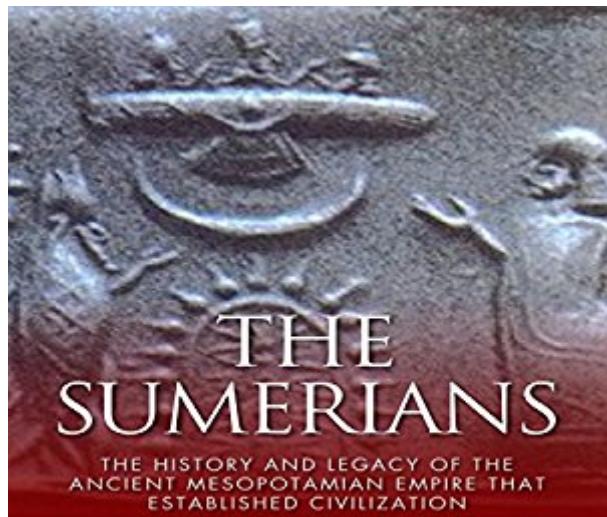


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The Sumerians: The History And Legacy Of The Ancient Mesopotamian Empire That Established Civilization



by
CHARLES RIVER EDITORS



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Charles River Editors

Audible.com Release Date: April 7, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00VS2ZLAI

Best Sellers Rank: #67 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Assyria, Babylonia & Sumer
#75 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Mesopotamia #81 in Books > Audible
Audiobooks > History > Ancient

Customer Reviews

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.

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.

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

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