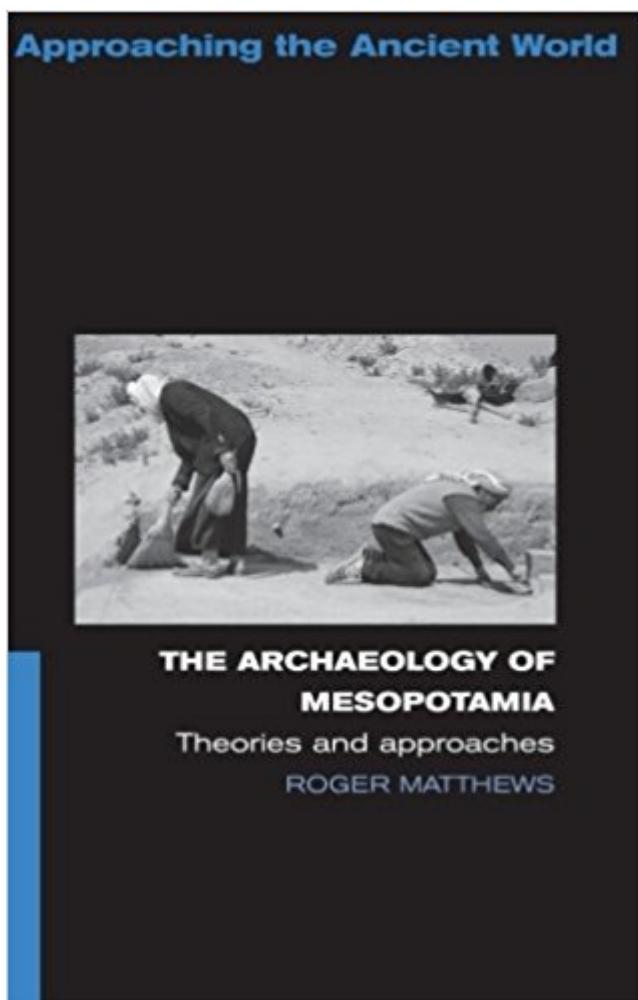


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The Archaeology Of Mesopotamia: Theories And Approaches (Approaching The Ancient World)



Synopsis

The only critical guide to the theory and method of Mesopotamian archaeology, this innovative volume evaluates the theories, methods, approaches and history of Mesopotamian archaeology from its origins in the nineteenth century up to the present day. Ancient Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), was the original site of many of the major developments in human history, such as farming, the rise of urban literate societies and the first great empires of Akkad, Babylonia and Assyria. Dr. Matthews places the discipline within its historical and social context, and explains how archaeologists conduct their research through excavation, survey and other methods. In four fundamental chapters, he uses illustrated case-studies to show how archaeologists have approached central themes such as: * the shift from hunting to farming* complex societies* empires and imperialism* everyday life. This will be both an ideal introductory work and useful as background reading on a wide range of courses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Extremely erudite, literate and considered... [R. Matthews is] an essayist of considerable talent... [A] sophisticated, knowledgeable and eminently readable voice... It is a refreshing work and one which all of us concerned with ancient Mesopotamia may consult with profit.' - Ancient West and East

Roger Matthews was Director of the British Schools of Archaeology in both Baghdad and Turkey. He has directed excavations and surveys in Iraq, Turkey and Syria, and currently lectures at the

Institute of Archaeology, University of College of London. His recent publications include The Early Prehistory of Mesopotamia

This is an excellent treatment of the nature of the archaeological study of the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia. It is erudite and up-to-date, well-referenced, and thought-provoking; the book is also very well written and interesting. For readers with a serious interest in the archaeology of Mesopotamia, this book is a must.

This is a hefty price for a slim volume, but it delivers a lot: an introduction to the methods and theories of archaeology, a historical context for European archaeology in Iraq and how it has shaped our views of 'mesopotamia', and a fascinating series of case studies which illustrate key moments in the transition from hunter-gatherer communities to the eventual establishment of the world's first empires.

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