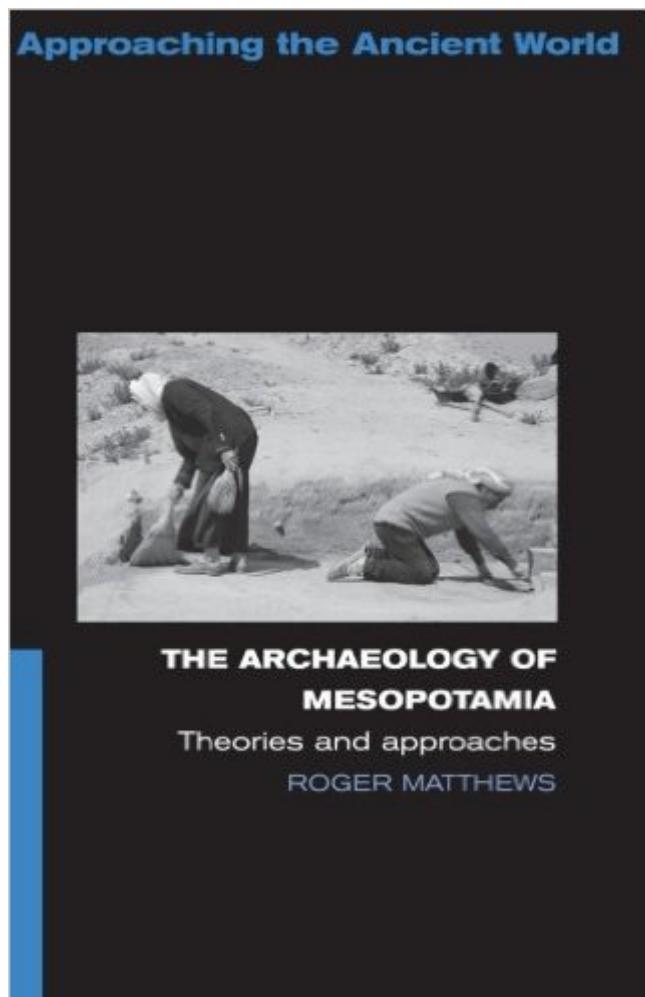


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The Archaeology Of Mesopotamia: Theories And Approaches (Approaching The Ancient World)



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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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.

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.

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