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Fortifications and Siegecraft: Defense and Attack through the Ages By Jeremy Black

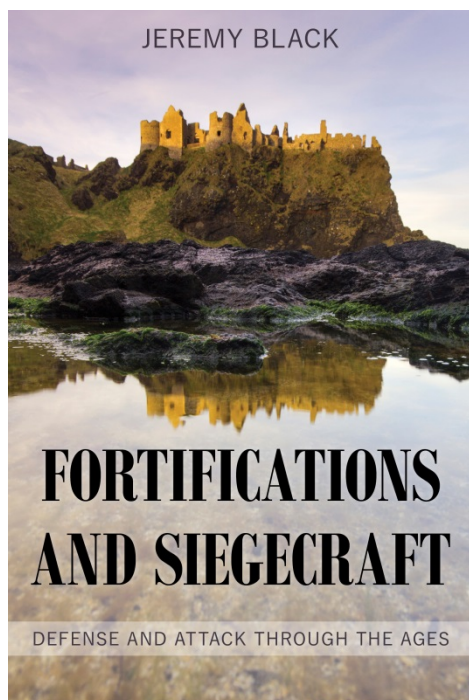
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About the Book

This book explores the global history of fortifications and the threats to them posed by siegecraft. Tracing the interaction of attack and defense over time, Black situates the evolution of fortifications within their broader cultural and political context, showing their ongoing importance to military and social interaction across the world today.

About the Author

Jeremy Black graduated from Cambridge University with a Starred First and did graduate work at Oxford University before teaching at the University of Durham and then at the University of Exeter, where he is professor of history. He has held visiting chairs at the United States Military Academy at West Point, Texas Christian University, and Stillman College. He is a 2018 Templeton Fellow of the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Black received the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize from the Society for Military History in 2008. His recent books include *Naval Warfare: A Global History since 1860*, *Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: A Global History*, *Air Power: A Global History*, and *Combined Operations: A Global History of Amphibious and Airborne Warfare*.

Praise for the Book

“Drawing on compelling comparisons informed by social and economic factors, Jeremy Black brings a global perspective and a clear understanding of how fortifications and siegecraft served specific military tasks. An invaluable contribution to a topic often overlooked in military history, his book highlights the ongoing interplay between defensive works and modes of attack in sophisticated and insightful ways.”

—**Stephen Morillo, Wabash College**

“With striking clarity, Black reveals how war across the ages has turned on fortifications. From ancient Mesopotamia to Mosul in the twenty-first century, armies have paid in blood for attacking them. Black charts the history of this long struggle between flesh and masonry, revealing how different cultures across the ages have used, located, developed, and elaborated such structures. Equally, he analyzes the interaction between fortifications and attack, revealing how human ingenuity has been applied to capturing forts; every method, from bloody assaults to bribery, has been applied. But, as Black shows, short of total destruction of the target, siege warfare is a terrible and costly business, even for the most modern of armies.”

—**John France, Swansea University**

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