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 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.
Society and Economy in Ancient India. The Vedic age was a "dark age" in Indian history, in that it was a time of violent upheaval, and no written records from that period have survived to shed light on it. It was, however, one of the most formative eras of ancient Indian civilization. Ancient Indian Art and Architecture. Apart from figurines from the Indus Valley civilization, the earliest examples of the art of ancient India which have come down to us are from magnificent cave temples in central India. The spread of such temples was either located in natural caves which have been shaped to create a religious space, or entirely carved from rock was originally a Buddhist innovation, which Hindus later adopted. This Case Studies in Early Societies book presents exiting new finds and deductions from Dr. Wright's work on lesser Harappan towns and villages along the Beas River. "Wright provides a comprehensive and compelling account of the Indus civilization of ancient Pakistan and India. Although she does not neglect material culture, her focus is on the interconnections among climate, geography, agriculture, pastoralism, craft specialization, political economy, internal exchange, trade, urbanism, and ideology that characterize the Indus civilization and help explain its origins, maturation, and decline. Highly recommended." -Choice. Case Studies in Early Societies Cambridge University Press, 2009 | Paperback. Urbanism, characterized by large cities as opposed to the differentiate an Early Neolithic period, consisting of the predominant village settlements before and after the Mature Killi Ghul Muhammad (7000â€“5000 BC) and Burj Basketâ€“ phase. In this urban period all other Indus Civilization key Marked (5000â€“4300 BC) phases, a pre-Harappan or De of possible Near Eastern roots of the Indus Civilization Age sites and dates that are in the spatial and temporal. [36] provided a cultural spread rate of about 0.65 km per domain of our study. For the pre-Harappan phases, the functions in ancient societies [59]. for baths, drainage systems and ood protection structures, Brick work literally lays the foundations of the Indus Cul- which are recurrently or permanently exposed to water 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 savingâ€¦ Want to Read. Rita P. Wright The ancient Indus: urbanism, economy and society. x+396 pages, 78 illustrations, 13 tables. 2010. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 978-0-521-57219-4 hardback $85 & Â£45; 978-0-521-57652-9 paperback $27.99 & Â£15.99. Mark Manuel (a1).
This Case Studies in Early Societies book presents exiting new finds and deductions from Dr. Wright's work on lesser Harappan towns and villages along the Beas River. "Wright provides a comprehensive and compelling account of the Indus civilization of ancient Pakistan and India. Although she does not neglect material culture, her focus is on the interconnections among climate, geography, agriculture, pastoralism, craft specialization, political economy, internal exchange, trade, urbanism, and ideology that characterize the Indus civilization and help explain its origins, maturation, and decline. Highly recommended." -Choice. Case Studies in Early Societies Cambridge University Press, 2009 | Paperback. "The Ancient Indus, like other books in the Case Studies in Early Societies series, gives an excellent introduction to all important exemplar of the archaic state. Wright's accessible account of this civilization forms and history ensures the volume's suit ability for graduate and undergraduate courses dealing with South Asian culture history, comparative analyses of ancient states, and the varied methods employed in their study" -Ed Schortman, American Anthropologist. Book Description. In this book, Rita P. Wright draws a rich account of the ancient Indus civilisation. Ab Ancient Indian Economy: The economy of a society is one of the important factors in determining the progress of society, Indus Valley civilization. Ancient Indian Economy. Vedic people were rural and agricultural. They domesticated animals like cow, sheep, goat, ass, ox, and dog. The wealth of the people was known in terms of cattle rearing. The Rig Vedic Indians resorted to hunting for livelihood. Aryans had not discovered Iron during the Rig Vedic period. Mining was another important occupation. Silver Coin of Kumaragupta. In the later period, the economic life of the Aryans was well advanced and prosperous. The Indus Civilization, often denoted by its major city Harappa, spanned almost two millennia from 3200 to 1300 BC. Its tradition reaches back to 7000 BC: a 5000 year long expansion of villages and towns, of trading activity, and of technological advancements culminates between 2600 and 1900 BC in the build-up of large cities, writing, and political authority; it emerges as one of the first great civilizations in history. The investigation of the combined evidence for technologies, material, and cities could then possibly in- In the 1850s, ancient bricks stolen from ruins near Harappa, form us about the social, political, or organizational factors a town adjacent to the River Ravi in Punjab, Pakistan, at- involved in its decline. urbanism, characterized by large cities as opposed to the differentiate an Early Neolithic period, consisting of the predominant village settlements before and after the Mature Kili Ghul Muhammad (7000â€“5000 BC) and Burj Basket- phase. In this urban period all other Indus Civilization key Marked (5000â€“4300 BC) phases, a pre-Harappan or DeA of possible Near Eastern roots of the Indus Civilization Age sites and dates that are in the spatial and temporal. [36] provided a cultural spread rate of about 0.65 km per domain of our study. For the pre-Harappan phases, theÂ functions in ancient societies [59], for baths, drainage systems and ood protection structures, Brick work literally lays the foundations of the Indus Cul- which are recurrently or permanently exposed to water
Agriculture and the Indus civilisation

47 The Indus civilisation was one of the great early complex societies of the Old World, and spanned large parts of modern Pakistan and India during its urban phase (e.g. Lal 1997; Kenoyer 1998; Possehl 2002; Agrawal 2007; Wright 2010; Figure 1; OSM 1). The expansive region across which Indus settlements were distributed was both geographically and culturally variable, and there was similar variation in Indus subsistence practices (Possehl 1982; Vishnu-Mitre & Savithri 1982: 215; Chakrabarti 1988: 95; Weber et al. 2010; Wright 2010; Petrie 2013; Weber & Kashyap 2016). ...