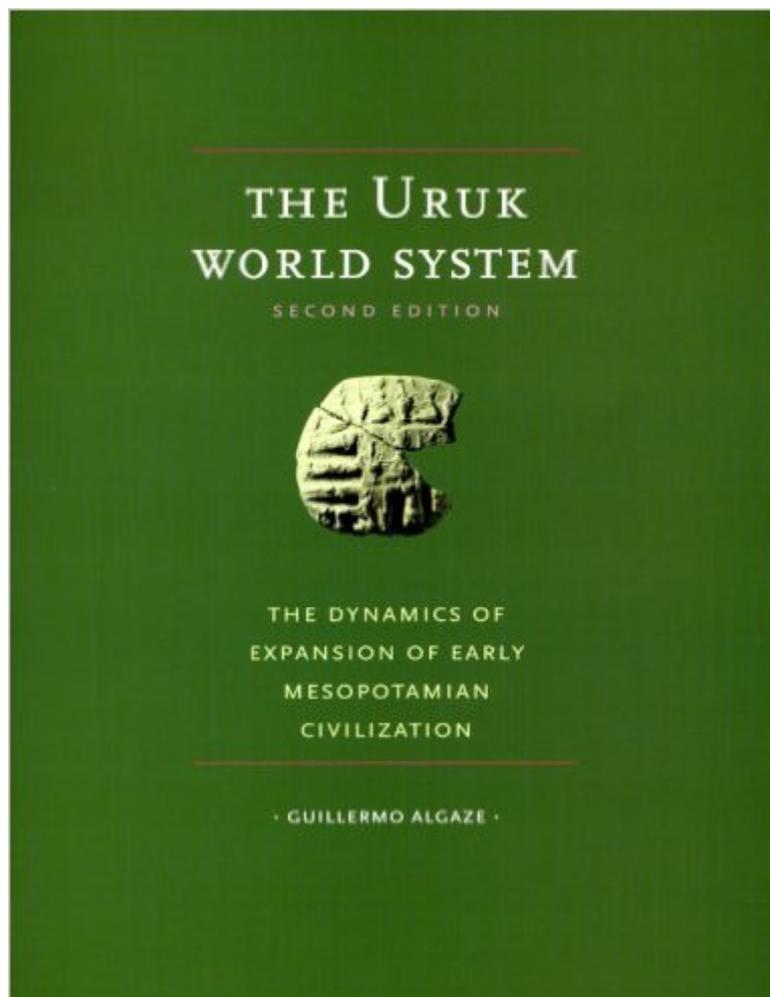


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The Uruk World System: The Dynamics Of Expansion Of Early Mesopotamian Civilization, Second Edition



Synopsis

Most archaeologists and historians of the ancient Near East have focused on the internal transformations that led to the emergence of early cities and states. In *The Uruk World System*, Guillermo Algaze concentrates on the unprecedented and wide-ranging process of external expansion that coincided with the rapid initial crystallization of Mesopotamian civilization. In this extensive study, he contends that the rise of early Sumerian polities cannot be understood without also taking into account the developments in surrounding peripheral areas. This new edition includes a substantial new chapter that explores recent data and interpretations of the expansion of Uruk settlements across Syro-Mesopotamia.

Book Information

Paperback: 174 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 2nd ed. edition (July 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226013820

ISBN-13: 978-0226013824

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Truth be told I first read this book out of the library and read through it in a just a couple of weeks. My experience with this resource was so positive that I went ahead and purchased my own personal copy to read and use as a reference guide in my writing and studies. I would highly recommend it as well because of the ideas that this book communicates and the challenges that it brings with it. Although I am not fully sold on his idea I am very much sold on his scholarship and certainly has struck a research interest chord with me. Read this book and keep it with you wherever you go. Word of warning, this is not a book designed for those with a moderate or hobby type of interest. It is highly technical and uses a lot of field specific terminology that will challenge you if you are not familiar with the jargon of the field. Thus is somewhat restricted in its access to those who very interested and very trained in this area.

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