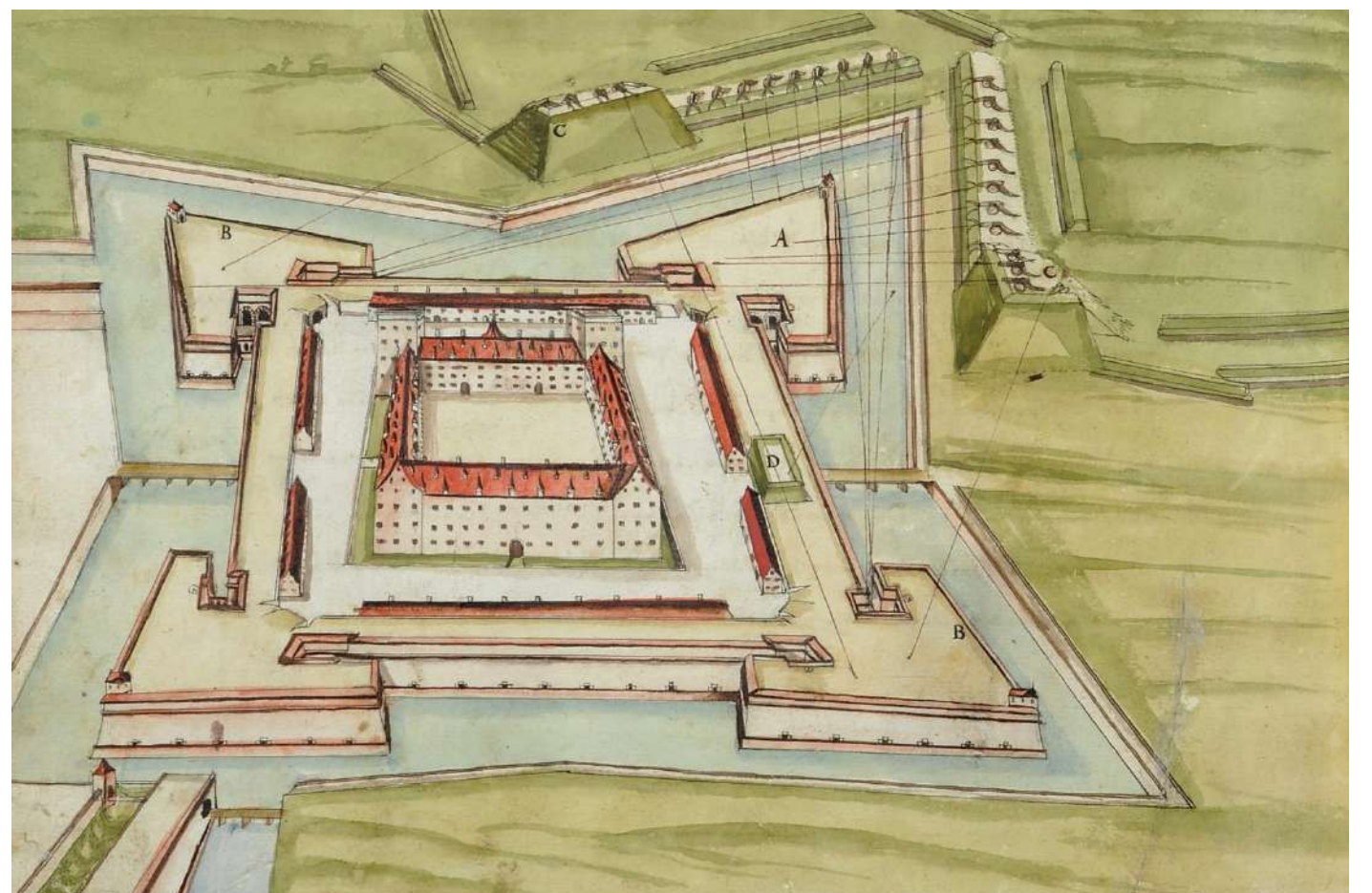


Fortifications

The history of the Euregio Meuse-Rhine has been marked by wars and conflicts for centuries. Impressive remains of fortifications from late antiquity to the 20th century still bear witness to this today. The introduction of firearms powered by black powder in the period around 1500 was a major turning point in the history of warfare.



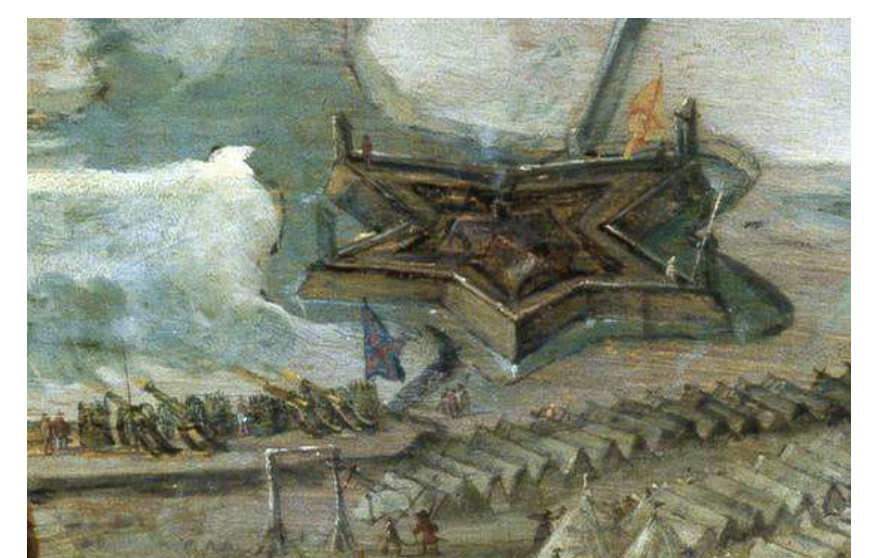
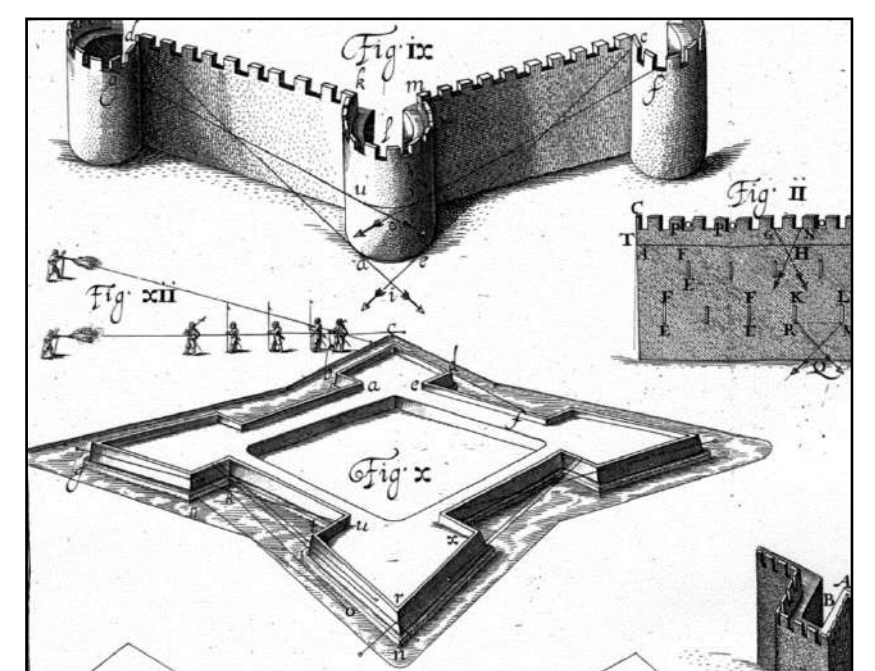
The Military Revolution

The narrow, high walls of the Middle Ages with their towers were no longer able to withstand the cannons that appeared in the 15th century. New fortification systems were developed. In the course of the 16th century, the so-called bastionary system prevailed. Mighty ramparts and arrow-headed bastions in deep ditches now provided an optimal all-round defence with firearms. However, only a few rich and politically independent cities could afford this type of fortification. It was rather the princes, such as the Duke of Jülich and the Prince-Bishop of Liège, who had strategically important places fortified with ramparts and bastions. With the citadel and city fortifications in Jülich, one of the most modern facilities of the time was built in the middle of the 16th century.



The Development of Fortifications

Fortress construction has always developed in response to the latest weapon and war technology. In this respect, the individual stages of development are explained using concrete examples from the Euregio Meuse Rhine. The focus is also on concrete historical events in order to answer the question of how a fortress actually functioned in the event of a siege. This results in the following structure:



- The walls of the medieval town (e.g. Tongeren)
- The advent of firearms and first structural reactions (e.g. Aachen)
- The bastioned fortification system in the early modern princely state (e.g. Jülich)
- The functioning of a fortress during a siege (e.g. Maastricht)