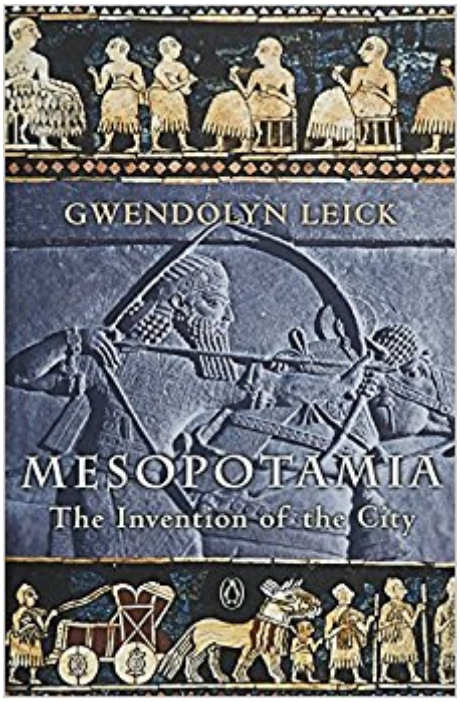
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Mesopotamia: The Invention Of The City



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Synopsis

Situated in an area roughly corresponding to present-day Iraq, Mesopotamia is one of the great, ancient civilizations, though it is still relatively unknown. Yet, over 7,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, the very first cities were created. This is the first book to reveal how life was lived in ten Mesopotamian cities: from Eridu, the Mesopotamian Eden, to that potent symbol of decadence, Babylon - the first true metropolis: multicultural, multi-ethnic, the last centre of a dying civilization.

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Customer Reviews

"As Leick convincingly shows, Mesopotamian antiquity has as much interest as, and even greater importance than, Egypt; and her welcome book helps redress the balance of knowledge in its direction."

GWENDOLYN LEICK is an anthropologist and Assyriologist. She is the author of various publications on the Ancient Near East, including A Dictionary of Near Eastern Mythology and Sex & Eroticism in Mesopotamian Literature. She also acts as a cultural tour guide in the Middle East, lecturing on history, archaeology and anthropology.

As an informal researcher of Sumer, Ur & Mesopotamia I have purchased and read several books on the subject. This is one of the better though it is not as thick or heavy as I would have thought. I could wish that I had started with this one as some of the others could have used a bit more ... preparation. While it is not a massive tome of dry information, it still imparts an awful lot of

knowledge in a way that is easily readable and could be interesting to an interested high school student while still being quite useful to someone in a more collegiate setting.The manner in which the author has broken the various cities into "chapters" makes it easier to follow the information being laid down. As far as I can see she doesn't try to extrapolate information that doesn't seem to belong in the context. While she doesn't go into quite the depth that others do, she covers the topics quite throughly.I found that I could read this easily in bites and chunks and digest the chapter before moving onto the next one. Since each chapter is pretty much a history of one place over one general timespan, it makes it relatively easy to put a "pin" in the mental map of my mind.If you are looking for a very in-depth and scholarly work, this is probably not the best book although it is very good. If you are looking for a book that is easy to deal with and is quite comprehensive without being overly pedantic then I suggest that this is a great place to start.

I read this book after reading Paul Kriwaczeks Babylon:Mespotamia and the Birth of Civilisation - and I recommend reading in that order. This book provided infill and detail on each of layers of civilisation that ebbed and flowed across the region over 50 millenia. It certainly provided perspective and detail on some of the great builders of infrastructure - irrigation, temples, ziggaruts and agriculture products as well as the administration that managed and controlled operations across thousands of kilometers. A most enjoyable read.

The dawn of civilization has long been a dark mystery to everyone except a handful of scholars in dusty libraries and museum collection rooms. While endless material has been written and published about Egypt, Rome, and Greece, almost nothing has been available for the layman with an abiding interest in the very dawn of civilization: Sumer and Akkad. Gwendolyn Leick's book "Mesopotamia" has changed everything. This is far more complete, far more readable, and far more detailed than anything currently available on the market. If you are looking for one book with a complete, impartial view of how civilization began, then this is the book you're looking for!

The only reason it doesn't get 4 stars is that it was published in 2003 and I would like to read an updated version. The author compared the ancient rulers of Iraq with Saddam Hussein. I would have enjoyed her comments on what has happened since 2003.I like the book so much I'm reading it again because the author makes it an easy, interesting read. It reads more like a novel than a doctorial thesis, which many of these type of books start out as. The author doesn't use $100 words that I have to look up it get the exact meaning. The author has a feel for how these people created

cities, and describes it in just enough detail to make it interesting. I found this an enjoyable learning experience that didn't require a struggle to absorb the concepts.

Very basic for someone who's an ANE scholar, but excellent for someone unfamiliar with the region or someone with a limited knowledge. It is extremely well organized and I love the way Leick lays out the material.

Older book, but because of politics there was very little/no work done from about 25 years ago to 5 years ago. A good basic read. I didn't realize that so many of the sites have not been examined in decades, so our understanding is very incomplete.

A nice overview of the recovery of the lost civilizations of Mesopotamia, told chronological from the first Sumerian city of Eridu to the later and more known cities in the north, like Babylon and Nineveh. Sometimes a little dry, but overall a good read.

Well written, well document coverage of the growth of cities and the city-state in ancient Mesopotamia, as well as providing good historical information on the religion and culture of the area and it's impact on other civilizations, including our own.

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