



Sumerians: A History From Beginning to End

Henry Freeman

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The Sumerians

A legendary civilization vanished under the Fertile Crescent and escaped a fate worse than death until Sumerologists questioned widely accepted truths. The Sumerians reemerged onto the extraordinary timeline of human history. Their tales of kings and gods, including the Epic of Gilgamesh, and their fearless trade in distant lands, during the remarkable Bronze Age, centered in the world's first city-states that chronicled ancient rivalries and their enduring impact.

Inside you will read about...

- ✓ How We Know What We Know About Sumerians
- ✓ The Bronze Age – Sumer And Its Contemporaries
- ✓ How Did The Sumerians Become Civilized?
- ✓ How Long Were They Around
- ✓ Primer Of Impact Of Sumerian Ancient Civilization On Our World
- ✓ What Did They Look Like?
- ✓ What Shaped Their Worldview?

And much more!

Our journey relies on excavated and historical evidence to explore their productive fascinations with order and man's place in the universe. Their application of impressive knowledge helps us unfold their mysterious civilization.

Sumerians: A History From Beginning to End Details

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From Reader Review Sumerians: A History From Beginning to End for online ebook

Joel Robinson says

Excellent

Good overview of ancient Sumer. Excellent list of references. Easy read but informative. My copy was free so you can't beat the price.

Julie says

Sumerians

A good book from Henry Freeman. A concise history of the Sumerian people. This book was fascinating and insightful. I recommend this book and its author.

Kevin says

I thought this was going to be a concise summary of Sumerian History but it got bogged down in too much geographic description that really kind of lost me. I didn't have a map handy and frankly got bored. I wanted to learn about the people and their accomplishments and this just wasn't giving me that.

Beth says

A step above a wikipedia article, without the warm fuzzies for authoritative resources. I think it read like someone's C-graded research paper. But there were some tidbits that I hadn't read before, so I did find it of interest.

Arno Mosikyan says

Sumerian texts found in Fara, Iraq dating to the middle of the third millennium BCE contain the earliest references to tin and bronze, with copper imported from Armenia in the Caucasus Mountains.

The study of changing settlement patterns of the times suggests that after the Ubaid period (circa 650 to 3800 BCE), which was characterized by small settlements by the semi-nomadic Ubaid people and some degree of site planning, the Sumerians came from the north or east, settled in the southern Mesopotamia region, and were the first to completely depend on irrigation systems.

Based on evaluations of clay tablet documents, trade may have been the main motivator for the Sumerians to

develop a system of writing initially.

Many of the clay tablets that have been found are of a business nature.

There are numbers of bills of sale, receipts, and documents that, upon further investigation, reveal that the Sumerians documented their economic production using a specific pictographic writing that had more than 2,000 shapes. The sheer volume caused confusion; as a result Sumerians began to develop cuneiform script. The first written tablets in this proto-cuneiform are around 85% administrative or accounting in nature.

How do we know that ancient cultures were in communication with each other? Who was the communication with? For one thing, we know that there was contact during the Bronze Age that was established between Sumer and the Zagros or Caucasus, as foreign products were needed in most cases in the use of bronze.

The Sumerians called themselves Sag-giga (the “black-headed” or “bald-headed” ones) and their southern Mesopotamia land Kengi (“civilized land”) or Kengi-Sumer. Sumer is an Akkadian name, which means land of the civilized kings.

Rachel says

Dry

This is a dry, and surprisingly repetitive volume, given its relatively short length. However, it does provide a basic introduction to Sumerian history.

Keith Bouchard says

Interesting content; poorly written, full of typos.

Yeary Orion Maple says

Really good information.

Nancy Reavis says

Quick, interesting read

I enjoyed this book. A compilation, I believe, of several others work wrapped into one. I enjoyed reading about the Sumerian people. What they invented and how they evolved. Interesting 2100 - 4000 BCE era

Lucas Matthews says

3.5 stars, so I'll round up since it was free. I love this period of history and the book was a decent summary.

The Warrior Philosopher says

If you want to learn about the Sumerians, this is not the book to do it.

If you want a book that provides a lot of other books, ones that might contain information of use, then this **IS** the book for you.

The book is written in the style of a 9th-grade book report, one in which no knowledge of the Sumerians was known. The ideas are scattered to the four directions. The sentences are short.

One can find copious other books and authors, all written in a paraphrase form by this author. On some pages, there are three references to other work. In chapter seven there are seven pages. In the same chapter, one finds nine outside references.

The same information is presented over and over, sometimes contradictory. No evidence is sourced for the claims made, except our paraphrased excerpts. Here is an example.

"Retail merchants were held to a very high standard; dishonest practices were not tolerated. There are even records showing house-to-house small traders. According to "Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia," Sumerians had a word meaning "specialist" for those who were specialized at craftsman skills. Their artisans made pottery, and jewelry with skill. Sculptors carved small statues, sometimes of gods and sometimes representing humans."

That is a real paragraph in this book. I would cite the page number, but alas, there are no page numbers. Nor was there proofreading, nor was there proofreading. That led to some confusion when I stumbled across this relic,

"Even as the world's media focuses on Syrians fleeing violence and terror in the region, many of us have turned our attention to Mesopotamia to better understand the nature of conflicts now."

No Virginia, we do not know what that means.

The author also seems to have a loose grip on facts, essentially attributing everything ever to the Sumerians, to include religion (but not religion) art, music, the wheel, women's rights and women's servitude.

A. Sacit says

A broad, rudimentary overview of Sumer civilization without going into much detail. We learn that Sumer was not a semitic culture unlike the following Babylonians, Acadians, and Asurians. Some of the references by academicians listed at the end are expected to provide more insights into the down of this extraordinary civilisation.

Iset says

I can't in all honesty recommend this book. It's not just that it is short and skims over the history with all the shallow narrative of a Wikipedia article. I expected that, given that this comes from a series of books that markets itself as 'history in an hour'; just enough summary to fill the hour, and very little depth.

But, for a book published in 2016, the book relies an awful lot on very questionable sources. Many are out of date, over 50 years old, with some over 100 years old, and some of its cited references are even children's books. As a result, not only does the book end up being simplistic narrative, but it also gets some of its facts just plain wrong. For example, it claims that Sumer was the first to invent the urban centre – that honour in fact belongs to the towns of the Mesolithic across the Near East – or that Sumer invented writing – not exactly true; it is neck and neck with ancient Egypt for that title. Other poppycock includes repeating the claim from a 120-year-old book that the Hittite language is Mongolian (long since discredited). The book also claims that "there is no evidence of women ever becoming scribes" in ancient Sumerian society, right after referencing Samuel Kramer's book in which Kramer attested that there was at least one mention of a woman becoming a scribe (I should know since I just read Kramer's book before this one, and I even went back and looked it up again to confirm what Kramer wrote). I can't recommend this at all.

Joshua says

Not incredibly detailed, but it also covers quite a lot of information... For instance, the Teaching Company has a 12 hour program about basically the same topic(s). Good information if you don't know a whole lot about Sumer and want to start the research off with a fun, simple book. For more detail, checkout books about more specific topics or find a much larger book. Definitely an overview.

Shahda Al Taie says

I read this book after a conversation with a friend where we casually mentioned that Mesopotamia is the cradle of civilization. I have had it in my kindle for some time now, and have always been putting off reading it, but I decided to go for it now. Sitting in a quiet cafe on an early morning off seemed like the perfect setting to indulge in this historic book. I found it to be an easy read and I liked the way it was arranged for easier comprehension. I was also pleasantly surprised to find really recent events and dates incorporated in it (as recent as 2016) with major political events of today also brushed upon. However, as with most historic books, I find that certain elements get repeated so much that they are engraved in our memories (like the bit about Sumerians being the first to write, agriculture advancements and the 60 minutes in an hour and 360 degrees in a circle), while more interesting elements (atleast for me) are not highlighted as much (like monuments, relevance of the names, more about kings, etc).

Did I enjoy this book? Yes, tremendously! I learnt a lot of new things and small interesting facts that will make me smile every time I remember them. It is a good book for anyone to read, but would be of special importance for my fellow Mesopotamians.

Would I recommend it? I think the above makes it clear. However, I would add to it that I think Henry

Freeman explains the Sumerian civilization in a "Sumerians for dummies" sort of way, which I happen to be a big fan of.
