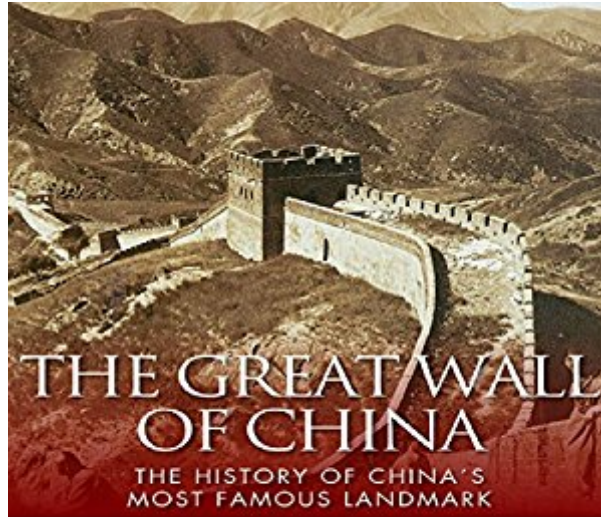


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# The Great Wall Of China: The History Of China's Most Famous Landmark



by  
CHARLES RIVER EDITORS



## Synopsis

The Great Wall of China is perhaps the wonder of the world that has most captured the human imagination, and as the quotes about it indicate, the wall has acquired special significance even outside of China. The places and ways in which it has taken hold vary greatly, but one thing is certain: The Great Wall of China is as amazing as it is mysterious, and it's as mundane as it is magical. Naturally the Wall has become the most recognizable symbol of China, used for both aggrandizement and criticism. Nationalists see it as a symbol of China's peaceful nature, engineering capability, and historic longevity while detractors see the wall as the embodiment of China's backwardness, closed-mindedness, and hubris. While history allots arguments for the claims of each side, both of them are colored by Great Wall mythology and current geopolitical concerns. Though the wall can symbolize all of these things about China, it is important to remember that the many long walls, upon some of which the current landmark was constructed, were put up by specific people for specific purposes. The first step to a more accurate conception of the wall is getting a better understanding of its name because "The Great Wall of China" is a misleading label. More accurately it may be called the "Great Walls of China," for several dynasties beginning early in Chinese history built fortifications of some kind, usually to the north. These constructions were alternately expanded, connected, dismantled, or neglected depending on the circumstances and preferences of those in charge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Great Wall creates the impression of one enormous structure created over many years by

many workers. In fact the Great Wall is a collection of defensive barriers constructed over centuries by various leaders for a variety of goals and objectives. The construction of these walls were mainly to serve as an impediment to invaders and to protect the inhabitants of China. This book provides a short but clear explanation of the whys and wherefores of the walls, their uses, their successes and their failures in achieving their intended purposes.

I just took for granted it was by and for china. Wrong again. Many, many people and nations were involved over the years. Our world had many thing of great magnitude that have been allowed to go to ruin. Read this well written book about the wall and see for yourself.

This was a brief history of the many walls that were built over the centuries. Not too long, but enough to understand some of the reasons for the walls; why they worked and why they failed. Fairly interesting history.

Primarily proofing: many typos that were not caught by the "spell checker" that would have been caught if a real person had been checking the work. Obviously a digitized version of an original that was formatted and then run through the spell checker to produce a cheap edition treating a fascinating subject. I would like to have seen a chapter or table listing all the walls over time with dates, dimensions, builder, modifications, cost; something concise, but something all in one place. As it is, if you want the "facts" about the wall itself, you have to root through the entire book and even then many salient details can't be found. Hayward S. Melville

Very interesting, but short, history of this major construction. Concise writing, good word flow, I like this authors style. Recommended reading.

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