

CAUSES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETERIORATION OF THE MEDIEVAL CASTLES IN APULIA AND BASILICATA (SOUTHERN ITALY).

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Within the studies aimed at the recovery and the safeguard of historical heritage of Basilicata and Apulia, 25 medieval castles have been investigated. It is sure that the deterioration of these castles is often well -evident. While in Apulia the deterioration process is slow and gradual, in Basilicata it is swifter. This is because of several causes which vary from a region to the other due to different geo-structural and geomorphic setting. Basilicata is one of the most seismic and subject to landslide region throughout Europe. In many areas, especially those with investigated castles, the slopes dynamics is pressing owing to landslides, erosion processes and earthquakes. This is why many castles in Basilicata are badly ruined or completely collapsed following to earthquakes, landslides or to the erosion - landslide - seismic combined action. There are the castles which since their origin were destined to progressively get ruined up to collapse. It is because they were built on ancient landslide bodies subjected to remobilization, or on morphological terraces subject to a quick demolition under the combined erosion - landslide action. Apulia is a karst region with tabular morphology mostly out of geological hazards. Basically it is a Mesozoic calcareous platform covered with plio - pleistocene clayey - calcarenite rocks only the edges. Only the Gargano promontory is seismic .

The deterioration of castles is favoured by the erosion of calcareous rocks they have been built with, and by environmental conditions. There are also castle rather ruined, located at the edges of the calcareous platform subjected to slope instability processes and seismic events.