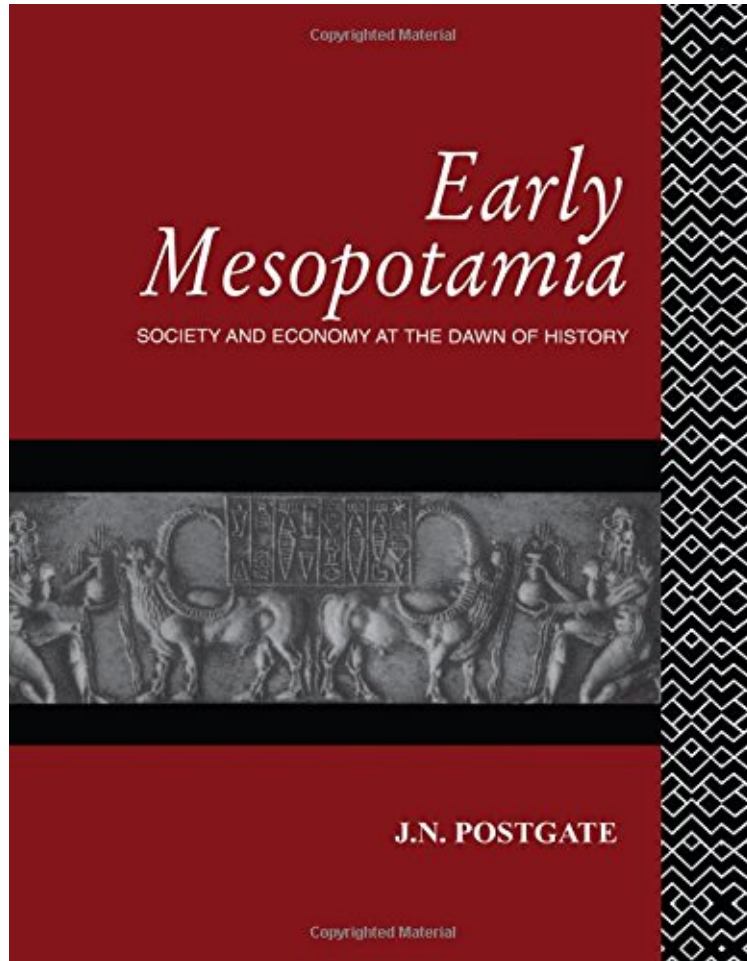


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Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the Dawn of History

Nicholas Postgate

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#942402 in Books Nichol Postgate 1994-07-10 1994-05-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.69 x .89 x 7.44l, 2.39 #File Name: 0415110327392 pagesEarly Mesopotamia Society and Economy at the Dawn of History | File size: 20.Mb

Nicholas Postgate : Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the Dawn of History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Early Mesopotamia: Society and Economy at the Dawn of History:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Gerald KingGreat!!!49 of 50 people found the following review helpful. A 'must' for all serious students of ancient Mesopotamia.By Robert SpenderPostgate has written an extremely helpful volume for students of ancient Near Eastern history and culture. It is a scholarly work yet quite readable. His emphasis upon geographical and environmental factors is refreshing and fills a needed gap at this level. Brief citations from contemporaneous texts provide helpful illustrations along the way. Always conservative in his own estimation, Postgate provides a variety of alternative solutions to problems and questions raised by the evidence. He does not hesitate, however, to challenge prevailing views where the evidence suggests an alternative like

the central role of the temple vs. the palace in this ancient economic setting. The book opens with a historical survey and moves on to provide an understanding of early Mesopotamian society up to the Old Babylonian period. This is a very fine volume. 24 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, but dry. By Tim G. This is a true scholarly work, exhaustively researched and written by a pre-eminent authority in the field, making it unfortunately very dull. Postgate is unquestionably a master, with a vast knowledge of his field. He leaves no stone unturned, and explores all the critical issues in Mesopotamian archaeology, complete with numerous citations from cuneiform texts. However, being a true academic, his writing is very dry and sometimes awkward, making it difficult to stay awake when reading. Postgate provides detailed information and insightful commentaries on all aspects of Mesopotamian life, making this a worthwhile read. One can't help but wonder however, if the Mesopotamians weren't somewhat more exciting than Postgate's writing makes them.

The roots of our modern world lie in the civilization of Mesopotamia, which saw the development of the first urban society and the invention of writing. The cuneiform texts reveal the technological and social innovations of Sumer and Babylonia as surprisingly modern, and the influence of this fascinating culture was felt throughout the Near East. Early Mesopotamia gives an entirely new account, integrating the archaeology with historical data which until now have been largely scattered in specialist literature.