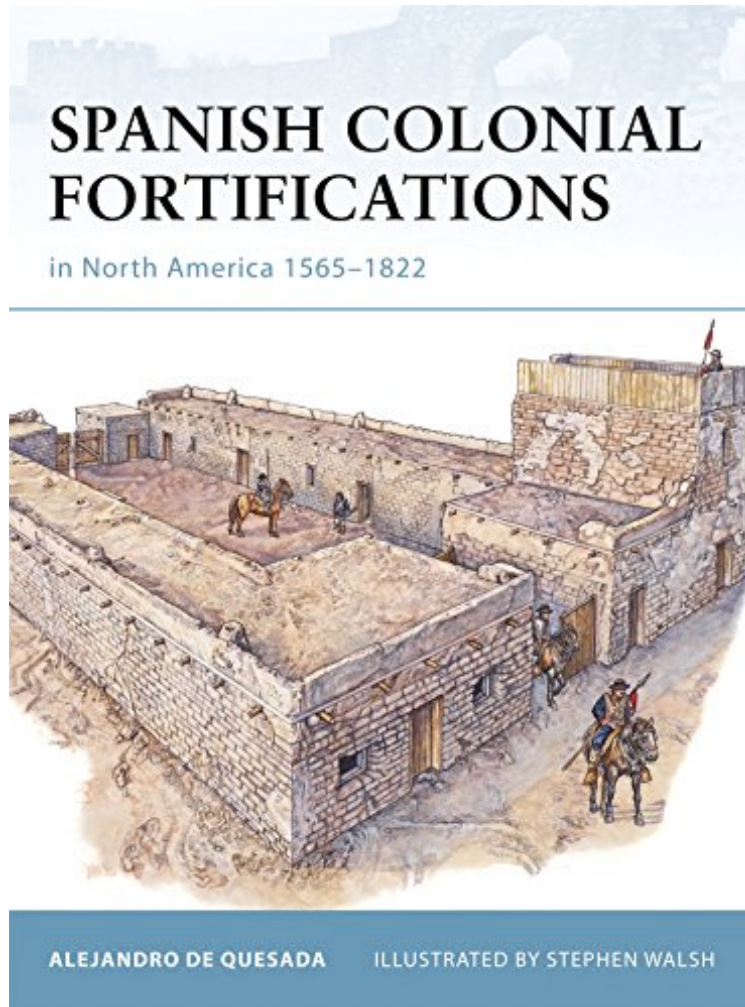


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Alejandro de Quesada
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Alejandro de Quesada : Spanish Colonial Fortifications in North America 1565–1822 (Fortress) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spanish Colonial Fortifications in North America 1565–1822 (Fortress):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Spanish forts...By HMS Warspite"Spanish Colonial Fortifications in North America 1565-1822" is an Osprey Fortress Series book, written by Alejandro de Quesada and illustrated by Stephen Walsh. It covers a vast swath of territory in North American, from Florida through Texas and New Mexico to California, all once part of the Spanish colonial empire.The book offers an introduction, followed by a geographic survey of the various forts and fortifications, with a concluding chapter on what is still available for

touristing. It has a nice selection of photographs and a few maps and illustrations. The narrative is strongest on the former Spanish forts in Florida; it becomes a little sketchy as the survey proceeds west. Spain had its own methodology for fortifying its colonies; the need to use local materials and labor was often a key factor in construction, and few Spanish settlements in North America had enough population to properly hold and defend the various forts. "Spanish Colonial Fortifications" is recommended as an adequate survey on the subject. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By A Customer Excellent book, price, and delivery time. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. But Still A Nice Job By Kevin R. Young I would have to agree with the above review; with Osprey you sometimes never know what you are going to get. I would have to agree, in some ways this work is somewhat disappointing, especially when it comes to more detailed information on the frontier presidios. That said, and understanding how the limitations often placed on the author due to the Osprey format, I still found this book creditable, and a good general overview of Spanish Colonial Fortifications. While heavy on Spanish Florida, which I still found of interest, I was happy to see St. Louis covered in some detail as well as my old stomping grounds of Presidio La Bahia. I do wish the author had mentioned that the current restoration there is more to the 1836 period than the Spanish and Mexican periods. Yes, while the illustrations are somewhat flat, they do have a nice representation of the differences in the fortifications. I guess you can not have Gary Zaboly or George Nelson do all of the historical art work. Perhaps the author would have been best served if Osprey had allowed him to do one book just on Spanish Colonial Coastal Fortifications (including San Juan de Ulua) and then another on those inland. Certainly, those on the frontier and the Presidio line could be their own separate volume. Bottom line is while some constructive criticism can be made, this is a nice overview of the subject and I am pleased that the author moved beyond Florida to survey the rest of the related sites. While it will certainly not replace Max Moorhead's *The Presidio or Lancers for the King*, it does fill a niche. I would look forward to talking Spanish fortifications with the author anytime.

To maintain its imperial power in America, Spain built fortifications across the width of the continent. These outposts were established along Spanish borders from the late sixteenth century onwards to defend its interests against rival European powers and to suppress uprisings of the Native Americans and local population. By the eighteenth century, Spain's defenses spread from the northern area of the Gulf of Mexico through to California. Some of these imperial fortifications, such as the Alamo, played key roles in conflicts including the American Revolution and the Texan War of Independence. This book provides a cogent analysis of Spain's defensive network at the height of the country's imperial strength on the American continent.

About the Author Alejandro de Quesada is a Florida-based military history writer, an experienced researcher and collector of militaria, photos and documents and runs an archive and historical consulting for museums as well as for films as a secondary business with a strong Military History content. He has written over 100 articles and over 25 books, including several for Osprey, and is a leading authority on Latin-American subjects. Author of the following Osprey titles to date: *The Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection*; *The US Home Front 1941-45*; *Roosevelt's Rough Riders*; *The Bay of Pigs*; *The Mexican Revolution*; *The United States Coast Guard during World War Two*; *Spanish Colonial Fortifications in North America*.