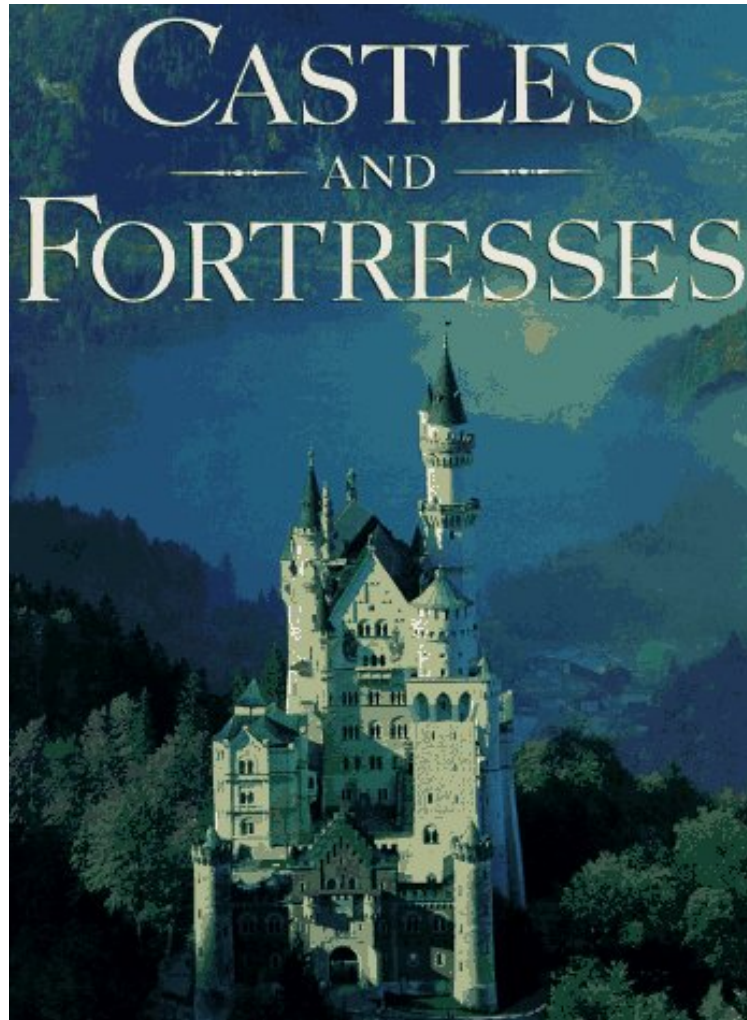


Castles and Fortresses

Robin S. Oggins

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Robin S. Oggins : Castles and Fortresses before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Castles and Fortresses:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Unbelievably Good Value - Majestic PhotosBy GreenyThis large picture book shows how castles evolved all over Europe. The book is organized by region and thus allows one to study the different regional styles. The rule was that you had to build a castle on a commanding hill and have access to water. With these conditions met, a strong castle could serve as a refuge and survive a long and expensive siege. There is romanticism to castles that one doesn't always feel upon visiting them. If you visit an old stone castle on a cold and windy day, you'll understand the tradeoffs made between comfort and security. But the pictures are all breathtaking. These were the architectural marvels of their time and the most powerful people ruled from them. The later castles look

so much more inviting and often have well-tended gardens and landscaping to add to their beauty. With the advent of gun powder, the linear walls of the great castles became obsolete. After that, walls had to be made on an incline, but their days were numbered. Finally, the rich and powerful moved to the larger towns and the ruins all tell their own story. This is a beautiful picture book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pictures are stunning By AIA really (really) big book, full of gorgeous pictures! I haven't had the chance to completely read through it yet, but from the tidbits that I've read this book seems very informative. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a very nice book and was in good shape By Smith This is a very nice book and was in good shape. Great price for a book with nice photos. I will enjoy this book for years.

100 color illus. 10 1/2 x 12 1/4.

.com So you thought a man's home was his castle, eh? In fact, it was more likely to have been his fortress. Built as military strongholds by noblemen to protect against enemy invaders and rebellious citizenry, early castles of the 9th century were cold, dark stone bastions. It wasn't until the 15th century that castles began functioning as more lavish living quarters--increasing in size and interior ornamentation. Robbin Oggins's sampling of castles, as well as palaces and castle ruins, makes for an engaging picture book for travelers wishing to explore an era when monarchs ruled and feudalism comprised the economic and social order. Covering Europe during the Middle Ages, *Castles and Fortresses* opens with a compact but informative chapter on the evolution of the castle. The book then chronicles the political histories of Europe's various regions and how castles formed according to their military needs. Though the text is a bit general, the book's large color photographs speak volumes. The pictures are bright and crisp, shot from wide and aerial angles, capturing the majesty of these fabled, architectural masterpieces and the lovely scenery surrounding them. Among the more renowned castles featured are the Warwick Castle in England, Chateau Chinon in France, Neuschwanstein in Germany, and Miramar Castle in Italy. Brief coverage is given to western Asia (the Kremlin in Moscow, for example) and North America. A glossary and bibliography are also included. --Karen Karleski