

2,500 Years of Walls and Barriers

I. ANTIQUITY

c. 7500 BCE	stone wall of Jericho
500-400 BCE	Construction of 1 st segments of what later became Great Wall of China
221 BCE-1644 CE	Various walls subsumed under modern label "Great Wall of China," begun under state of Qin (or Ch'in) and emperor Qin Shi Huang
	Ch'in 221-207 BCE, beginning under state of Qin and emperor Qin Shi Huang
	202 BCE-220 CE, Han dynasty construction, including rebuilding of great Qin wall in 140-87 and extending west with new sections under Emperor Wu
	550-74, 589-618 CE Northern Ch'I and Sui additions
	1369-1644 CE major construction under Ming dynasty, from which most of today's visible Great Wall can be dated
146 BCE-	<i>Fossa Regia</i> ("the royal ditch") between oman province of Africa and Numidia
123-138, 160-367 CE	Hadrian's Wall, not response to any clear present threat, part of imperial recognition that empire was reaching its limits
c. 125	Palisaded <i>limes</i> in Raetia
c. 125	<i>Fossatum Africae</i> in Algeria
140-early 160s	Antonine Wall in Scotland
c. 300 CE-	Devil's Dyke (Csörszárok or Ördögárok)
c. 320-378	Sarmatian <i>limes</i>

II BETWEEN

408-1423	Hexamilion across Isthmus of Corinth
412	Start of Constantinople city wall
700s	Great Fence of Thrace
737-968	Construction of Danevirke
780s	Offa's Dyke
1223-1230	Construction of fortified baronial castle of Coucy north of Paris
1224	Royal Hungarian charter for Saxons of <i>Sieben Burgen</i> --Cluj, Bistrița, Sebeș, Sibiu, Mediaș, Sighișoara, and Brașov--with rings of walls, ditches, manned gates
1360s	Prague city wall
1516-1797	Venetian ghetto
1634	Palisade across Lower Peninsula: Middle Plantation (Williamsburg), VA
1653	Palisade across Manhattan: Wall Street
1654	Russia: Chertva and Oka River lines against Tatars
1667-1707	"The Vauban System" of more than 300 fortified cities ringing France
1796	George Washington: "...I believe scarcely anything short of a Chinese Wall, or a line of Troops will restrain Land Jobbers, and the Incroachment of Settlers, upon the Indian Territory."
c. 1840-1880	The Great Hedge of India
1868-1879, 1895-98	Trochas across Cuba, 30 miles
1873	invention of barbed wire by De Kalb, IL, farmer Farwell Glidden

1915-18 German triple electrified fence, Belgium-Netherlands, 300 km

1919-1940 Maginot Line: "the Great Wall of France"

1933 "King Kong"

1936-40 Mareth Line on Tunisa-Libya border, 50 km

III. MODERN TIMES

1947 "An iron curtain has descended across the Continent," Winston Curchill, Fulton, MO, USA, 5 March 1947

1947-1989 fortified and virtually impermeable 4,375-mile Soviet empire land border.

1953-present Korean DMZ, 151 miles, "The scariest place on earth" according to Bill Clinton, perhaps the most heavily fortified border in world

1957 Construction of Morice Line in Algeria

1961-1989 Berlin Wall

1967-1968 "the McNamara line," along DMZ between North and South Vietnam, extending into Laos: electronic and acoustic sensors, and manned defensive strongpoints; never completed

1968-1973 Bar Lev line, Israeli defensive barrier along eastern side of Suez Canal

1970s-present Belfast, Northern Ireland, 13-mile "Peace Line," brick, iron, steel barriers, to curb escalating religious violence, length more than doubled last 10 years

1974-present Cyprus, 112-mile barrier of concrete, barbed wire, watch towers, mine fields, ditches

1979 1,250-mile Moroccan barrier around Spanish Sahara

1983-1991 US Strategic Defense Initiative ("Star Wars") against Soviet nuclear attack

- 1985 Schengen Treaty
- 1986-present India-Bangladesh, 2,043 miles, barbed wire barrier blt by India to curb infiltration, still in progress
- India-Pakistan, 1,800 miles planned, by 2006 700 miles+, to block arms from Pakistan
- 1989 Opening of Berlin Wall, Iron Curtain

IV. POST-MODERN TIMES

- 1991 Kuwait-Iraq DMZ, 120 miles, from Saudi Arabia to Persian Gulf, manned by UN soldiers and observers since 1991
- 1992 floodlights and reinforced fence along 13-mile stretch of California-Mexico border area known as "Smuggler's Corridor"
- 1993 "prevention through deterrence" on the US-Mexican border
- 1994 Israeli fence around Gaza, 37 miles
- 1995 deploy Schengen Information System (SIS)
- 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act (PL 104-208): 1st express congressional authorization for construction of border barriers
- John Perry Barlow's Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace
- 1998 Spain completes border fence around Ceuta and Melilla
- 1999 Uzbekistan barbed wire fence along border w Kyrgyzstan
- 2001 Completion of initial Israeli plan for security wall around West Bank
- 2001 Major improvement of Gaza fence

2002-present	Israeli security wall around West Bank
2003	Start of "US-VISIT" (United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology) program: data bases, digital cameras, face and voice recognition systems, electronic fingerprint readers, linked by computer
2003-present	Botswana-Zimbabwe, 300 miles, built by Botswana, ostensibly to keep out hoof-and-mouth disease
2003	Saudi-Yemen, c. 300 miles, barrier in progress to prevent terrorist started 2003, along entire border
2004	Saudi-Iraq, c. 560 miles, double barrier with 6-mile strip between, electronic monitoring, along entire border
2004	Thailand concrete barrier along southern border with Malaysia started
2005	Begin movement for fencing entire U.S.-Mexican border
2005	Major strengthening of Melilla and Ceuta border fences
2006-2011	US Secure Borders Initiative "virtual fence"
2007	Admission of former Soviet satellite states to Schengenland and major movement eastward of Schengen border
2010	Egyptian underground steel wall along Gazan border
2010-11	Israeli fence along Sinai border