



Uruk Mesopotamia and Its Neighbors: Cross-cultural Interactions in the Era of State Formation (School for Advanced Research Advanced Seminar Series)

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In Uruk Mesopotamia and Its Neighbors, ten field and theoretical archaeologists working in the area today offer an overview and analysis of new data and interpretations for Greater Mesopotamia during the late fifth and fourth millennia B.C. They radically reassess the chronological framework for the region, assemble the basic data sets on both local and regional levels, and interpret and synthesize these data in order to put local patterns and dynamics into their widest regional context. Their contributions have applications beyond the cultural history of Mesopotamia itself, reaching into the wider fields of anthropology, history, and political science. With its thorough documentation and comprehensive scope, this volume is an indispensable reference on the state of Mesopotamian archaeology at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

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- Sales Rank: #2814558 in Books
- Brand: Brand: SAR Press
- Published on: 2001-12-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.46" w x 6.00" l, 2.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 582 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

The authors begin with a new chronology that has wide-reaching implications for future study, then focus on the spread of Uruk culture in terms of local developments and regional networks rather than an imposition from a politically dominant center. Traditional views of Uruk civilization have largely overlooked the cultural diversity in this broad geographical setting as well as the complex dynamics by which cultural elements were disseminated. Recent archaeological discoveries, radiocarbon data, and innovative theoretical approaches to world systems have called for a general reassessment of this crucial period. This closely integrated set of papers preserves an exciting sense of history in the re-making. --S. Langdon, CHOICE, November 2002

a seminal interim contribution to specialists' understanding of Mesopotamia and early complex societies. --Richard Zettler, Religious Studies Review

Uruk Mesopotamia & Its Neighbors offers readers important new data and compelling interpretations of the era of state formation in Greater Mesopotamia. --Elizabeth Carter, Science 296 (7 June 2002)

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