard when Alice Synthesis 30 was introduced after Eugeo and Kirito have not seen her in the years the passed. While it begins soft, it becomes more intense as it continues. The song is about 3 minutes long, and it was also heard when Kirito and Eugeo battled her for the first time, uncoincidentally, underneath the Osmanthus Tree. This is an important fact, as the one Eugeo is in love with is not Alice Synthesis Thirty, but Alice Zuberg. Alice Zuberg is the child and original version of Alice that has the memories of Eugeo and Kirito being her childhood friends, as well as the crush she had on Eugeo. On the other hand, Alice Synthesis Thirty is an Integrity Knight who does not have the childhood memories of Alice, and she is in love with Kirito. Specifically, Alice and Eugeo were both born for this purpose. While it isn't all Alice was born for, this is a huge part of her character. Rath desired two children to be born so they could test Kirito's influence of the fluctlights inside of Project Alicization. This also fuels into the birtdates—April 9th and 10th—to judge his influence on the other residents. NEXT: Sword Art Online: 10 Facts You Didn't Know About Kirito This category is for works that not just censored (modified) but were at some point outright banned in their entirety in China. See also: Book censorship in China#List of censored books. This category has only the following subcategory. Works by Gao Xingjian (1 C, 3 P) The following 82 pages are in this category, out of 82 total. This list may not reflect recent changes. Addicted (web series) Afro Samurai Alice in Wonderland (1933 film) Amaim Warrior at the Borderline Animal Crossing Animal Crossing: New Horizons Another (novel) Attack on Titan (TV series) Barbie (film) Battlefield 4 Ben-Hur (1959 film) Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (1925 film) Blind Shaft Blood-C Brynhildr in the Darkness Capital and Ideology China's Best Actor: Wen Jiabao Christopher Robin (film) Code Geass Command & Conquer: Generals Corpse Party Cytus Date A Live Deadman Wonderland Death Note Detention (2019 film) Devil Lady Devil May Cry: The Animated Series Elfen Lied Emblem of Tibet Ergo Proxy Football Manager 2005 Fragile (Namewee song) Frankenstein (1931 film) Glory to Hong Kong Hearts of Iron High School DxD Highschool of the Dead How the Red Sun Rose I.G.I.-2: Covert Strike Inferno Cop Jiang Qing and Her Husbands Last Week Tonight with John Oliver The Life of Wu Xun Mao: The Unknown Story Memoirs of a Geisha (film) Mnemosyne (TV series) Moving Away from the Imperial Regime My Hero Academia National anthem of Tibet New Life+: Young Again in Another World Parasyte PewDiePie videography Plague Inc. PlayStation Store Prisoner of the State Psycho-Pass Qurtulush Yolida Reflections on the Revolution in France School Days (video game) Scum's Wish Serve the People! Shanghai Baby Skull Man South Park Strike the Blood Sword Art Online The Ten Commandments (1923 film) Ten Years (2015 film) Terror in Resonance The Testament of Sister New Devil Those Who Hunt Elves Flag of Tibet Tokyo ESP Tokyo Ghoul Tokyo Ravens The Ultimate Addiction The Unfinished Comedy White Snow, Red Blood Winnie the Pooh (Disney character) Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey Yellow Peril (novel) Retrieved from " The Chinese Ministry of Culture has blacklisted the following anime titles from distribution in China, online or in print: 1.Terror in Resonance 2.Blood-C 3. Highschool of the Dead 4.Ergo Proxy 5. Parasyte 6.The Skull Man 7.Another 8.Inferno Cop 9.Afro Samurai 10. Tokyo Ghoul √A 11. Sword Art Online II 12. Tokyo ESP 13.Tokyo Ravens 14. Devil May Cry 15. RIN – Daughters of Mnemosyne 16.The Testament of Sister New Devil 17. Attack on Titan 18. Corpse Party 19.Strike the Blood 20. Death Note 21. Deadman Wonderland 22. Date A Live II 23. Psycho-Pass 24. Devilman Lady 25.School Days 26. Those Who Hunt Elves 27. Elfen Lied 28.High School DxD 29.Samurai Bride 30.So, I Can’t Play H! 31.Girls Bravo: Second Season 32. Kanokon 33. Aesthetica of a Rogue Hero 34. Sakura Diaries 35.Black Butler 36. Claymore 37.Dance in the Vampire Bund Senior Ministry official Liu Qiang stated, “The list is the result of evaluations by investigators, reviews by the ministry and the opinions of experts. It aims to guide websites in the proper review and importation of comics and animations.” Liu also stated that more titles will be added to the list. As of April 1, 2015 new regulations in China require video websites to seek approval to stream foreign media. At the time, the ministry began blacklisting titles that “include scenes of violence, pornography, terrorism and crimes against public morality.” Websites hosting this content were put under investigation. According to the Ministry, 29 Chinese websites have now been fined and given warnings to remove the material or else risk losing their business licenses. These websites include Baidu Inc’s iQiyi, Sohu.com Inc., Tencent, Leshi Internet Information & Technology Corp Beijing (LeTV), and Youku Tudou. In addition, eight websites were shut down for hosting content without license. As Chinese authorities have recently banned the depiction of homosexuality, extramarrital relationships, one night-stands and relationships between underaged youths in TV, and of foul language and images, degrading comments about the status and works of others, the association with pornography, gambling, drugs and every conduct that could offend the prevalent ethics of the people, in cinema, it becomes apparent that China has taken a turn towards the ultra conservative, that will definitely harm the artistic freedom of every creator in the country. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. While some of you might not know that, Sword Art Online actually debuted in 2002 as a light novel series. A light novel is a style of Japanese young adult novel primarily targeting high school and middle school students. Light novels are commonly illustrated in a manga art style, and are often adapted into manga and anime. In this article, we are going to be dealing with the Sword Art Online light novel series itself. Reki Kawahara started publishing these novels in 2002, but it wasn’t until 2009 that he found a publisher and started publishing his work in a more proper format. The publication is ongoing as of November 2021. If we exclude the collected editions and all of the side stories but include everything else, there is a total of five volumes of Sword Art Online. Three of these volumes are still being published, as you will see in the section below, while two have been completed since 2018 and 2019, respectively. The Sword Art Online Material Edition collection was released in two volumes, in 2011 and 2019 respectively, while the numerous side stories have been released since 2011, with the most recent one releasing in 2020. RELATED: Sword Art Online Games in Order The reading order for the Sword Art Online light novels is not overly complicated. Although you can approach the material as you wish, it is advised to simply follow the publication order of the volumes and read them as they came out. This means that you should start with Sword Art Online, continue with Sword Art Online: Progressive, then Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online, and finally Sword Art Online Alternative: Clover’s Regent. As for Sword Art Online Material Edition, that is a rather specific set of individual stories, some of which have also been republished in some of the above-mentioned volumes. You can read them in any order and whenever you like. The next section is going to contain a more detailed guide on the four relevant series, providing more information about their content and publication. This whole series, sans volumes 25 and 26, has been translated and released in English. No.TitleOriginal release dateChapters1Sword Art Online 1: AincradApril 10, 2009PrologueChapters 1-252Sword Art Online 2: AincradAugust 10, 2009Prologue“The Black Swordsman” (黒の剣士, Kuro No Kenshi)“Warmth of the Heart” (心の温度, Kokoro No Ondo)“The Girl in the Morning Dew” (朝露の少女, Asatsuyu No Shoujo)“Red-Nosed Reindeer” (赤鼻のトナカイ, Akahana No Tonakai)3Sword Art Online 3: Fairy DanceDecember 10, 2009PrologueChapters 1-34Sword Art Online 4: Fairy DanceApril 10, 2010PrologueChapters 5-95Sword Art Online 5: Phantom BulletAugust 10, 2010PrologueChapters 1-76Sword Art Online 6: Phantom BulletDecember 10, 2010Chapters 7-167Sword Art Online 7: Mother’s RosaryApril 8, 2011PrologueChapters 1-128Sword Art Online 8: Early and LateAugust 10, 2011“A Crime Within the Walls” (圏内事件, Kennai Jiken)“Calibur” (キャリバー, Kyariba)“The First Day” (はじまりの日, Hajimari No Hi)9Sword Art Online 9: Alicization BeginningFebruary 10, 2012“Prologue I” (プロローグ I, Purorōgu I)“Prologue II” (プロローグ II, Purorōgu II)“Interlude I” (転章I, Ten Shyou I)Chapter 1. “Underworld” (アンダーワールド, Andawarudo)10Sword Art Online 10: Alicization RunningJuly 10, 2012Chapter 2. “Project Alicization” (アリシゼーション計画, Arishizeshon Keikaku)Chapter 3. “Zakkaria Sword Arts Tournament” (ザッカリア剣術大会, Zakkaria Kenjutsu Taikai)Chapter 4. “Sword Mastery Academy” (帝立修剣学院, Teiritsu Syuuken Gakuin)“Interlude II” (転章II, Ten Shyou II)11Sword Art Online 11: Alicization TurningDecember 10, 2012Chapter 5. “Seal of the Right Eye” (右眼の封印, Migime No Huuin)“Interlude III” (転章III, Ten Shyou III)Chapter 6. “The Prisoners and Knight” (囚人と騎士, Meshiudo To Kishi)12Sword Art Online 12: Alicization RisingApril 10, 2013Chapter 7. “The Two Supervisors” (二人の管理者, Futari No Kanrisha)Chapter 8. “Central Cathedral” (セントラル・カセドラル, Sentoraru Kasedoraru)13Sword Art Online 13: Alicization DividingAugust 10, 2013“Interlude IV” (転章IV, Ten Shyou IV)Chapter 9. “Integrity Knight Alice” (整合騎士アリス, Seigou Kishi Arisu)Chapter 10. “Integrity Knight Commander Bercouli” (整合騎士長ベルクーリ, Seigou Kishicho Berukuri)Chapter 11. “The Secret of the Chamber of Elders” (元老院の秘密, Genrouin No Himitsu)14Sword Art Online 14: Alicization UnitingApril 10, 2014Chapter 12. “Highest Minister Administrator” (最高司祭アドミニストレータ, Saikou Shisai Adominisutorēta)Chapter 13. “The Decisive Battle” (決戦, Kessen)15Sword Art Online 15: Alicization InvadingAugust 9, 2014Chapter 14. “Subtilizer” (魂を盗む者(サトライザー), Satoraizā)Chapter 15. “In the Northern Territory” (北の地にて, Kita No Chi Nite)Chapter 16. “Attack on Ocean Turtle” (オーシャン・タートル襲撃, Ōshan Tātoru Shūgeki)Chapter 17. “Dark Territory” (ダークテリトリー, Dāku Teritorī)16Sword Art Online 16: Alicization ExplodingAugust 8, 2015Chapter 18. “War of the Underworld” (アンダーワールド大戦, Andāwārudo Taisen)Chapter 19. “The Radiant Medium” (光の巫女, Hikari No Miko)17Sword Art Online 17: Alicization AwakeningApril 10, 2016Chapter 20. “Each Own Battle” (それぞれの戦い, Sore Zore no Tatakai)Chapter 21. “Awakening” (覚醒, Kakusei)18Sword Art Online 18: Alicization LastingAugust 10, 2016Chapter 21. “Awakening (Cont.)” (覚醒(承前), Kakusei (Shouzen))Chapter 22. “The Decisive Battle” (決戦, Kessen)Chapter 23. “Return” (帰還, Kikan)“Epilogue” (エピローグ, Epirōgu)“Prologue III” (プロローグ III, Purorōgu III)19Sword Art Online 19: Moon CradleFebruary 10, 2017Chapters 1-1020Sword Art Online 20: Moon CradleSeptember 8, 2017Chapters 1-1021Sword Art Online 21: Unital Ring IDecember 7, 2018PrologueChapters 1-922Sword Art Online 22: Kiss and FlyOctober 10, 2019“The Day Before” (ザ・デイ・ビフォア, Za Dei Bifoa)“The Day After” (ザ・デイ・アフター, Za Dei Afutā)“Rainbow Bridge” (虹の橋, Niji no Hashi)“Sisters’ Prayer”23Sword Art Online 23: Unital Ring IIDecember 10, 2019Chapters 1-1024Sword Art Online 24: Unital Ring IIIMay 9, 2020Chapters 1-1025Sword Art Online 25: Unital Ring IVDecember 10, 2020Chapters 1-1126Sword Art Online 26: Unital Ring VOctober 8, 2021Chapters 1-23 This whole series, sans volume 8, has been translated and released in English. No.TitleOriginal release date1Sword Art Online: Progressive 1October 10, 20122Sword Art Online: Progressive 2December 10, 20133Sword Art Online: Progressive 3December 10, 20144Sword Art Online: Progressive 4December 10, 20155Sword Art Online: Progressive 5February 10, 20186Sword Art Online: Progressive 6May 10, 20187Sword Art Online: Progressive 7March 10, 20218Sword Art Online: Progressive 8June 10, 2021 This whole series, sans volume 11, has been translated and released in English. No.TitleOriginal release date1Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online I: Squad JamDecember 10, 20142Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online II: 2nd Squad Jam: StartMarch 10, 20153Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online III: 2nd Squad Jam: FinishJune 10, 2014Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online IV: 3rd Squad Jam: Betrayers’ Choice: StartMarch 10, 20165Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online V: 3rd Squad Jam: Betrayers’ Choice: FinishJuly 9, 20166Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online VI: One Summer DayMarch 10, 20177Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online VII: 4th Squad Jam: StartJune 9, 20188Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online VIII: 4th Squad Jam: ContinueAugust 10, 20189Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online IX: 4th Squad Jam: FinishDecember 7, 201810Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online X: Five OrdealsApril 10, 202011Sword Art Online Alternative Gun Gale Online XI: 5th Squad Jam: StartNovember 10, 2021 This series has, as of yet, not been released in English. No.TitleJapanese release date1Sword Art Online Alternative: Clover’s RegretNovember 10, 20162Sword Art Online Alternative: Clover’s Regret 2January 10, 20183Sword Art Online Alternative: Clover’s Regret 3August 10, 2018 This is just an informative overview, so you know which stories comprise this series. A bolded title signifies that the story has been republished in one of the four other series (see above). No.TitleJapanese release date1The ProgressersNovember 18, 20072Early CharactersFebruary 10, 20083Ceramic HeartMay 5, 20084Cold Hand, Warm HeartNovember 16, 20085SalviaMay 5, 20096Algade ShowdownNovember 15, 20097Continuation: Aria in the Starless NightAugust 21, 20118Rondo of the Transient Sword (First Chapter)October 30, 20119Monochrome Concerto/Concerto of Black & White (First Chapter)February 5, 20121016.6 (also Sugar Days 1)October 20, 20131116.7 (also Sugar Days 2) February 2, 20141216.8 (also Sugar Days 3) May 5, 20141316.9 (also Sugar Days 4) August 31, 201414Sugary Days 5November 23, 201415Sugary Days 6May 5, 201516Sugary Days 7August 30, 201517The Much-Talked-About Esteemed Sub-leaderNovember 15, 201518Sugary Days 8January 31, 201619Sugary Days 9May 5, 201620Monochromatic ColorsAugust 21, 201621SAOP4.2October 23, 201622Augmented MagicFebruary 12, 201723Sugary Days 10May 6, 201724Sugary Days 11August 20, 201725Sugary Days 12November 23, 201726Sugary Days 13February 11, 201827Sugary Days 14May 5, 201828Gaiden X3 [32/33]February 17, 201929Gaiden X3 [32/33] (2)May 12, 2019 Sword Art Online novels are not finished. The original self-published series was finished back in 2008, but as far as the other three series are concerned, neither of them is finished, as they are in the process of publication. On Monday, China’s Ministry of Culture announced a ban on 38 Japanese anime and mangas that will no longer be allowed to be distributed in the country whether it be online or in print. The ministry said that 29 of China’s leading internet portals including Sohu, Tencent and Baidu have received various warnings and have been fined for providing content that showcases sex and violence to minors. Senior Ministry official Liu Qiang stated, “The list is the result of evaluations by investigators, reviews by the ministry and the opinions of experts. It aims to guide websites in the proper review and importation of comics and animations.” As of April 1st, new Chinese regulations require video websites to seek approval to stream foreign media. At the time, the ministry had began blacklisting any title that, “include scenes of violence, pornography, terrorism and crimes against public morality.” any website hosting shows with the following content were put under investigation. According to the Chinese ministry, out of the 29 Chinese websites that have been fined and given warnings to remove content, only 8 have been shut down for hosting without the proper license. But what does this mean for the avid Chinese fans? Many have vented their disappointment on the Weibo micro blog, saying that such bans will only highlight the gulf in China’s cultural diversity in relation to the outside world. Meanwhile another Chinese internet user agreed with the ministry, saying that he thought Attack on Titan was much too gory for his taste. Beneath are the following animes and mangas that have been banned, but the list will continue to expand: Terror in Resonance Blood-C Highschool of the Dead Ergo Proxy Parasyte The Skull Man Another Inferno Cop Afro Samurai Tokyo Ghoul √A Sword Art Online II Tokyo ESP Tokyo Ravens Devil May Cry RIN – Daughters of Mnemosyne The Testament of Sister New Devil Attack on Titan Corpse Party Strike the Blood Death Note Deadman Wonderland Date A Live II Psycho-Pass Devilman Lady School Days Those Who Hunt Elves Elfen Lied High School DxD Samurai Bride So, I Can’t Play H! Girls Bravo: Second Season Kanokon Aesthetica of a Rogue Hero Sakura Diaries Black Butler Claymore Dance in the Vampire Bund Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. 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