

# Hittite Fortifications 1650-700 BC: Fortress 73 - An Unveiling of Ancient Strength

When it comes to the great civilizations of the ancient world, the Hittites stand out for their remarkable fortifications built during the period of 1650-700 BC. Among these impressive architectural achievements lies Fortress 73, an embodiment of the Hittite military strength and strategic ingenuity. In this article, we will delve into the history, design, and significance of this ancient fortress, unraveling the secrets hidden within its walls.

## The Hittite Empire: A Brief Overview

The Hittite Empire, also known as the Hittite Kingdom, was a dominating force in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) during the Bronze Age. It emerged around 1650 BC and reached its peak around 1350 BC, stretching its influence from central Anatolia to parts of Mesopotamia and Syria. The Hittites were known for their military prowess, advanced weaponry, and remarkable fortification systems.

## Fortress 73: An Architectural Marvel

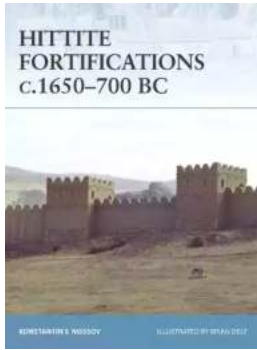
Constructed during the height of Hittite power, Fortress 73 was designed to serve as a stronghold against potential invaders. This elaborate fortification system consisted of massive stone walls, intricately crafted gates, and strategically positioned watchtowers. The Hittites employed advanced engineering techniques to create a formidable defense structure that still astounds archaeologists and historians today.

### Hittite Fortifications c.1650-700 BC (Fortress Book

**73)** by Michael J. Benton (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 24803 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 128 pages
X-Ray for textbooks	: Enabled



## The Walls and Gates

The walls of Fortress 73 were built using large stone blocks meticulously carved and interlocked to provide maximum strength and stability. These walls, towering at an average height of 10 meters, encircled the entire fortress, forming an impenetrable barrier. The gates of the fortress were designed with both security and aesthetics in mind. Intricate carvings and decorative motifs adorned the gates, reflecting the artistic flair of the Hittite civilization.

## The Watchtowers and Surveillance System

Fortress 73 boasted an extensive surveillance system that included strategically positioned watchtowers. These towers offered a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape, enabling the Hittites to detect approaching enemies from afar. Additionally, the Hittites employed a network of hidden tunnels and secret passages within the fortress, ensuring that they could move swiftly and discreetly to counter any threat.

## The Significance of Fortress 73

Fortress 73 was not just a physical defense structure; it played a central role in shaping the Hittite Empire's geopolitical landscape. Strategically situated in close

proximity to major trade routes, the fortress served as a key point for controlling and protecting commerce. It acted as a symbol of the Hittite power, deterring potential invaders and asserting the empire's dominance across the region.

## **Legacy and Archaeological Discoveries**

While centuries have passed, Fortress 73's impact and legacy continue to be felt today. Archaeological excavations have uncovered numerous artifacts, inscriptions, and architectural remains that shed light on the daily lives and military tactics of the Hittites. These discoveries have helped archaeologists to piece together a more comprehensive understanding of the Hittite civilization, ensuring that its rich history is preserved and shared with future generations.

## **Preserving Fortress 73: A Race Against Time**

However, Fortress 73, like many other ancient structures, faces the ongoing threat of deterioration and destruction. Climate change, vandalism, and natural disasters all contribute to the gradual decay of this magnificent fortress. It is crucial, now more than ever, to prioritize preservation efforts and raise awareness about the historical significance of this architectural marvel.

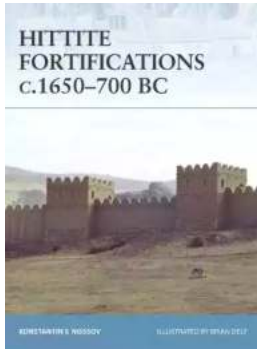
Fortress 73 stands as an enduring testament to the military might and ingenuity of the Hittites. Its construction, advanced design, and strategic location symbolize the power and ambition of a once-great empire. As we continue to explore and appreciate the intricate details of this ancient fortress, let us also strive to protect and preserve its legacy for future generations, ensuring that the story of Fortress 73 and the Hittite Empire lives on.

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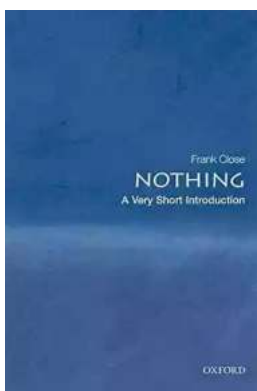
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In the second half of the third millennium BC the Indo-European tribe known as the Hittites migrated and settled in Central Anatolia, at that time a land of small city-states whose rulers lived in fortresses. These fortifications enabled the Hittites to transform themselves into a Bronze Age super-power, defeating the Egyptians at Kadesh in c.1274 BC. Konstantin Nossov examines the fortifications constructed by the Hittites in their efforts to sustain and then halt the decline of their once flourishing empire. Providing an in-depth anatomy of the fortresses, focusing on the major sites of the principal city Hattusha as well as sites at Alacahöyük and Karatepe with full-colour reconstructions, this is an intriguing glimpse into the history of an empire which at its height rivalled the Egyptians and Assyrians. It concludes with an examination of these sites as they survive today, information that will appeal both to history enthusiasts and tourists visiting the area.



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