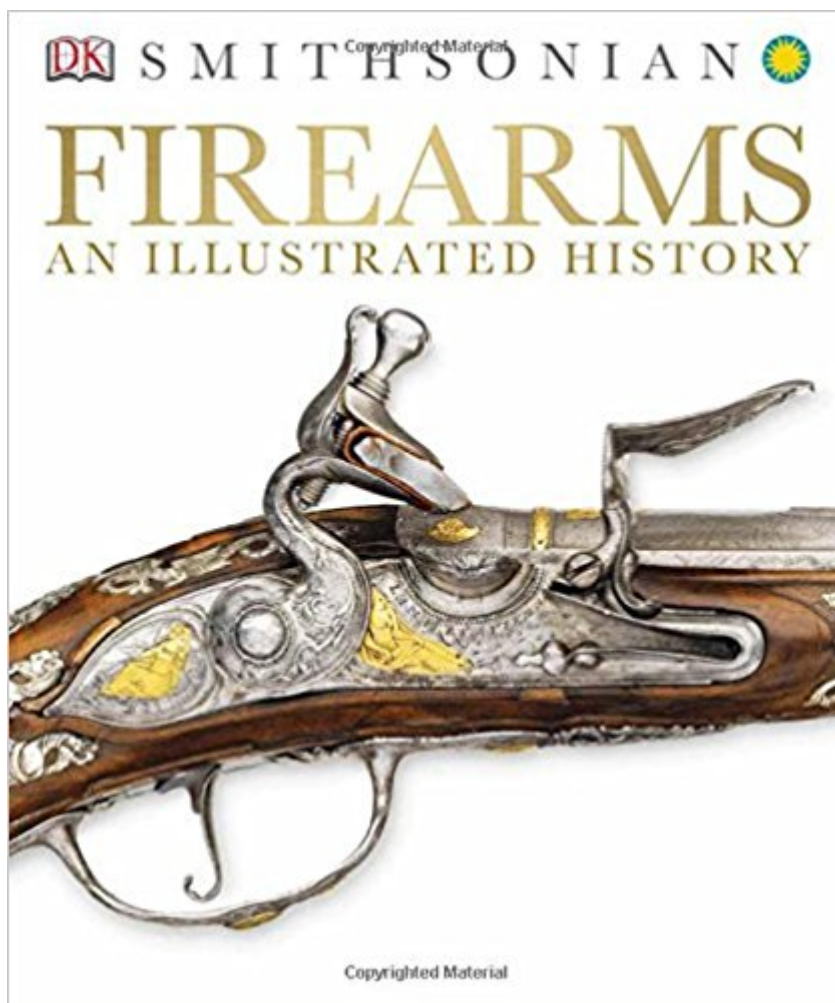


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# Firearms: An Illustrated History



## Synopsis

Published in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution, *Firearms: An Illustrated History* charts the evolution of the gun, from the pistol and rifle, to the machine gun and revolver. Detailed catalogs profile more than 300 firearms spanning over 700 years. With virtual tours detailing the most intricate details of key weaponry and photographic features on the world's iconic gun makers, including Colt, Smith & Wesson, Maxim, and Kalashnikov, *Firearms: An Illustrated History* is the perfect gift for gun, weapon, and military history enthusiasts.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: DK (March 17, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1465416056

ISBN-13: 978-1465416056

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 1.1 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 92 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #55,955 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Firearms & Weapons > Ammo & Grenades](#) #4 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Firearms & Weapons > Firearms](#) #23 in [Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional](#)

## Customer Reviews

"[Firearms] is one of the best visual overviews available of the historical development of firearms, with brilliant photography and an emphasis on artistic as well as technological achievements."

— Library Journal "Firearms is a coffee-table book guaranteed to provide several evenings' worth of entertaining reading to any gun or history enthusiast in search of a general overview of firearms development."

— The Armchair General magazine "Beginning historical novelists who don't know much about firearms in their chosen era will find an excellent introduction in this book. It offers worldwide coverage, not just Western arms, and true to DK's tradition, provides excellent and detailed color photographs of examples of weapons over the centuries."

— Historical Novel Society "[A] complete historical overview illustrated with excellent photography."

— American Gunsmith

Dk:Illustrated History of Firearms charts the evolution of firearms,from the time when gunpowder was invented to the present day. It is highly illustrated and contains 2 exclusive removable prints at the back of the book.Weapon "showcases" let's readers take an exclusive tour of some of the world's most famous guns, such as the Ak47,Colt M1911, and Gatling gun.Afew errors here and there,but overall a wonderfully written and illustrated book.This book is more for visual enjoyment than serious reference,however.Have a nice read:)

Something of a coffee table picture book, which is not a bad thing. This book includes beautiful color pictures of small arms and artillery from matchlocks to modern firearms.I bought this book because I wanted some information about the change over from flintlock firearms to percussion cap weapons; this book answered my questions. For sure, it is a very useful reference work. Particularly beautiful are the pictures of the elaborately inlaid and engraved Ottoman rifles from the 17th and 18th centuries.Perhaps it's nit picking, but I may as well point out a few of the books weaknesses. To begin with, the book was assembled with the expert assistance of four consultants. Three of the four are Brits; Henry, Rimer and Smithhurst. Now, I have nothing against our British friends and they are true experts in their field, but this does give a bias to the entries. American contributions to firearms design as well as descriptions of weapons of interest to American gun enthusiasts have been "thinned" a bit in favor of a more European bias. No doubt, an aspect of this issue is that there is a LOT of ground to cover, but that leads to my second criticism. The book includes artillery. This is surely interesting, but the focus could have been maintained on small arms; small arms alone is a plenty big enough subject area to cover and this would have allowed a more comprehensive treatment of the relevant area of primary interest. And the artillery entries are particularly thin, perhaps because the authors recognized that with this addition, they were wandering a bit out of the main subject area.Notable in being absent from comprehensive discussion are (in no particular order); the M16/AR-15. This is a true oversight as this weapon was ground breaking in the late fifties when it was originally developed. And it is also an excellent example of weapon modularity that has been an important development in small arms as they are now a mature technology. There is NO mention what-so-ever of Ronnie Barrett's contributions to rifle (especially sniper rifle) technology. This is truly unfortunate as his interesting and intimidating rifles have made serious contributions on the modern battlefield. Gas seal revolvers are discussed (the Joseph-Lang; 1855) but little to no mention is made of probably the most famous gas seal revolver of them all; the Belgian designed Nagant.It would have been nice if some of the experts from the NRA National

Firearms Museum could have been included on the consultants list. But perhaps that would have led to "too many cooks in the kitchen". I don't know. "Firearms: an Illustrated History" is a beautiful book and well worth owning. The subject of firearms is such a large subject area that perhaps it is inevitable that no one book could ever hope to cover everything.

The dust jacket had a small tear when it arrived because it wasn't packaged correctly but other than that this book was amazing. It was heavy weight paper full color and provided interesting facts about the firearms. It was everything I was expecting.

I am a history buff of weapons history including firearms. This is a very interesting book on firearms and recommended for anyone with an interest in the history of firearms.

My husband and I fell in love with DK (especially the Smithsonian line) during a trip to the Smithsonian museums. The books are filled with an immense amount of information which is presented in a fascinating, readable way. Of course the author couldn't include absolutely every single detail about the subject at hand, but they still did a wonderful job. The photos are gorgeous and a perfect complement to the information being presented. The books themselves have sturdy binding and stout construction.

This is an excellent book on the illustrated history of firearms. Both a coffee table book and a history book. Great pictures!

This is a phenomenal gun book, great pictures, again Smithsonian hits the target. I gave this book to my 24 year old son, he keeps it in a special place in his library.

I bought this as a gift for my husband. He loves it.

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