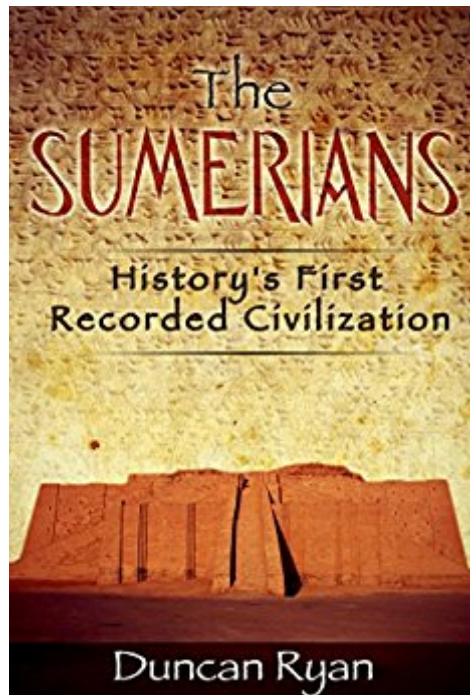




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The Sumerians: History's First Recorded Civilization



Synopsis

In the study of history, it is common that we celebrate and attach importance to the great "firsts" that arise. The ancient Sumerians can be said to be the first true historical civilization, as it was they that invented the written language that would allow historians to look back at accounts of ancient events.

Arising from proto-historic roots in the southernmost region of Mesopotamia, the Sumerians would gradually rise to become the world's first true civilization, predating even ancient Egypt and the Indus Valley civilization. They would be among the first to organize their communities into larger cities, develop central administration, grow crops using complex methods of irrigation, and by the time their more than 1,000 year domination of Mesopotamia was over, would become the template and inspiration for the great civilizations of Assyria and Babylon that were to follow them. The Sumerians: History's First Recorded Civilization is a historical book meant to be informative yet approachable, and requires no background in the study of Near Eastern languages or civilizations. This book conveys to the reader the remarkable history of this earliest of known human civilizations in an enjoyable and easy to comprehend manner. Containing several full-color illustrations, a historical summary of the periods of history that led to the Sumerian era and comprised it, descriptions of key archaeological sites, a section on the historical decipherment of the Sumerian language, a selected bibliography of key works for those who wish to learn more about the Sumerians, and much, much more, this book endeavors to act as a key piece of groundwork for the history buff interested in learning about the first civilization in recorded history itself. This work also contains detailed descriptions of the kings and events of the Akkadian empire, which briefly conquered the Sumerian city-states late in the 3rd millennium BCE and would have a massive impact on the history of Sumer. Covering the history of the Sumerians from the earliest days of the pre-dynastic periods to the invasions of the Amorites under Hammurabi, this book takes the reader through the entire history of Sumer and endeavors to give as much historical background and context as possible along the way.

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Customer Reviews

Interesting read for those that enjoy ancient history. Very detailed and many events throughout this period. Enjoyed the book, will read additional works from this author.

At times the list form of running through the King's list got tiresome, but I couldn't think of a better way to structure it without extending the book beyond your intended length. For someone looking to get my feet wet, this was perfect.

Well written history of the Sumerians but the book could have used more maps to clarify where things happened.

Good read, lays the foundation for further more in-depth readings on Sumer. Well organized, easy to follow, I recommend it for anyone looking to gain knowledge of the Sumerian civilization.

I have a great interest in the Sumerian period. Most people may not care for this book since it's story is so ancient but it an important time as it brought forth so much progress in civilization. There is a lot of detail in this book that makes it a little hard reading but I found it most interesting to learn about an ancient people who could invent writing, time, the wheel, math & even a battery 5,000 yrs ago. This is a great book for the historian, scholar but it is not a book for easy reading RAG

A really good history of the Sumerian civilization that is well written and incredibly easy to read. I read the whole book in a few hours.

It was just a listing of the various leaders and their sequence of rule.

It often read like a biblical geneology, but it is hard to fully miss when you know about Sumer. 3 stars for knowing a bunch of things, and minus 2 for not making me want to know.

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