

# *Contents*

List of Plates	viii
Introduction: Into the Castle	1
1 Castles as Political Centers	23
2 Castles and Community Identity	59
3 Castles and Ritual	115
4 Castles and the Domestic Sphere	143
5 Castles as Prisons	189
6 Castles at War	227
Afterword: Beyond the Castle Gate	261
Bibliography	263
Acknowledgements	281
Index	283