



THE WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF **TANKS** & ARMoured FIGHTING VEHICLES

OVER 400 VEHICLES AND 1200 WARTIME AND MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS



Features A-Z catalogues for tank destroyers, command versions, specialized tanks, armoured cars, armoured personnel carriers and self-propelled artillery

An illustrated history of the world's most important tanks and AFVs from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day

GEORGE FORTY & JACK LIVESEY

LORENZ BOOKS

Contents

This edition is published by Lorenz Books, an imprint of Anness Publishing Ltd, Hermes House, 88-89 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HA; tel. 020 7401 2077; fax 020 7633 9499
www.lorenzbooks.com; www.annespublishing.com

Anness Publishing has a new picture agency outlet for images for publishing, promotions or advertising. Please visit our website www.practicapictures.com for more information.

UK agent: The Manning Partnership Ltd, tel. 01225 478444; fax 01225 478440;

sales@trainingpartnership.co.uk

UK distributor: Book Trade Services; tel. 0116 2750686; fax 0116 2750692;

usadist@booktradeservices.com; export@booktradeservices.com

North American agent/distributor: National Book Network; tel. 301 499 3866; fax 301 429 5746;

www.nbnbooks.com

Australian agent/distributor: Pan Macmillan Australia; tel. 1300 135 113; fax 1300 135 103;

customerservice@panmacmillan.com.au

New Zealand agent/distributor: David Bateman Ltd; tel. (09) 415 7664; fax (09) 415 6862

Publisher: Joanna Lorenz

Managing Editor: Conor Kilgallon

Project Editor: Felicity Foster

Copy Editor and Indexer: Tim Ellery

Cover Design: Dawn Young

Designer: Design Principals

Editorial Reader: Jay Thundersilke

Production Manager: Steve Lang

ETHICAL TRADING POLICY

Because of our ongoing ecological investment programme, you, as our customer, can have the pleasure and reassurance of knowing that a tree is being cultivated on your behalf to naturally replace the materials used to make the book you are holding. For further information about this scheme, go to www.annespublishing.com/trees

© Anness Publishing Ltd 2006, 2010

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Previously published as two separate volumes, *The World Encyclopedia of Tanks* and *The World Encyclopedia of Armoured Fighting Vehicles*

NOTE

The notation of each vehicle is identified in the relevant specification box by the national flag that was current at the time of the vehicle's use.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Although the advice and information in this book are believed to be accurate and true at the time of going to press, neither the authors nor the publisher can accept any legal responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions that may be made.

PAGE 1: Challenger 3, PAGE 2: SA-4b "Gecko" SAM Vehicle;

PAGE 3: LVT-7 Armoured Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

8 Introduction

TANKS

12 Introducing tanks

The History of the Tank

- 16 Evolution of the tank
- 18 The tank crew
- 20 World War I
- 22 Between the wars
- 24 Blitzkrieg
- 26 Tanks in other theatres
- 28 Wartime development
- 30 The Funnies
- 32 On to victory
- 34 The Cold War
- 36 Korea and Vietnam
- 38 The uneasy peace
- 40 The Arab-Israeli wars
- 42 Improvements in basic characteristics
- 44 Training expedients
- 46 Wars in Iraq
- 48 The future

A-Z of World War Tanks: 1916-45

- 52 AUV Stumpfgrabenwagen
- 54 A1E1 Independent
- 55 A8 Cruiser Tank Mark I
- 55 A10 Cruiser Tank Mark IIA
- 56 A11 Infantry Tank Mark I Matilda I
- 57 A12 Infantry Tank Mark II Matilda II
- 58 A13 Cruiser Tank Mark III
- 59 A13 Mark III Cruiser Tank Mark IV
- 59 A13 Mark III Cruiser Tank Mark V
- 60 A15 Cruiser Tank Mark VI Crusader



- 61 A17 Light Tank Mark VII Tetrarch
- 61 A25 Light Tank Mark VIII Harry Hopkins
- 62 A22 Infantry Tank Mark IV Churchill
- 64 A24 Infantry Tank Black Prince
- 64 A24 Cruiser Tank Mark VII Cavalier
- 65 A27M Cruiser Tank Mark VIII Centaur
- 65 A27M Cruiser Tank Mark VIII Cromwell
- 66 A30 Cruiser Tank Challenger
- 66 A30 Tank Destroyer Avenger
- 67 A33 Heavy Assault Tank Excelsior
- 67 A38 Infantry Tank Valiant
- 68 A34 Cruiser Tank Comet
- 70 A29 Heavy Assault Tank Tortoise
- 70 TCG 1 and TCG 2 Heavy Tanks
- 71 BT Medium Tank series
- 72 Camo Armato M11/39 Medium Tank
- 72 Camo Armato M13/40 Medium Tank
- 73 Camo Velox 33 Tankette
- 73 Camo Velox 135/LJ Flamethrower Tankette
- 74 Char d'Assault Schneider CA1 Heavy Tank
- 74 Char d'Assault Saint Chamond Heavy Tank
- 76 Char B1 Heavy Tank
- 76 Char B1-bis Heavy Tank
- 77 Char 2C Heavy Tank
- 78 Renault/Endron Heavy Tank Destroyer
- 79 Jagdpanzer IV Tank Destroyer
- 79 S-100 Super Heavy Tank
- 80 FCM 36 Infantry Tank
- 81 Ford 3 Ton Tank
- 81 Ford 6 Ton Tank (M1917)
- 82 Hot Gas-Electric Tank and other US experimental tanks
- 84 Hotchkiss H-35 Light Tank
- 84 Hotchkiss H-39 Light Tank
- 85 JS-1 Heavy Tank
- 85 JS-2 Heavy Tank
- 86 KV-1 Heavy Tank
- 86 KV-2 Heavy Tank
- 87 The No. 1 Lincoln Machine "Little Willie"
- 88 UK I Light Tank
- 89 UK II Light Tank
- 89 Medium B Whippet
- 89 Medium C Hornet
- 89 Medium A Whippet
- 92 Mark I Heavy Tank "Mother"
- 94 Mark I Medium Tank
- 95 Mark II and Mark III Medium Tanks
- 96 Mark II Medium Tank
- 97 Mark II and Mark III Light Tanks
- 98 Mark II Valentine Infantry Tank
- 98 Mark IV Light Tank
- 98 Mark V Light Tank
- 100 Mark V Heavy Tank
- 102 Mark VI Light Tank
- 104 Mark VII Heavy Tank
- 108 M1 and M2 Combat Cars
- 108 M2 Light Tank series
- 110 M3 General Lee Medium Tank and variants
- 112 M4 Sherman Medium Tank
- 114 M3 Light Tank series
- 114 M5 Light Tank
- 115 M6 Heavy Tank
- 115 M26 Pershing Heavy Tank
- 116 M10 Wolverine Tank Destroyer
- 117 M18 Hellcat Tank Destroyer
- 117 M26 Gun Motor Carriage
- 118 M22 Locust Light Tank
- 118 M24 Chaffee Light Tank
- 118 M101 Christie
- 118 Neubaufahrzeug V and VI
- 121 PzKpfw Maus Super Heavy Tank
- 122 PzKpfw I Light Tank
- 122 PzKpfw II Light Tank
- 124 PzKpfw III Medium Tank
- 124 PzKpfw IV Medium Tank
- 128 PzKpfw V Panther Heavy Tank
- 129 Jagdpanther Heavy Tank Destroyer
- 130 PzKpfw VI Ausf E Tiger 1 Heavy Tank
- 131 PzKpfw VI Ausf B Tiger 2 Heavy Tank
- 131 PzKpfw VI Jagdpanzer Heavy Tank Destroyer
- 132 Renault FT-17 Light Tank and derivatives
- 134 Ren Mark I Cruiser Tank
- 134 Ren Mark II Cruiser Tank
- 135 Renault Char D2 Infantry Tank
- 135 Renault FT Maginot-Hindin M24/25 Light Tank
- 136 Renault R-35 Light Tank
- 137 Sentinel AC1, AC2, AC3 and AC4
- 138 7TP Light Tank
- 138 SARR Heavy Tank
- 140 Skoda LT-35 Medium Tank
- 142 Skoda LT-38 Medium Tank
- 142 SOMUA S-35 Medium Tank
- 145 Strv M21 and M29 Light Tanks
- 142 Strv M31 Light Tank



- 144 Strv M40, M41, M42 and M42 Light Tanks
- 145 T1 and T2 Medium Tanks
- 146 T-26 Light Tank
- 146 T-28 Medium Tank
- 147 T-37 Amphibious Light Tank
- 147 T-40 Amphibious Light Tank
- 148 T-34/76A Medium Tank
- 148 T-34/95 Medium Tank
- 150 T-54 and T-55 Medium Tanks
- 151 Type 3 Ka-Chi Amphibious Tank
- 151 Type 5 To-Ku Amphibious Tank
- 152 Type 95 He-Gi Light Tank
- 153 Type 89B Ot-Su Medium Tank
- 153 Type 97 Chi-Ha Medium Tank
- 154 Vickers Commercial Dutchman Light Tank
- 155 Vickers 6 Ton Tank

A-Z of Modern Tanks: 1945 to the Present Day

- 158 A41 Centurion Medium Tank
- 160 M1A1/M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank
- 162 A41 Rapid Deployment Force Light Tank
- 163 Alan Degen Main Battle Tank
- 164 Alvis Scorpion CVR(T)
- 165 Alvis Scorpion CVR(T)
- 166 AMX-13 Light Tank
- 166 AMX-30 Main Battle Tank
- 168 AMX-32 Main Battle Tank
- 168 AMX-40 Main Battle Tank
- 170 Ariete Main Battle Tank
- 170 Aspin Main Battle Tank
- 171 ASCOD 105 Light Tank
- 172 ASU-57 Tank Destroyer
- 172 ASU-85 Tank Destroyer
- 173 Bernardini M41 Light Tank
- 173 Bernardini M41 and M42 Light Tanks
- 174 Challenger 1 Main Battle Tank
- 176 Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank
- 176 Chieftain Main Battle Tank (FV 4020)
- 180 Charioteer Tank Destroyer



- 181 Conqueror Heavy Tank
- 182 CV90-120-T Light Tank
- 183 EE T1 Osorio Main Battle Tank
- 184 Hetzer G12 Tank Destroyer
- 185 HMA4
- 186 HSTVL
- 187 KV-91 Tank Destroyer
- 188 JS-3 Heavy Tank
- 189 Jagdpanzer Kommando Tank Destroyer
- 190 Jagdpanzer Rakete Jaguar Tank Destroyer
- 190 Khalid Sher Main Battle Tank
- 191 MB Ridgeway Armoured Gun System
- 192 Leclerc Main Battle Tank
- 194 Leopard 1 Main Battle Tank
- 196 Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank
- 198 M41 Walker Bulldog Light Tank
- 199 M47 Medium (Platoon) Tank
- 200 M48 Patton Main Battle Tank
- 204 M50 Ontos Tank Destroyer
- 205 M56 Scorpion Tank Destroyer
- 206 M60 Main Battle Tank
- 208 M551 Sheridan Light Tank
- 209 Magach Main Battle Tank
- 210 Merkava Main Battle Tank
- 212 Main Battle Tank 70
- 213 Orléans Medium Tank
- 214 OF-40 Main Battle Tank
- 216 PF76 Amphibious Light Tank
- 218 PF91 Main Battle Tank
- 219 Pz 61 Medium Tank
- 220 Sabre Main Battle Tank
- 221 SK 105 Künstler Light Tank
- 222 Stingray I Light Tank
- 223 Stingray II Light Tank
- 224 Strv 74 Light Tank
- 226 Strv 103 S Main Battle Tank
- 228 Israeli upgrades
- 228 TAWSE SAM Medium Tank
- 229 T-10 Lamin Heavy Tank
- 229 T-154/T-55 Medium Tank
- 232 T-62 Main Battle Tank
- 234 T-72 Main Battle Tank
- 236 T-64 Main Battle Tank
- 237 T-80 Main Battle Tank
- 238 T-84 Main Battle Tank

- 238 T-90 Main Battle Tank
- 240 TR-580 and TR-85 Main Battle Tanks
- 241 TR-125 Main Battle Tank
- 241 TM-800 Main Battle Tank
- 242 Type 59 Main Battle Tank
- 243 Type 61 Main Battle Tank
- 244 Type 62 Light Tank
- 244 Type 63 Light Amphibious Tank
- 245 Type 69 Main Battle Tank
- 246 Type 74 Main Battle Tank
- 247 Type 80 Main Battle Tank
- 248 Type 85-4 Main Battle Tank
- 248 Type 88 K1 Main Battle Tank
- 250 Type 90 Main Battle Tank
- 251 Type 90-4 (MST 2000) Main Battle Tank
- 251 Type 98 Main Battle Tank
- 252 Vickers Mark I (Vijayanta)
- 252 Vickers Mark I (Vijayanta) Main Battle Tank

ARMoured FIGHTING VEHICLES

258 Introducing AFVs

The History of Armoured Fighting Vehicles

- 262 Evolution
- 264 Components of an Armoured Division
- 266 World War I
- 268 Between the wars
- 270 Dad's Army
- 272 The coming of age of the Self-Propelled Gun
- 274 Amphibious Infantry Assault Vehicles
- 276 Wartime developments
- 278 The adaptation of soft-skid vehicles
- 280 The Cold War
- 282 The battlefield test with NBC and mine protection
- 284 The birth of the Infantry Fighting Vehicle
- 286 Playing catch-up
- 288 Peacekeeping around the world



- 290 Air mobility
- 292 The multi-role family of vehicles
- 294 The future
- A-Z of World War Armoured Fighting Vehicles: 1914-45**
- 298 75mm LVT (A) Close Support Vehicle
- 299 AEC Armoured Car
- 300 Archer 17pdr Self-Propelled Gun
- 301 Austin Armoured Car
- 302 Autoblinda AB-41 Armoured Car
- 303 Autoblinda Mitragliatrice Lancio Ansaldo IZ
- 304 BA-6 Armoured Car
- 305 BA-10 Armoured Car
- 306 BA-20 Armoured Car
- 307 BA-27 Armoured Car
- 308 BA-64B Armoured Car
- 309 Beaverette Light Reconnaissance Car
- 310 Bedford Cockatrice
- 310 Bison Command Armoured Vehicle
- 311 Birch Gun
- 312 Bishop 25pdr Self-Propelled Gun Mk 1
- 313 Brumby Stumpspanner IV 15cm Self-Propelled Gun
- 314 Buffalo LVT Amphibious Assault Vehicle
- 316 Carriers - Machine-gun
- 317 Cromwell Command/OP Tank
- 318 Crossley Armoured Car
- 319 Daimler Armoured Car
- 320 Daimler Dingo Scout Car
- 321 Dorchester Command Vehicle
- 322 Dragon Carrier Mk I
- 323 Ford Model T Scout Car
- 324 Grille 15cm Heavy Infantry Self-Propelled Gun Auf M
- 325 Guy Armoured Car Mk 1/1A
- 325 Guy Lizard Command Vehicle
- 326 Humber Armoured Cars
- 327 Hummel 15cm Heavy Self-Propelled Gun
- 328 Indian Pattern Armoured Cars
- 329 ISU-152mm Heavy Assault Gun
- 330 Jeep Multi-Role Vehicle
- 332 Kangaroo Armoured Infantry Carrier
- 333 Katyusha BM-13 132mm Rocket Launcher
- 334 Kitz 13/14 Medium Armoured Car
- 335 Lanchester Armoured Car
- 336 Loyd Carrier
- 337 Lorraine Schaeffer 15cm Self-Propelled Gun
- 338 MG Half-Track Infantry Carrier
- 340 MSA1 Scout Car
- 341 MG 75mm Gun Motor Carriage
- 342 MG Half-Track Personnel Carrier

- 343 MG Greyhound Light Armoured Car
- 344 MG 75mm Howitzer Motor Carriage
- 345 M12 155mm Gun Motor Carriage
- 346 M15 Multiple Gun Motor Carriage
- 347 M16 Multiple Gun Motor Carriage
- 348 M40 155mm Gun Motor Carriage
- 350 Marder II Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Gun
- 352 Marmion-Hemington Armoured Cars
- 353 Mauser Nebelwerfer 15cm Panzerwerfer
- 354 Minerva Armoured Car
- 355 Model 90 Sumida Armoured Car
- 355 Morris CSB/LAC Armoured Car Reconnaissance
- 356 Morris Mk 1 Light Reconnaissance Car
- 357 Die Bll Bus
- 357 Otter Light Reconnaissance Car
- 358 PA-11 Armoured Car
- 359 Panhard AMO Type 178 Armoured Car
- 360 Panzer IV Flakpanzer
- 362 Prinet 105mm Self-Propelled Gun
- 364 Renault and Peugeot Armoured Cars
- 365 Renault UE Infantry Tractor
- 366 Rolle-Royce Armoured Car
- 368 Sd Kfz 7/1 8-ton Half-Track
- 369 Sd Kfz 8 and 9 Heavy Half-Tracks
- 370 Sd Kfz 221 Armoured Car
- 371 Sd Kfz 222 Armoured Car
- 372 Sd Kfz 231 Heavy Armoured Car 6 Rad
- 373 Sd Kfz 231 Heavy Armoured Car 8 Rad
- 374 Sd Kfz 233 7.5cm Heavy Armoured Car 8 Rad
- 375 Sd Kfz 234/2 Puma Heavy Armoured Car
- 376 Sd Kfz 234 7.5cm Heavy Support Armoured Cars
- 377 Sd Kfz 250 Half-Track Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 378 Sd Kfz 251 Medium Half-Track
- 380 Sd Kfz 251 Support Vehicles
- 381 Semovante M42 DA 75/18 Self-Propelled Gun
- 382 Sexton 25pdr Self-Propelled Gun
- 384 sG33 15cm Infantry Support Self-Propelled Gun
- 385 Staghound Armoured Car
- 386 Sturmgeschütz II Self-Propelled Gun
- 388 Sturmgeschütz IV Self-Propelled Gun
- 390 Sturmtraktor Tiger Assault Rocket Mortar
- 392 SU-76 Self-Propelled Gun
- 393 SU-122 Medium Self-Propelled Gun
- 394 Sormus MCG Half-Track
- 395 The Gun Carrier
- 396 Thornycroft "J" Type 13pdr Self-Propelled AA Gun



- 387 Troop Carrier/Supply Mk IX Tank
- 388 Universal Carriers
- 480 Wespe 10.5cm Self-Propelled Gun

A-Z of Modern Armoured Fighting Vehicles:

1945 to the Present Day

- 482 M41 120mm Self-Propelled Gun
- 486 253 152mm Self-Propelled Gun
- 486 255 152mm Self-Propelled Gun
- 486 255 152mm Self-Propelled Gun
- 486 251B 152mm Self-Propelled Gun
- 471 M901 Improved TOW Vehicle
- 472 Marder 1 Infantry Combat Vehicle
- 474 Markham Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft Gun
- 475 MT-LB Infantry Carrier
- 476 Multiple Launch Rocket System
- 477 OT-64 Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 478 OT-810 Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 479 Panhard AML 90H Armoured Car
- 480 Panhard ERC 90-F4 Sagae
- 481 Panhard M3 Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 482 Piranha Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 484 Radophanzer Luchs Reconnaissance Vehicle
- 485 Rapier Tracked SAM Vehicle
- 486 Roadcat 105mm Armoured Car
- 486 SA-8b SAM Vehicle
- 487 Saladin Mk 2 Armoured Car
- 488 Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 489 Saxon Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 492 Scud Missile System TEL
- 494 Spartan Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 495 Stormer Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 496 Striker Self-Propelled Anti-Tank Guided Weapon Vehicle
- 487 Timoney Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 488 Warrior Mechanized Combat Vehicle
- 500 VAB Armoured Personnel Carrier
- 501 ZSU-23-4 Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft Gun
- 502 Glossary
- 504 Key to Icons
- 505 Acknowledgements
- 507 Index



Introduction

The ability to transport weapon systems and men around the battlefield while protecting them from enemy fire has taxed military commanders and engineers alike for many centuries. The increasing availability, effectiveness and reliability of artillery, machine-guns and rifles at the end of the 19th century quickly made unprotected movement around the battlefield suicidal, as witnessed during the early engagements of World War I. There was no longer any place for cavalry, and infantry were quickly forced to become trench dwellers.

At the same time, the internal combustion engine was becoming a reliable and powerful technology and, together with the caterpillar track and rubber tyre, provided a less vulnerable replacement for the horse. The revolution in battleship construction, which took place at the same time, produced high-quality steel plate, a technology that was transferred to vehicles. Thus the scene was set for the development of the modern armoured fighting vehicle.

Initially, it was the commercial motor car that provided the platform on which to mount machine-guns in a lightly armoured vehicle, and these "armoured cars" quickly demonstrated their usefulness in many of the traditional reconnaissance roles that had previously been fulfilled by light cavalry. They also proved themselves extremely adaptable and excelled on the hard-baked surfaces that were found in desert theatres such as Palestine. However, the cloying mud of the Western Front in World War I proved to be an insurmountable obstacle, and it



101 The British Mark IV Heavy Tank was produced in greater numbers than any other model during World War I. This beautifully restored "male" carries two 6-inch guns mounted in sponsons on either side of the main body.
102 Armoured cars saw action in virtually every theatre during World War I. This Austin Armoured Car is in Russian service, where the primitive roads added to the rate of attrition.

was this lack of cross-country performance as well as limitations in the armour protection that led military engineers to consider alternatives to the standard wheeled vehicle. By 1915, the stalemate of trench warfare on the Western Front and other theatres had become clear. The task now facing military leaders on both sides was to find a way of breaking the deadlock and transforming this static siege-like conflict into one of movement and manoeuvre. Initially, overwhelming force was thought to be the answer, and so huge



103 The Poligwar IV (together with the Poligwar III) was the backbone of the German Panzer Division and spearhead of Blitzkrieg. This Aust C carries a short-barrelled 7.5cm/2.95in L24 low-velocity gun that was best suited to the infantry support role. 104/105 This vehicle made NATO commanders sit up and take notice. The Soviet BMP-1 Infantry Fighting Vehicle was highly innovative and posed a real threat to tactical thinking amongst the Western Allies at the time of its introduction in 1966.



quantities of men and munitions were deployed in set-piece frontal assaults on sections of the enemy line. However, the unprotected assaulting troops were bloodily repulsed by a virtually impenetrable wall of machine-gun and rifle fire, together with pre-registered defensive artillery fire. The answer lay in the construction of the tank, a solution that was first developed by the British, although other combatant nations had also taken steps to design similar vehicles by the time the first units were deployed in autumn 1916.

At the same time, it was appreciated that if the much sought after breakthrough was achieved, then supplies and men would be needed to keep pace with the advance to clear enemy fortifications and strong-points. Tanks and artillery would need to be maintained with munitions and other material. Following the use of field-converted gun tanks to carry supplies, the "support tank" idea was developed. First a gun carrier was brought into service in 1917, and subsequently a supply or troop-carrying "tank" was built, although it was too late to see any action. At this time, the first tank destroyers and armoured engineer vehicles, which performed tasks such as mine-clearing and vehicle recovery, were also being developed and, even more remarkably, experiments were also underway to make tanks amphibious by attaching floats. Thus, by the end of World War I, many of the vehicle types that became vital components of the integrated armoured formations of later conflicts were already established or under development.

Tank and AFV development following the end of World War I was varied and chequered, with different nations taking radically different approaches based on their military

philosophy, technological knowledge, financial resources and political approach to conflict resolution. By the outbreak of World War II, the military advantage clearly lay with German armoured technology and tactics, although their army still relied very heavily on horse-drawn transport. For the Allies, it was initially a case of playing catch-up and exploiting the advantages of much higher industrial production capacities. This period also saw an explosion in the numbers and types of AFVs, developing many of the early World War I experimental vehicle ideas and creating a whole host of specialized types. World War II also saw the first massed tanks battles and the dramatic rise in anti-tank technology with the introduction of dedicated anti-tank vehicles.

Since the end of World War II, AFV development has continued to take place in many countries around the globe, although it has been dominated by the USA and former Soviet Union. There has also been a dramatic shift in the direction of development. Specialized vehicles are now required for peacekeeping and internal security, and air-portability for rapid deployment is a major requirement. This period has also seen the development of the first true Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) and the rise of missile-carrying vehicles, as well as the introduction of an extraordinary number of electronic systems and protective technologies.

This book looks in detail at the development of the tank and other AFVs in both the historical context and through the examination of the most important examples of each vehicle type, from the earliest armoured cars through to the vehicles of today's modern armies.