

Abstract

This thesis deals with the development of the hand-held firearms in the Middle East with an emphasis on the period from the 15th to the end of the 18th century. In some passages it also marginally mentions the early 19th century.

The first part of the thesis concentrates on the development of firearms in a historical context. The focus is primarily on the Ottoman Empire and partially on Egypt. Among other topics it also analyses the practical use of firearms and the related military tactics including the presence of firearms in major battles, as shown on contemporary paintings and miniatures.

In the second part the author deals with the technical development of hand-held firearms. This section focuses mostly on the components of firearms and their development. This section also in some degree deals with the artistic aspects of the preserved firearms.

The supplements consist of numerous photographs of the preserved exhibits in Czech and foreign collections and also of other visual materials.

Keywords

firearms, gunpowder, Middle East, Ottoman Empire, Mamluks, Egypt, flintlock, matchlock, miquelet, stock, barrel, decoration, miniatures