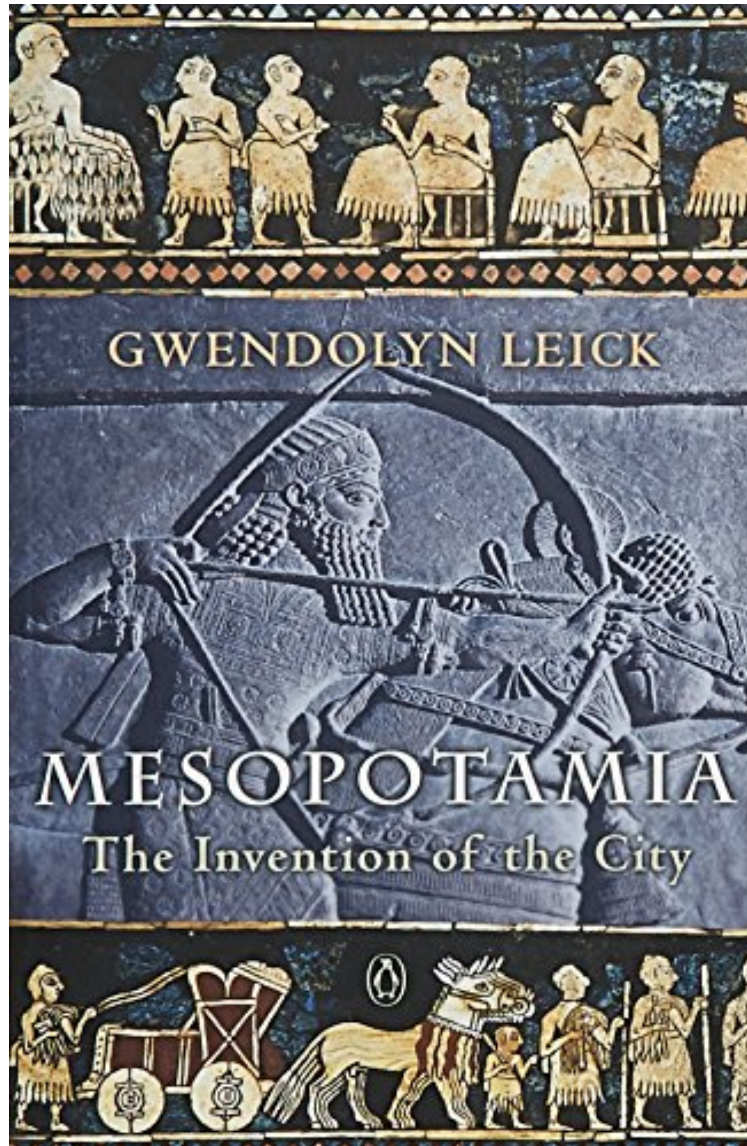


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Mesopotamia: The Invention of the City

Gwendolyn Leick

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Gwendolyn Leick : Mesopotamia: The Invention of the City before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mesopotamia: The Invention of the City:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Well Balanced Between Readable and Informative. A Good and Engaging Place to Start Your JourneyBy Bay0WulfAs an informal researcher of Sumer, Ur Mesopotamia I have purchased and read several books on the subject. This is one of the better though it is not as thick or heavy as I would have thought. I could wish that I had started with this one as some of the others could have used a bit more ...

preparation. While it is not a massive tome of dry information, it still imparts an awful lot of knowledge in a way that is easily readable and could be interesting to an interested high school student while still being quite useful to someone in a more collegiate setting. The manner in which the author has broken the various cities into "chapters" makes it easier to follow the information being laid down. As far as I can see she doesn't try to extrapolate information that doesn't seem to belong in the context. While she doesn't go into quite the depth that others do, she covers the topics quite thoroughly. I found that I could read this easily in bites and chunks and digest the chapter before moving onto the next one. Since each chapter is pretty much a history of one place over one general timespan, it makes it relatively easy to put a "pin" in the mental map of my mind. If you are looking for a very in-depth and scholarly work, this is probably not the best book although it is very good. If you are looking for a book that is easy to deal with and is quite comprehensive without being overly pedantic then I suggest that this is a great place to start. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful partner to Paul Kriwaczek's *Babylon: Mesopotamia and the Birth of Civilization* - and I recommend reading in that order. This book provided infill and detail on each of layers of civilization that ebbed and flowed across the region over 50 millennia. It certainly provided perspective and detail on some of the great builders of infrastructure - irrigation, temples, ziggurats and agriculture products as well as the administration that managed and controlled operations across thousands of kilometers. A most enjoyable read. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Best short summary available. By Brian K. Miller. The dawn of civilization has long been a dark mystery to everyone except a handful of scholars in dusty libraries and museum collection rooms. While endless material has been written and published about Egypt, Rome, and Greece, almost nothing has been available for the layman with an abiding interest in the very dawn of civilization: Sumer and Akkad. Gwendolyn Leick's book "Mesopotamia" has changed everything. This is far more complete, far more readable, and far more detailed than anything currently available on the market. If you are looking for one book with a complete, impartial view of how civilization began, then this is the book you're looking for!

Situated in an area roughly corresponding to present-day Iraq, Mesopotamia is one of the great, ancient civilizations, though it is still relatively unknown. Yet, over 7,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, the very first cities were created. This is the first book to reveal how life was lived in ten Mesopotamian cities: from Eridu, the Mesopotamian Eden, to that potent symbol of decadence, Babylon - the first true metropolis: multicultural, multi-ethnic, the last centre of a dying civilization.

"As Leick convincingly shows, Mesopotamian antiquity has as much interest as, and even greater importance than, Egypt; and her welcome book helps redress the balance of knowledge in its direction." About the Author GWENDOLYN LEICK is an anthropologist and Assyriologist. She is the author of various publications on the Ancient Near East, including *A Dictionary of Near Eastern Mythology* and *Sex Eroticism in Mesopotamian Literature*. She also acts as a cultural tour guide in the Middle East, lecturing on history, archaeology and anthropology.