Recommended Reading List:

**A Knight and His Armor**  
by R. Ewart Oakeshott  

An installment in the famous *Knight* series by the renowned medieval historian Ewart Oakeshott, this book explores another fascinating dimension of medieval warfare in this engaging account of knights and their various kinds of armor from the later Middle Ages, from 1100 to 1500. He examines in detail how armor developed and how craftsmen made these important garments and helmets.  

Along the way he dispels a number of myths about medieval armor. Originally published in 1961, *A Knight and His Armor* has an extensive and useful glossary. Accurately illustrated by the author, the book captures the wonder and magic of a past time for all ages.

**Brassey's Book of Body Armor**  
by Robert C. Woosnam-Savage and Anthony Hall  

Humanity's search for protection against their enemy's weapons led to the development of helmets, breastplates, shields, and close-fitting protectors for limbs. With advancements in technology and weaponry, body armor has evolved from the tunics of chain mail to the use of tough, lightweight materials that stop bullets and protect against toxic weapons and radiation. *Brassey's* is an informative military history that documents the use and development of armor through the ages.

**Medieval Costume, Armour, and Weapons**  
by Eduard Wagner, Zoroslava Drobná, and Jan Durdík  

Over 400 illustrations in this superb pictorial archive trace the evolution of clothing styles, armor, and weapons during the medieval period in Central Europe. The volume draws upon a wealth of authentic primary sources, including written accounts, contemporary paintings and sculpture, and the remains of textiles and other relics. A profusion of apparel and weaponry range from the simple tunics and robes of peasants, blacksmiths, gardeners, and other common laborers to the fur-lined cloaks and brocaded garments of the aristocracy.
Samurai Arms, Armour & the Tactics of Warfare  
by Antony Cummins and Yoshie Minami

This pioneering study of samurai weapons, armor, and strategies is a fascinating slice of martial arts history, as seen through the eyes of an authentic seventeenth-century samurai master. Part of the acclaimed Book of Samurai series, which presents for the first time the translated scrolls of the historical Natori-Ryū samurai school of war, this volume offers an exceptional insight into the weaponry and armour of the samurai era, as well as tactical advice for use on and off the battlefield.

Two secret scrolls by the samurai tactician Natori Sanjūrō Masazumi are presented here: Heieki Yōhō, which offers advice for every possible martial situation, from moving troops to besieging a castle to fighting on the open battlefield; and Heigu Yōhō, which explores samurai arms and armour in unparalleled detail.

A Knight and His Weapons  
by R. Ewart Oakeshott

Take an engaging journey back in time, when battles were fought with swords, lances, maces, and an array of well-crafted devices that could be elegant and ornate, brutal and efficient, or both. This accessible, lively, and informative book explores many facets of the medieval world of weaponry.

Did you know, for instance, that in the fifteenth century “fight books” with drawings guided knights in the proper use of weapons? That the average medieval warrior became a full-fledged fighter by the time he was fifteen years old? Or that armor made by a master could, by modern standards, cost the price of a Rolls Royce?

Swords of the Viking Age  
by Ian G. Peirce

This beautifully illustrated work fills a gap in the literature in English on the swords made and used in northern Europe during the Viking Age, between the mid-eighth and the mid-eleventh centuries. Ewart Oakeshott outlines the significance and diversity of these ancient heirlooms; co-author Ian Peirce, who handled hundreds of swords in his research for this book in museums across Northern Europe, selects and describes sixty of the finest representative weapons.

Where possible, full-length photographs are included, in addition to illustrations of detail; an illustrated overview of blade types and construction, pattern-welding, inscription and handle forms and their classification prefaces the catalogue of examples which is the principal part of this work.
**Spirit of the Sword: A Celebration of the Artistry and Craftsmanship**

*by Steve Shackleford*

Live the legend. Feel the steel. Steeped in lore and legend, swords evoke images of samurai swordsmen, knights in shining armor, the glint of hardened steel, the charge of mounted cavalry. *Spirit of the Sword* is a stunning visual journey through the history of the simplest and greatest weapon ever devised.

More than 300 detailed photos of swords throughout the centuries and from around the world. Scenes from the ancient sword-making capitals of Europe. The magic of the Japanese sword, including a profile of Yoshindo Yoshihara, the world’s greatest living swordsmith. Swords on the big screen: a cinematic exploration of sword mythology.

**Ancient and Medieval Siege Weapons: A Fully Illustrated Guide to Siege Weapons and Tactics**

*by Konstantin Nossov*

There is something alluring about ancient methods of warfare that have been made obsolete by the modern era of computers and machines. Before the days of tanks and machine guns, there were scaling ladders, battering rams, siege towers, throwing machines, bores, and agger. Weapons such as these symbolize power, protection, control, and defiance. This book allows readers to actually re-create their own medieval weapons with clear, step-by-step instructions.

With chapters covering the history of siege warfare, siege weapons, different stratagems and methods of attack and defense, readers will not only walk away with ideas of how to re-create siege weapons, they’ll also take with them a better understanding of history from ancient times through the end of the fifteenth century AD.

**Knights: In History and Legend**

*by Constance Brittain Bouchard*

Written by an international team of historians and scholars with specialized knowledge of the medieval era and illustrated with sumptuous images ranging from manuscript illuminations and Pre-Raphaelite paintings to photographs of authentic armor, swords, and castles, plus maps and a timeline, this book is at once a detailed history of knights and a chronicle of their cultural creations and legacy.

This volume describes the origins of knighthood, the training and lifestyles of knights, and the vital role these warriors played in medieval military campaigns. It also explains heraldry and the various military and honorific orders of knighthood, and examines the portrayal of knights and literature and art.