



وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي

جامعة الموصل

كلية الآداب / قسم التاريخ

**الدور الحضاري للقلاع والحصون في مصر وبلاد الشام
في العصر المملوكي (٦٤٨-٩٢٣هـ / ١٢٥٠-١٥١٧م)
دراسة مقارنة**

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Abstract:

Praise be to God, by whose grace good deeds are completed, abundant, pure, and blessed praise as befits the majesty of His face and the greatness of His authority; and prayers and peace be upon the master of creation, and upon his family, companions, and all his supporters. As for what follows During the Mamluk era, the castles in Egypt and the Levant witnessed many political, administrative, architectural, economic, social, and cultural roles. These military establishments were not only tasked with defense and protection, but they also had significant civil roles, including administrative functions, architectural aspects, and social and cultural aspects such as celebrations and much more.

Based on this civil role of castles and fortresses in Egypt and the Levant, our study is titled (The Civil Role of Castles and Fortresses in Egypt and the Levant during the Mamluk Era ٦٤٨-٩٢٣ AH / ١٢٥٠-١٥١٧ AD: A Comparative Study).

In light of this study, the researcher aimed to clarify the civilizational, administrative, architectural, economic, social, and cultural impact within the castles and fortresses during the Mamluk era, as well as the interest of the Mamluk sultans in these establishments as centers of governance and authority, and their continuous development. In addition, it is necessary to mention here the problems encountered by the researcher during the study, including the scarcity of available material on castles and fortresses. Particularly, the material available for Chapter Three (Castles and Fortresses in the Levant and Their Civilizational Role) was limited, as the lack of texts on these castles and fortresses in the Levant prevented the chapter from attaining its full scope in terms of scientific content due to the limited information in the sources and references that addressed castles and fortresses in the Mamluk era in general.

As for previous studies similar to the subject of this thesis, it was found that castles and fortresses received the attention of researchers. For example:

- ١- Saad Muhammad Hussein Al-Momani, whose study was entitled (Islamic Castles in Jordan during the Ayyubid and Mamluk Periods), a master's thesis submitted to the University of Jordan / Faculty of Arts in the year (١٤٠٥ AH / ١٩٨٥ AD). This study dealt with a detailed description of the castles and fortresses present in Jordan during the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods through the structures found inside these castles, including buildings, walls, and other elements.
- ٢- Military castles in the Sinai Peninsula and its borders during the Mamluk and Ottoman periods (٦٤٨-١٣٣٣ AH / ١٢٥٠-١٩١٤ AD): An archaeological-architectural study, a doctoral dissertation submitted to Cairo University/Faculty of Archaeology in the year (١٤٣٥ AH / ٢٠١٤ AD). This study addressed the castles and fortresses present in the Sinai Peninsula from an architectural perspective, their development over the ages, and the importance of their presence in these areas for their defensive role. As for the methodology followed in the study: the methods of induction, investigation, and analysis were adopted, followed by the comparative method (comparative study), where we compared the forts and castles in Egypt with those in the Levant, highlighting the similarities and differences in terms of the civilizational roles that the forts and castles played in each region.

Because of the nature of the study conducted for the master's thesis, the thesis was divided into an introduction, three chapters, and a conclusion, in addition to a list of sources and references that the researcher relied upon in preparing the thesis. The first chapter, entitled (An Overview of Forts and Castles in Egypt and the Levant), provided a comprehensive look at the establishment and concept of forts and castles and generally discussed the parts and components of these forts and castles in terms of buildings and public facilities within them, as well as their political and security roles in Egypt and the Levant, among other

matters. Chapter Two, however, titled 'Castles and Fortresses in Egypt and Their Civilizational Role,' delves into the civilizational roles played by Egypt's castles, particularly the Citadel of the Mountain, given the great importance this fortress held in the country as a seat and center of governance, in addition to some other castles and fortresses.

As for the third chapter, it was titled 'Castles and Fortresses in the Levant and Their Civilizational Role.' It included discussions about the civilizational roles that castles and fortresses played in the Levant, including the Citadel of Damascus, Aleppo, Karak, Safed, and other fortresses. The chapter also covered the administrative, architectural, cultural, and social roles within these structures.

It is worth noting here that there is some variation in the content of the study's sources, particularly between the first and second chapters. This variation is due to the nature of the study and the texts available, as the second chapter predominates because of the abundance of material available on the Citadel of the Mountain compared to the first chapter.

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The Civilizational Role of Castles and Fortresses in Egypt and the Levant (٦٤٨-٩٢٣ AH / ١٢٥٠-١٥١٧ AD)

Comparative Study

A Thesis Submitted By

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