

## SUMMARIES

### THE CELTIC OPPIDA

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Caesar's accounts of the Gallic Wars were long overvalued because they were considered eyewitness reports. Today we know that Caesar wanted to justify his conduct and stress the glorious achievements of his troops and their leadership. This led him to exaggerate the number of his foes, the nature of the Gallic fortifications, and the daring and cunning of his enemies. But he avoids giving any concrete evidence in his treatment of the Celtic *oppida*. Though the terms *oppidum* and *urbs* which he uses suggest urban settlements surrounded by walls and inhabited by artisans and traders, the author shows in detail that such notions are not to the point. This is proven by a critical appraisal of Caesar's description, as well as by results of excavations in France and Central Europe. Findings available thus far indicate that the interior of these *oppida* in southern Germany, Bohemia and Moravia were occupied by peasant farmsteads. This, in turn, means that the coinage which can be established almost everywhere for the *oppida* was not a sign of any economic prosperity but rather of a growing desire for recognition on the part of the smaller and greater lords who resided in the individual *oppida*. In Caesar's wars of conquest, the Celtic *oppida* served as military bases for the invading Romans.