

Rita Wright,

*The Ancient Indus – Urbanism, Economy and Society*

The Indus civilization was erased from human memory until 1924, when it was rediscovered and announced in the *Illustrated London News*. A contemporary of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, early archaeologists, such as Gordon Childe, viewed the Indus as among the world's first major civilizations. His views went out of favour among Indus scholars who later emphasized the culture's unique (enigmatic) past. Utilizing a comparative framework, in which she draws on studies of other early states, Rita Wright restores the Indus to its rightful place in the study of early civilizations. The book is rich in its detail of archaeological evidence. Through an analysis of the rich material culture left behind by the Indus people, she addresses such topics as the instability of the climate to which Indus populations responded, the beginning of agriculture, the establishment of trade networks with distant lands, and the diversified and specialized agro-pastoral and craft producing economy that has left its legacy in South Asia even in the present. She also goes into detail on the cultural construction of space, memory and Indus religious ideologies. Drawing on her own excavations, surveys, and research on urbanism at the ancient city of Harappa and its surrounding countryside, as well as her field research in Iran and Afghanistan, she emphasizes the interconnected nature of early societies by focusing on the period's social networks between city and rural communities; farmers, pastoralists, and craft producers; and Indus merchants and traders.

As she notes, if Egypt was the gift of the Nile, then the gift of the Indus was its unique resources with rich setting that were brought together into an integrated society. With its core situated among rich alluvial plains and ecologically diverse zones, Indus farmers, pastoralists, artisans and merchants developed and sustained a complex economy. To the north, west and east were mountains and deserts from which the people of the Indus drew an abundance of raw materials, fashioned elaborate crafts and created a complex administrative technology based on system of standardized weights and inscribed devices. These were used to good effect in establishing political and social networks that enhanced the civilization's integration. To the south were the oceans, seas, and port locations that promoted active trading with contemporary complex societies that grew and flourished throughout the greater Near East. In this way, the Indus established itself as an important player on the world stage, which brought them into contact with cultures bearing different ideas and ways of life that cross-fertilized with their own.

Dr. Wright offers a new view of the Indus civilization and is a major contribution to Indus studies and the prehistory of South Asia. By tracing long-term developments, she seeks to bring to life the first steps toward settled life, urbanism and a state level society in this region, while placing them within the context of similar developments worldwide. Her purpose is to demonstrate the significance of this first civilization in South Asia.

(Muhammad Farooq Swati)

The Archaeology of Urbanism in Ancient Egypt: From the Predynastic Period to the End of the Middle Kingdom. pomme de terre reservoir in western missouri prehistory; MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGIST VOL 24 WHOLE NUMBER; 1962. Space, Time and Man: A Prehistorian's View (Canto original series). Little Caney River prehistory: 1977 field season (Contributions in archaeology). Time's Last Gift. The Archaeology of Ancient Sicily. According to the Rig Veda, the ancient Hindu scriptures written after about 1500 BC, Aryan invaders conquered the earliest Indian civilization. The Aryans, who were a nomadic people from the Eurasian steppes, imposed on Indian society a caste system, which persists to the present day in Hindu law. The final days of urbanism and the Indus civilization: decline, transition and transformation. @inproceedings{Wright2009TheAI, title={The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society}, author={R. Wright}, year={2009} }. R. Wright. Published 2009. Geography. 1. A long forgotten civilization 2. Geographical and environmental settings 3. From foraging to farming and pastoralism 4. An expanded world of peer polities 5. Urbanism and states: cities, regions and edge zones 6. Agrarian and craft producing economies - intensification and specialization 7. Agrarian and craft producing economies - diversification, organization of production, and exchange 8. The lure of distant lands 9. Landscapes Reading The Ancient Indus in concert with other volumes in the Early. Societies series nevertheless gives students the chance to contrast ancient civilizations, their evidentiary bases, and the affects different research strategies have on our. appreciations of past lives. The present volume is also distinguished by its emphasis on how the shifting. structure of Indus society emerged through the actions of diverse agents engaged in. interactions that spanned multiple territorial and temporal scales. This theme is most. of the Indus political economy as a complex network of networks provocatively. challenges students to visualize these political formations as populated by active agents. who constantly created and recreated the structures in which they lived as they mobilized. The Ancient Indus book. Read 2 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. This early civilization was erased from human memory until 1924, w... Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving; Want to Read. Ancient Indian Economy: The economy of a society is one of the important factors in determining the progress of society, Indus Valley civilization. The Indus Valley people had developed a prosperous civilization on the basis of a thriving agricultural economy. Mauryan Ringstone. Domestication of animals was another useful profession. They had trade relations. They produced wheat, barley, and varieties of fruits, date palm, and millet. They domesticated animals and birds for the purpose of milk, meat, and pleasure. The carpenter, the weaver, the potter, the goldsmith, the jewelers, the physician, the house builders etc represented other professions of this society.