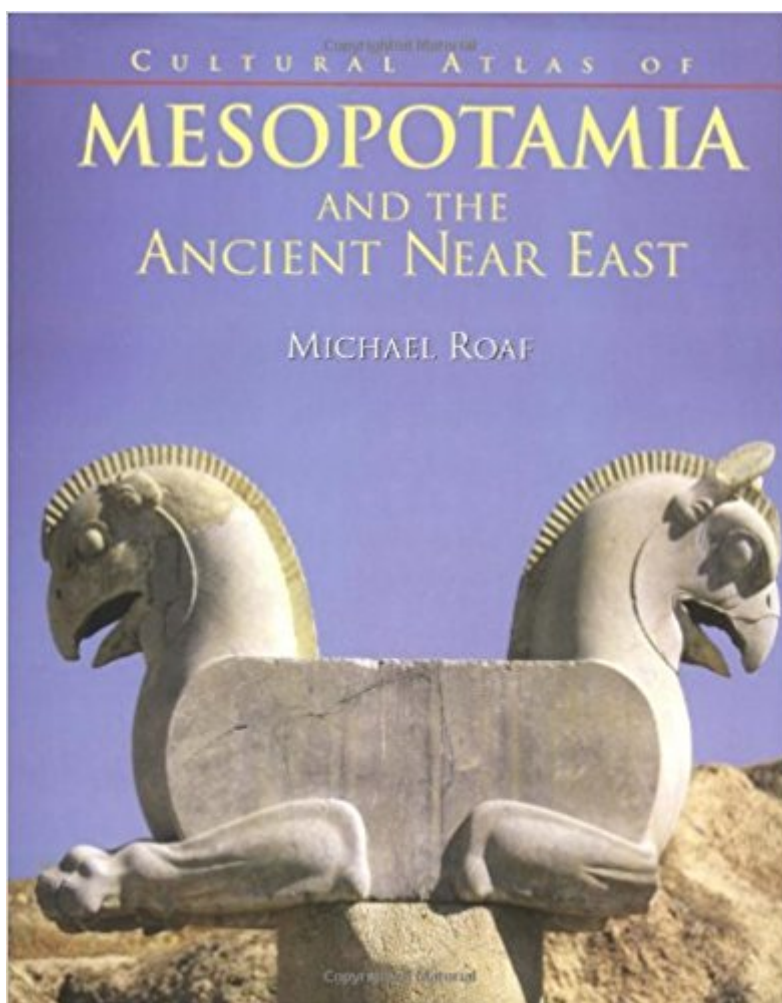


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Cultural Atlas Of Mesopotamia And The Ancient Near East



Synopsis

An exploration into the geography, history, archaeology and anthropology of the Near East from pre-history to 330 BC. Coverage includes early farming, the move towards civilization, the urban explosion, warring states, trade, international empires and conquerors from East and West.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

YA-- A beautiful, well-researched, informative study of the geography, history, archaeology, and anthropology of Mesopotamia and the Near East. Divided into "Villages," "Cities," and "Empires," the book is an excellent survey of this ancient region of the world. At intervals throughout the book, special topics and archaeological sites are featured, described, and illustrated. Some of the topics include the origin of writing, ivory carving, and Mesopotamian warfare. Jericho, Babylon, and Ur are among many archaeological sites that are given detailed explanations. Excellent full-page maps and a wealth of full-color illustrations add to the reference value.- Nancy Bard, Jefferson Sci-Tech, Alexandria, VA
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Although I'm a biologist by education, I'm something of a history buff and I've purchased 6 or 7 big atlases of world history and cultural atlases of the world lately (you can't have too many atlases in your life), and this one is the best atlas on Mesopotamia that I've seen. It's well-written and has lots of interesting information, but its major strength is all the beautiful color photos of art, artifacts, buildings, and other cultural items from the many ancient sites, along with a number of maps. The

author does a fine job of discussing the importance of many of the major archeological sites and their history. You'll hear a lot about these in the book, some of which, although I've read a fair amount of archeology and ancient history, I still wasn't that familiar with, so the author knows his stuff. All in all a beautifully illustrated, well-written, educational, and even reasonably priced book given the overall quality and features. While we're on the subject, another very accessible and interesting book is Prof. Jean Bottero's *Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. The ancient Mesopotamians come across as practical, no-nonsense people who, in contrast to the ancient Egyptians, weren't especially religious and believed in living life in the here and now as best one could. Although they did have a religion, it was mostly for propitiating various gods and deities who they hoped would bestow their blessings on them in their present life. There was a concept of the afterlife, but it was basically a dark, dingy, netherworld where not much happened, it seems, and they regarded the present life as far preferable to it. Just another suggestion for further reading in case you're interested.

I enjoyed this book, and plan to peruse it often. I purchased an inexpensive used copy, and it was in good condition. It is an Atlas, as titled, with plentiful artifact and architecture pictures, maps, etc. on almost every page. The timeline starts in Epipaleolithic and goes through the Iron Age. The text provides a lot of fairly detailed information about the Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian cultures and history without being overly tedious.

Feels more like a collection of the history in the near east. Beautiful pictures.

This is a readable and informative review of our ancient heritage. Even though the civilizations discussed are 3000 to 5000 years old - many of their ideas have come down to us - although in a transmuted sense and changed through many generations. This is a good introduction to the peoples and culture that predate the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians: where western civilization usually starts its history.

It's a nice book with lots of nice pictures!

Although dated (1990) from a scholastic perspective, the older photographs and charts of the area are valuable as a historian interested in the development of archeological discovery.

I've read quite a few books on ancient Mesopotamia and I can say this is the best, one the information is good the full coloured illustrations are good the archaeological and historical details are very good as well

The book is very informative w/ all the pictures and maps if you want to know where all these strange looking place like Uruk, Jericho or Chatal Hyutte or what so ever are. Also a good start to know the early stage of human life as well as civilization. My ONLY, and biggest concern about this book is it is published in 1990, when the world was very different from nowadays. You might not have difficulty to tell that some countries changed its name like Soviet Union or Yugoslavia. However, there are so many new discoveries in archeology that some facts in the book shall be modified. Just for what I am aware on page 38 about early pottery as an example, the earliest pottery known now is no longer from Japan dating back to 11th millennium BC, but the Gravettian figurines of 29000 BC. After all, 20 years is a long enough time to change a lot of things and thus justify to revise this book to make it more up to date and in some sense, correct. There is nothing more annoying to know that you can't trust what you are reading yet you are not sure if you catch them all.

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