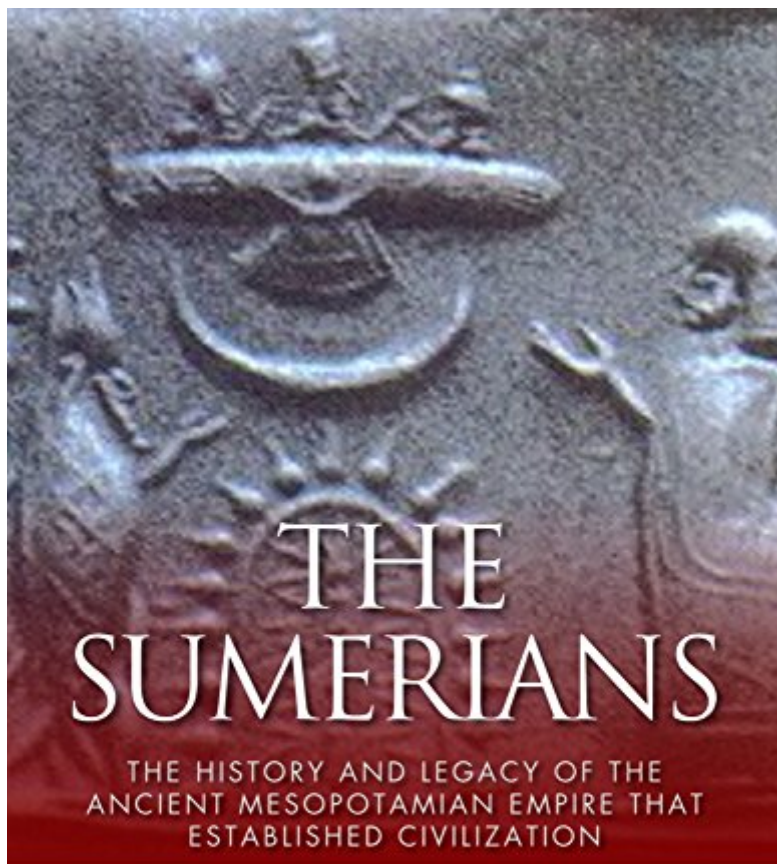




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The Sumerians: The History And Legacy Of The Ancient Mesopotamian Empire That Established Civilization



by

CHARLES RIVER EDITORS



Synopsis

*Includes pictures*Includes links to online sources like the Epic of Gilgamesh and more*Includes primary sources written by the ancient Sumerians*Includes a bibliography for further reading*Includes a table of contents

When American archaeologists discovered a collection of cuneiform tablets in Iraq in the late 19th century, they were confronted with a language and a people who were at the time only scarcely known to even the most knowledgeable scholars of ancient Mesopotamia: the Sumerians. The exploits and achievements of other Mesopotamian peoples, such as the Assyrians and Babylonians, were already known to a large segment of the population through the Old Testament and the nascent field of Near Eastern studies had unraveled the enigma of the Akkadian language that was widely used throughout the region in ancient times, but the discovery of the Sumerian tablets brought to light the existence of the Sumerian culture, which was the oldest of all the Mesopotamian cultures. Although the Sumerians continue to get second or even third billing compared to the Babylonians and Assyrians, perhaps because they never built an empire as great as the Assyrians or established a city as enduring and great as Babylon, they were the people who provided the template of civilization that all later Mesopotamians built upon. The Sumerians are credited with being the first people to invent writing, libraries, cities, and schools in Mesopotamia (Ziskind 1972, 34), and many would argue that they were the first people to create and do those things anywhere in world. For a people so great it is unfortunate that their accomplishments and contributions, not only to Mesopotamian civilization but to civilization in general, largely go unnoticed by the majority of the public. Perhaps the Sumerians were victims of their own success; they gradually entered the historical record, established a fine civilization, and then slowly submerged into the cultural patchwork of their surroundings. They also never suffered a great and sudden collapse like other peoples of the ancient Near East, such as the Hittites, Assyrians and Neo-Babylonians did. A close examination of Sumerian culture and chronology reveals that the Sumerians set the cultural tone in Mesopotamia for several centuries in the realms of politics/governments, arts, literature, and religion. The Sumerians were truly a great people whose legacy continued long after they were gone.

The Sumerians: The History and Legacy of the Ancient Mesopotamian Empire that Established Civilization traces the history and legacy of Sumer across several centuries. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the history of the Sumerians like never before, in no time at all.

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Customer Reviews

there is nothing wrong with these books other than the fact that they are so short. They give a very brief overview of the subject which leaves me wanting more. So I would recommend getting a standard size book on the subject and start by reading that.

A brief overview which is more like the cliff notes to the Readers Digest version of a broader work. Really not worth the price.

The Sumerians; is a well written and easy to read. It doesn't bog down with too much technical data. It also gives a clear and precise lineage of kings and events that lead to our present civilization

Attractive cover but not a very meaty history. Still not bad for the basics

I am glad I did not pay full price for this. The book was short and superficial. I expected much more. Although the epic of Gilgamesh is mentioned, it is sadly and incompletely rendered. The really interesting aspects of the creation of mankind by the gods for slave labor, the real nature of the

flood, the gods and immortality, the face to face relationship of gods and men etc. were not adequately covered.

This is amateur desktop publishing with materials pulled from the web, with the writing on the level of an 8th grade book report. Example: "...but his actions just exasperated the situation..." You can't make this stuff up. I bought three Charles Rivers editors books - I returned them all. Never again. Do not waste your money.

OK

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