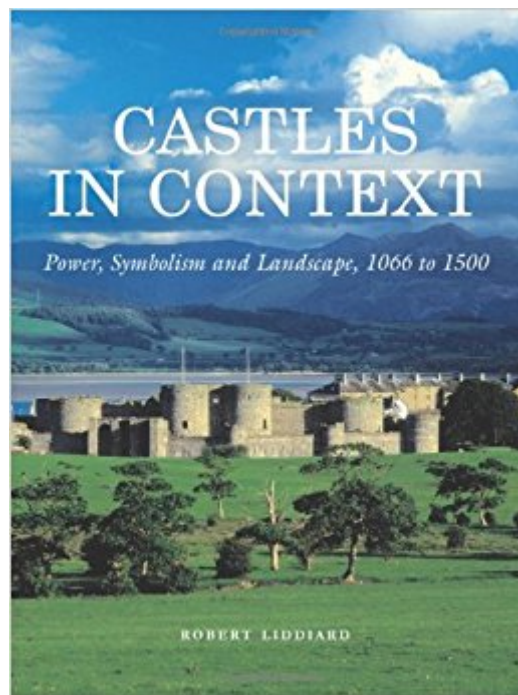




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Castles In Context: Power, Symbolism And Landscape, 1066 To 1500



Synopsis

This last decade has seen a revolution in our understanding of the castle. Previous scholars have viewed it as essentially a military structure. Castle scholars now paint a more complex picture, emphasizing the castle's symbolic projection of power, its position in the wider landscape and even its aesthetic role. This wide-ranging book makes this re-evaluation available to a new generation of castle enthusiasts. Focusing on the rich heritage of castle archaeology in England and Wales, Robert Liddiard offers a fresh and holistic perspective on these enigmatic medieval buildings. He examines not just the architecture but its wider social and landscape context. As well as offering new insights into familiar themes such as the Norman Conquest and siege warfare, he also covers in detail more original areas of study: the designed, ornamental landscapes that have been found at castle sites; the depiction of castles in literature; and the symbolic values that found expression in castle architecture. His aim is to understand how people experienced castles in the Middle Ages, and therefore to explain why they were such potent icons of lordship. Richly illustrated in color and black and white, this book will make the reader see afresh the great stone keeps that still dominate the English and Welsh countryside - often more than seven hundred years after they were built. Robert Liddiard is Lecturer in Landscape History at the University of East Anglia, Norwich.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There has been a strong demand for books in English on castles over the last fifteen years...Liddiard's book is based firmly on the revision of traditional views.' (Thomas E. McNeill

Speculum - A Journal of Medieval Studies, 2007) It is a superb book that everyone interested in medieval archaeology should read, because it describes why castles were built and how they were used by people living in the area. It blows away the cobwebs that still surround medieval siege warfare. It is a book about the uses of power and how a large and spectacular building can attract attention over the centuries, simply by its presence. (Francis Pryor Britain in the Middle Ages: An Archaeological History)

Robert Liddiard is Lecturer in Landscape History at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

I have a small library of eight good books specifically on castles. The Liddiard volume is unique in that it is the most recent, most scholarly and presents a different interpretation of castles than the other books. The only qualification is that the scope is restricted to castles found in England and Wales. If you already have three or four books on castles, this one would be an excellent choice, as it adds new understanding and balance to our overall view of castles. The quality of the publication is first rate, with color photos, graphics, diagrams, extensive notes, bibliography and index.

lovely book, needed for class and came on time

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