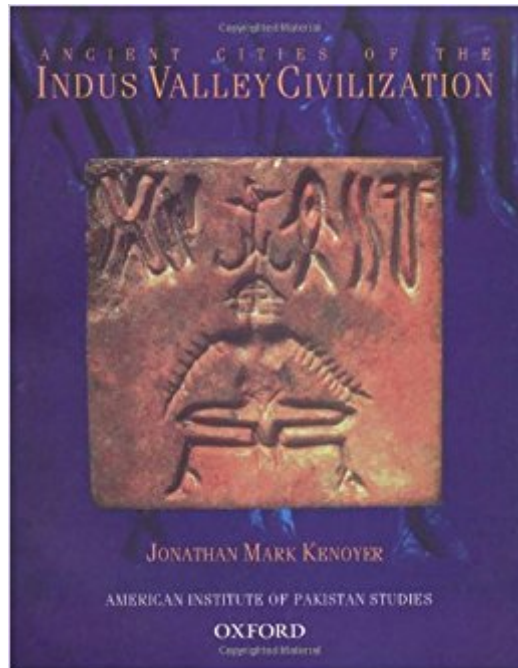




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Ancient Cities Of The Indus Valley Civilization



Synopsis

This lavishly illustrated book presents a coherent and fascinating account of the Indus Valley civilization that will appeal to specialists and non-specialists alike. Kenoyer draws on the latest archaeological information from Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira, and other major sites as well as on his considerable knowledge of South Asian societies and ancient technologies. He addresses such enduring topics as the nature and role of the Indus writing system, the Indus religion as evidenced through sculpture and architecture, the political organization of Indus city-states, long-distance trade and the importance of merchants in Indus society, and the daily life of the diverse inhabitants of the cities, towns, and villages of the region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kenoyer's discussion of the Indus Valley script is balanced and unspeculative. Because of his even-handed approach, Kenoyer succeeds very well in his objectives of providing an introductory text on the Indus Valley civilisation. The overall quality of the illustrations is very high, and the relatively low cost of the book should ensure a wide readership. - Richard Fynes - International Journal of Punjab Studies (UK)

Jonathan Mark Kenoyer is at the Faculty of Archaeology at University of Wisconsin.

This is one of the best books on Anthropology that I ever read. Prof Kenoyer's writing style is very engaging and makes the narrative as an informative detective story. I couldn't keep the book down

until i completed reading it page to page. The well-balanced content comes from the author's experience growing up on the subcontinent, and his ability to relate contemporary culture with the past.

The author faithfully documents his archeological findings over the last three decades. The book is easy to read and has many excellent pictures. Dr. Kenoyer categorically states that the decline of this ancient civilization was due to natural causes and not because of destruction by invading nomads. Some of the seals such as the "Proto-Shiva," and the Swastika are very intriguing and may ultimately establish a firm link between the Indus civilization and the present day Hinduism. A lot of research still needs to be done, but this book is the first step in acknowledging the true antiquity of the Indus-Sarasvati civilization.

Kenoyer gives excellent coverage of a civilization, whose writing we have yet to decipher, based on the physical evidence. Good stuff!

This was an excellent, informative and well-written book about a civilization which is largely unknown.

Mark Kenoyer is one of the leading experts on the ancient Indus Valley. As Director of the current excavations at the ancient Indus site of Harappa, he has made a number of new discoveries which are greatly expanding our knowledge of this civilization. The book is thorough, well-illustrated, and free of the ideological biases that have so long tainted ancient Indus studies. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the facts. Kenoyer is also one of the few archaeologists who has worked in both Pakistan and India and is able to cover the ancient culture and its relationships to people today in both modern countries.

An excellent reference on the subject. It is modern in its approach, and updates a number of previous studies. It makes a number of new observations about the circular objects in Harappa. Perhaps they were not granaries as previously believed, but objects for dyeing textiles. It also suggests that there was another river parallel to the Indus River that has gone underground. One may be able to access this underground river using modern technology, and bring agriculture to areas that are now a desert. The book should be of interest to archaeologists as well as general readers. Maps and photographs make the story very tangible.

This book is to be commended for its clear rejection of the Aryan invasion theory, which the distinguished British anthropologist, Edmund Leach, has termed a theory born out of European racism. (But it was sad to see an articulation of such racism in the remarks of Richard Meadow in the Preface where he characterizes work coming out of the subcontinent as 'wild flights of fancy or long leaps of faith'.) I wish that Kenoyer had tried to integrate literary evidence from India into his narrative. That would have made his story more rounded and interesting.

It is a really informative book that offers a wide variety of perspectives on the Indus Valley civilisation and it sure make you addicted on the book with its unique style and its tactful diction.

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