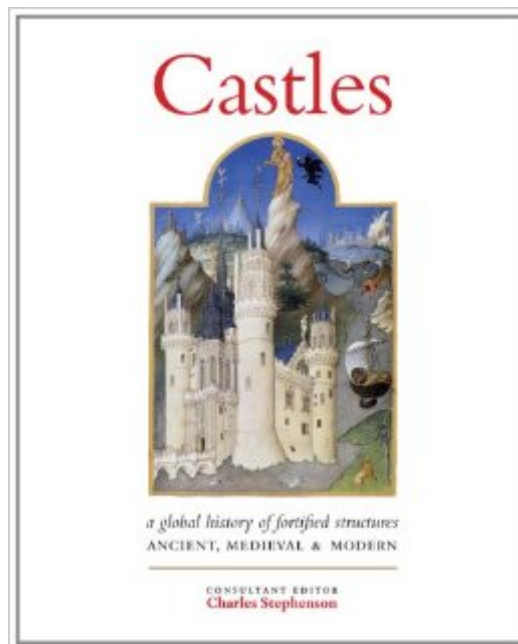


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# Castles: A History Of Fortified Structures: Ancient, Medieval & Modern



## Synopsis

While the word "castle" conjures up an image of the classic medieval stone edifice, resplendent with towers and turrets, battlements and barbicans, and the odd oubliette, the impulse to build defensive works is as old as civilization itself; and the evolution of such architecture not only encompasses global cultures but is also a physical expression of the changing face of military tactics and technology. Castles takes a uniquely architectural approach to deconstructing all forms of fortification, showing how the work of architect, stonemason, and engineer evolved to repel the increasingly destructive power of an attack, from siege engine to artillery. While the medieval castle is analyzed in detail, the book addresses a broad chronology of defenses--from the earliest fortresses and walled cities of the ancient world through to the point in the 19th century when modern weapons forced armies underground. Castles uses stylish two-tone engravings to dissect a wealth of examples from both western and eastern cultures; "anatomies" that annotate the classic structures for both their architectural and military significance; and "Then and Now" features that offer unique comparisons between castles in their pomp as depicted in illuminated manuscripts, mosaics, maps, and paintings, and matching color photographs of those same castles as they appear today. This architectural review of soaring towers and redoubtable walls provides both a fascinating narrative and an essential visual reference for the general and military historian.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Contained is a glossary, index, and table of contents, and of course many drawings, diagrams and

photos. Historical figures and developments are mentioned or summarized in order to put the castles into context. Castles in all parts of Europe and Asia, even forts in America, are adequately covered. As a bit of castle nut over the last few years, I've accumulated and read over half a dozen books on castles, and if a reader could have only one, so far this book is the best.

I am a big fan of Castles. But "castles" is a bit of a loose term because for me castles means large, beautiful and imposing stone fortresses. And this book gets that subtlety exactly right. It covers fortified structures around the world and throughout history from the beginnings of the motte and bailey and all the way through the latest stone fortresses that eventually were outdated by the advent of gunpowder. The book covers all the various structural types that were built around the world from the Japanese castles to the Russian Kremlins. But here is the really good thing about this book. It gives you a great look at the why and how of castles and fortresses. There are lots of designs and plans showing all of those amazing things that make them special. Things like secret underground passages, how a barbican worked, double walls of defense and more. This book is a wonderful look at castles over the centuries, how they were built, how they worked and how they changed over the centuries. There are hundreds of pictures, illustrations and floor plans. If you are a fan of castles and fortresses this is a must have book. I love this book.

As someone who is interested in castles and fortifications, this book is the perfect read. It breaks down the history of walls, castles, etc by empire, year and country. The book goes in chronological order, showing the evolution of man-made fortified structures. Really straightforward- it almost reads like a textbook, but an interesting one. There are many illustrations that make the descriptions of structures easier to understand. Loved it.

I purchased this book for my daughter who is currently studying for her architectural degree and she absolutely loved it. The full-sized photographs are breathtaking and she found the information in the book captivating. Definitely one of the best books on the architecture, beauty and the magic of castles. Jennifer A. Slater Author, "En Route Baby: What You Need to Know In Case Baby Arrives Before Help Does" [...]

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