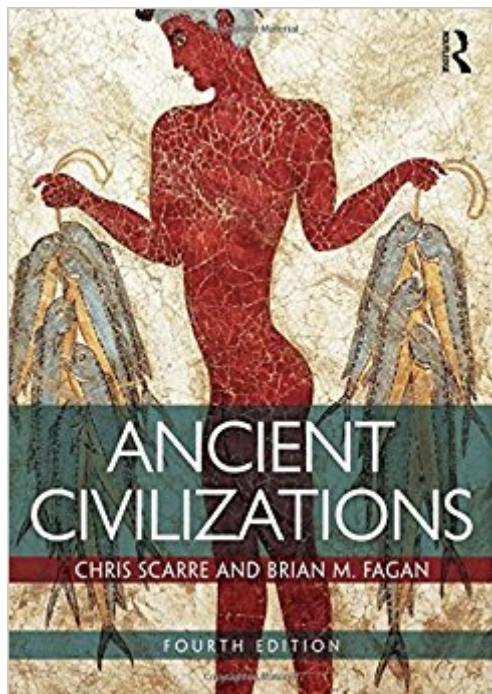


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Ancient Civilizations



Synopsis

Ancient Civilizations offers a comprehensive and straightforward account of the world's first civilizations and how they were discovered, drawing on many avenues of inquiry including archaeological excavations, surveys, laboratory work, highly specialized scientific investigations, and both historical and ethnohistorical records. This book covers the earliest civilizations and the great powers in the Near East, moving on to the first Aegean civilizations, the Mediterranean world in the first millennium, Imperial Rome, northeast Africa, the divine kings in southeast Asia, and empires in East Asia, as well as early states in the Americas and Andean civilization. Ancient Civilizations includes a number of features to support student learning: a wealth of images, including several new illustrations; feature boxes which expand on key sites, finds and written sources; and an extensive guide to further reading. With new perceptions of the origin and collapse of states, including a review of the issue of sustainability, this fourth edition has been extensively updated in the light of spectacular new discoveries and the latest theoretical advances. Examining the world's pre-industrial civilizations from a multidisciplinary perspective and offering a comparative analysis of the field which explores the connections between all civilizations around the world, Scarre and Fagan, both established authorities on world prehistory, provide a valuable introduction to pre-industrial civilizations in all their brilliant diversity.

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Customer Reviews

CHRIS SCARRE is an archaeologist specializing in the prehistory of Europe and the Mediterranean, with a particular interest in the archaeology of Atlantic faunal assemblages. He has participated in fieldwork

projects in Britain, France, Greece, and India, and has directed excavations at Neolithic sites in France, Portugal and the Channel Islands. Formerly Deputy Director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, he is now Professor of Archaeology at Durham University, UK, and editor of the leading international journal of archaeology *Antiquity*. BRIAN FAGAN is one of the world's leading archaeological writers and an internationally recognized authority on world prehistory. He is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he specialized in writing and lecturing about archaeology to wide audiences. Professor Fagan has written several best-selling textbooks: *Ancient Lives: An Introduction to Archaeology and Prehistory*; *Archaeology: A Brief Introduction*; *Archaeology and You*; *In the Beginning: An Introduction to Archaeology*; *A Brief History of Archaeology: Classical Times to the Twenty-First Century*; *People of the Earth*; and *World Prehistory: A Brief Introduction*.

We used this book as the textbook for *Origins Of Civilizations* (anthropology course). Well written; very clear and quite readable. I downgraded the book to #3 stars because of the absolutely inadequate maps and illustrations. A major distraction from understanding the text: maps were too small and in black and white - so that detail was difficult to appreciate. With the varied availability of graphics in today's print media, this is a major shortcoming. Graphs, timelines and photographs have the same criticism as they were very difficult to interpret and correlate with the printed matter. This is a major problem and negative.

I loved this book. I found it easy to read and digest the information, but that may be because I have a particular passion for the subject matter. The author wrote in a very informative and instructional way without talking down to his readers. I would heartily recommend the book.

It's as dry as any other textbook. I bought it to use in research for historical fiction. It's adequate for the intended purpose, but I envision thousands of poor college students asleep and drooling on the pages. You'd think for the price of most textbooks they'd find ways to make the reading material a little more interesting. But then, why bother -- you're going to pay for it anyway.

The book is exactly what I needed for a small fraction of the price. The only difference is an occasional word change. This is a highly recommended purchase.

Shipped quickly and arrived within 3 days and was clean with no marks or scratches.

This is an introductory textbook for a college level course on ancient civilizations. Of those texts available on this subject matter, this is the best. It is clearly written and the material is presented in a logical order. It provides ample maps, tables, illustrations, etc.. It is also a very good source for those non-academic readers interested in the evolution and development of state level societies and civilizations.

I do not feel that this book is a good choice for Ancient History class. The book goes more into the archeological aspect than the history. I found my instructor inundating us with notes that were not in the book because of this.

If you have trouble sleeping at night this book is for you

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