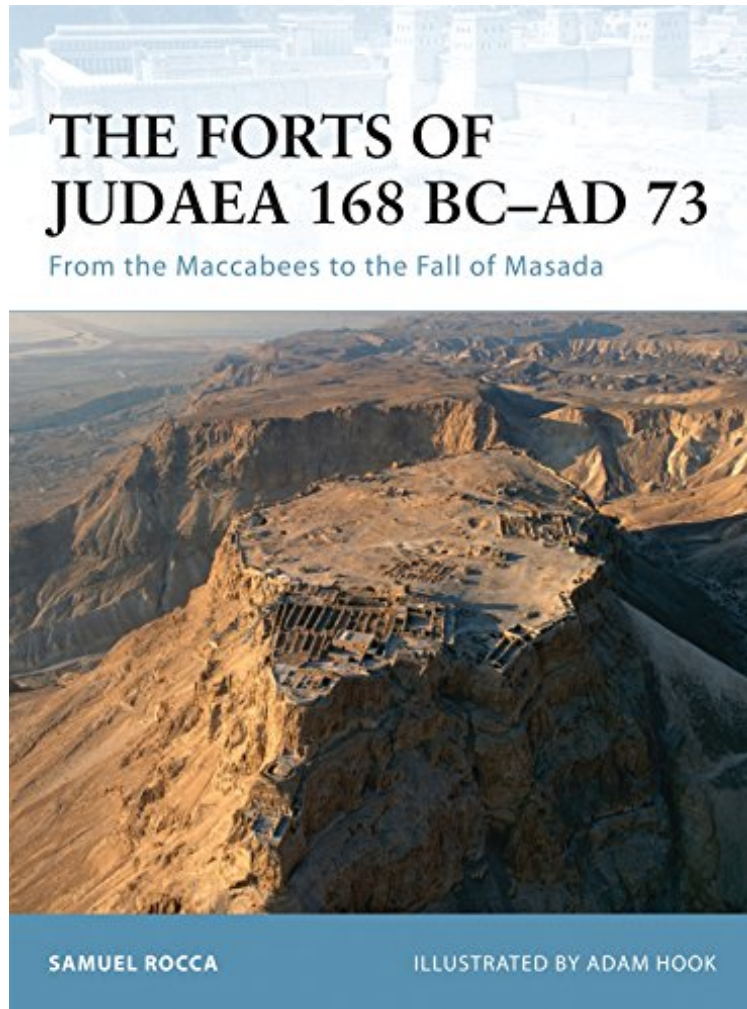


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Samuel Rocca

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Forts of Judaea 168 BCAD 73: From the Maccabees to the Fall of Masada (Fortress):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The Forts of JudaeaBy K. MurphyA fine visual source on the fortifications of the Maccabean, Hasmonean, and Herodian Jewish States from the 2nd Century BC to the 1st Century AD, full of diagrams and color photos, as well as detailed descriptions and analyses based both on archaeology and

the writings of Flavius Josephus and others. The author, Samuel Rocco, is a veteran of the IDF and is an expert on Biblical and Jewish archaeology, specializing in the Herodian Period. The fortifications of Judaea have an interesting history, their construction and appearance having both pre and post-exile Jewish, and Seleucid and Roman elements. Their strategic roles were various, though most were designed for internal purposes—the holding of political prisoners (Alexander and Aristobulus, the sons of Herod the Great, and John the Baptist being three famous examples) and places of refuge for the king in the event of a revolt. Osprey has long neglected both the post-Alexandrian Hellenistic Period and the Classical Jewish states, but this title and the forthcoming 'Army of Herod the Great' will help to fill that unfortunate gap. This is a solidly-written, well-researched, and visually impressive title, and anyone interested in the forts and architecture of Judaea/the late Hellenistic World should definitely buy it!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For some, heavy reading. For those interested in the subject -- THANKS
By Ernie Lee
Asked for factual information about a specific subject in a specific area. Received the same. I could almost be a doctoral dissertation. But not that stuffy!
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Forts of Judaea
By Linda D. Barker
Excellent. The visuals were great and added to the text. I would recommend it to anyone interested in the history of Israel.

During the second century BC the dynasties of Herod and the Hasmoneans were responsible for a massive programme of fort development. Samuel Rocco examines the construction, design and history of these forts - ranging from the ancient fortress of Masada to Herod's own palace, the Temple Mount and the walls that defended Jerusalem in three centuries of civil strife and conflict with Rome. Modern photography and full-color artwork recreate the sites, whilst thrilling accounts of the sieges that these forts endured and thoughtful analysis of the successes and failures of their defensive features illustrate their importance in early Judaeon history.

This small volume, after a brief history of the period, describes the design and development of the fortifications and offers a tour of the major sites. After describing life in the fortifications in peace and war, the book focuses on several sieges of Jerusalem and on the epic Roman siege of Masada, which remains deeply embedded in the Israeli consciousness. This book is an interesting overview of a period of fortifications in a part of the world that dominates headlines today. Bolling Smith, *Coast Defense Journal* (September 2008) This is one of the titles in the series that cover relatively new ground for most military history buffs and is well worth having. J.E. Kauffman, *SiteO Newsletter* (June 2008) If you're an ancient history buff, *The Forts of Judaea 168 BC-AD 73* is for you. This is an illustrated primer on Hasmonaean and Herodian fortifications spanning the period from the Maccabean revolt to the Roman-Jewish war. Sheldon Kirshner, *The Canadian Jewish News* (July 2008)...an excellent book on a subject that is both historically significant and fascinating to read. It is one I can highly recommend. Scott Van Aken, *modelingmadness.com* (November 2008) About the Author Samuel Rocca was born in Milan, Italy but now lives in Jerusalem with his wife and three sons. He served with the Israeli Defense Forces, and has worked as a teacher and a curator at the Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem. Having studied biblical and classical archaeology at undergraduate level at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he went on to complete his MA there, before researching his PhD on Herodian Judaea at Bar-Ilan University. Samuel has given papers at numerous international conventions, and written articles for several academic journals. This is his first book for Osprey Publishing. The author lives in Jerusalem, Israel.