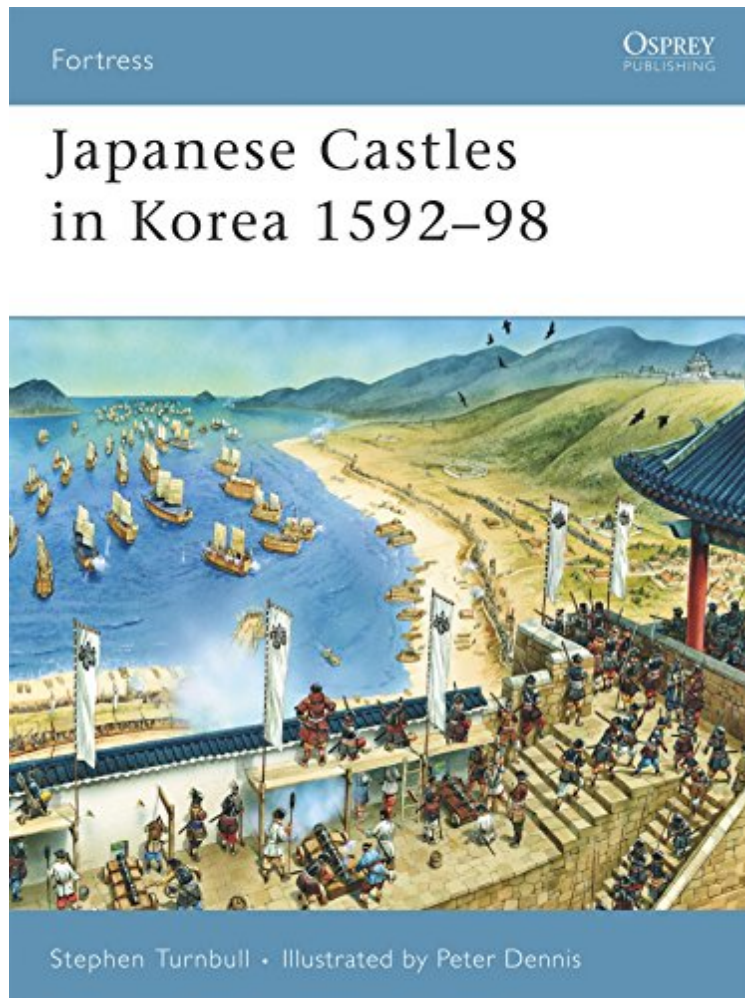


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Stephen Turnbull

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Stephen Turnbull : Japanese Castles in Korea 1592–98 (Fortress) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese Castles in Korea 1592–98 (Fortress):

4 of 8 people found the following review helpful. NOT a book I'd recommend on Far East Military history By JCI always welcome people writing books about the Imjin War because there are so few of them available to English-speaking readers. However, this book is rather too specialized; not a good read for layman. I read about halfway thru and couldn't find it interesting enough to finish reading it. I would compare this Japanese castles in Korea 1592-98 something like a book of "Japanese defense in the Philipines 1941-1945". Is this something that a layman would spend his money and time to read ?? Also, a lot of information overlap with his classic "Samurai Invasion (2002)" (NOT the 2008 edition). If you have the money in this rough economy, buy the 2002 version "Samurai Invasion". 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Japanese castles' short life in Korea By lordhoot Stephen Turnbull's Japanese

Castles in Korea is definitely one of these weird unknown subject matter that is worthy of Osprey's Fortress Series. In this short book, Turnbull managed to give a pretty good summary account of history of Japanese castles that were built during Hideyoshi's Korean invasion between the years 1592 to 1598. The book explained how these castles were built initially to support the invasion, support the supply lines, to control and policed the area around it and finally to support the withdrawal of Japanese troops from Korea after Hideyoshi's death. Stephen Turnbull managed to do all this in this short book with clarity and understanding that don't bogged the reader down. Turnbull also stated that Japanese castle designs at that time proves to be quite capable of withstanding the might of the Ming armies from China. From what I understand, lack of artillery consideration appears to be the major weakness of the Japanese military when defending their castles. Still, three major sieges of Japanese castles in Korea all ended with Japanese victories. And according to the author, the Japanese forces also adapted Korean cannons to their defensive lines as well. Interestingly, the author also spent few paragraphs describing how these castles were built and the hardships of the impressed Japanese peasants and Korean workers forced to worked on these fortresses. Brief outline of the war in Korea was given but the readers would have to wait for the Turnbull's Campaign series (Samurai Invasion of Korea 1592-1598) book coming out in July 2008 on the subject to get greater details or read a book already published by him on the subject (Samurai Invasion) that came out in 2004. Like all Osprey books, this book come well illustrated with very useful drawings and illustrations of these Japanese castles and their designs. Turnbull also inserted many black and white photos of the remains of these Japanese castles, mostly only their stone base remains while using castle parts from Japan to illustrated what they could have look like in Korea as well. Overall, this book covers a subject that is beyond the common knowledge of most people in the English speaking world and despite of the shortness of the book, I found this book to be utterly interesting in terms of information given. 0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A pick not just for military libraries but for any specializing in early Asian history. By Midwest Book Review Stephen Turnbull's JAPANESE CASTLES IN KOREA 1592-98 is a pick not just for military libraries but for any specializing in early Asian history. The focus on Japanese-built castles and Korean fortifications follows the design and use of key fortresses and joins the publishers' 'Fortress' history series.

The Japanese invasion and occupation of Korea, which lasted from 1592 to 1598, was the only occasion in Japanese history when samurai aggression was turned against a foreign country. During the occupation of Korea the Japanese built 25 wajo or castles. Unlike the castles built in Japan, these castles were never developed or modernized after the Japanese departure meaning that the details of late 16th century castle construction are better preserved than at many other sites. Written by Stephen Turnbull, an expert on the subject, this book examines the castles built by the Japanese in Korea, as well as the use the samurai made of existing Korean fortifications, particularly city walls. This resulted in curious hybrid fortifications which dominated the landscape until the Japanese were pushed out of the peninsula by a furious onslaught from the huge Chinese armies.

"In all, the book is well written and most interesting, exposing Western readers to fortifications of a time and place with which they are unlikely to be familiar. I whole-heartedly recommend it." ?Bolling Smith, The Coast Defense Journal (February 2008) "The history of the Japanese in Korea at this time and the design and development of castles and fortifications is thoroughly investigated by author Stephen Turnbull, one of the world's leading experts on the Japanese of this period... All of this is additionally enhanced by photos of the current sites, period art work and the illustrations of Peter Dennis... In all, a superb addition to the Fortress series and a book that I believe you will find interesting." ?Scott Van Aken, modelingmadness.com (December 2007) "The author details the defense of Pusan Harbor and covers other fortifications created by the Japanese and covers the major sieges. The book has a number of interesting illustrations, but in most cases there is not much left to see when it comes to recent photos. Those interested in the Far East will certainly find this a nice addition." ?Joe Kauffman, SITEO Newsletter (November 2007) "Stephen Turnbull's Japanese Castles in Korea 1592-98 is a pick not just for military libraries but for any specializing in early Asian history. The focus on Japanese-built castles and Korean fortifications follows the design and use of key fortresses and joins the publishers' 'Fortress' series." ?The Bookwatch (February 2008) About the Author Stephen Turnbull is recognized as one of the world's foremost military historians of the medieval and early modern periods. He first rose to prominence as a result of his 1977 book, The Samurai: A Military History. Since then he has achieved equal fame writing about European military subjects and has published over 50 books. He always tries to concentrate on the less familiar areas of military history, in particular such topics as Korea, Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and the Teutonic Knights.