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*Myths Of The
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*Archaic State
Evolution Of The
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States And
Civilizations*

Madeline Miller heeft op
bewonderingswaardige wijze
de klassieker Ilias opnieuw
vormgegeven in een
eigentijdse, spannende roman
waarvoor ze de Orange Prize
2012 heeft
gekregen. Patroclus is een
jonge prins, verbannen naar
het koninkrijk van Phthia om
daar op te groeien met

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godenzoon Achilles. Achilles is sterk, mooi, een gouden kind: alles wat Patroclus niet is. Maar ondanks hun verschillen raken de jongens innig bevriend, en hun band wordt sterker naarmate ze ouder worden. Dit tot verdriet en woede van Achilles' moeder Thetis, een wrede zeegodin die een hekel heeft aan stervelingen. Als duidelijk wordt dat Helena van Sparta is ontvoerd en alle Griekse mannen verplicht zijn om haar eer te wreken en Troje te belegeren, sluit Achilles zich aan bij het leger, verblind door de belofte van roem. Patroclus, verscheurd door liefde voor en angst om

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zijn vriend, gaat met hem mee. Zij weten niet dat het lot hen tot het uiterste zal testen en hun zal vragen om een verschrikkelijk offer. In 2008 for the first time the majority of the planet's inhabitants lived in cities and towns. Becoming globally urban has been one of mankind's greatest collective achievements over time. Written by leading scholar, this is the first detailed survey of the world's cities and towns from ancient times to the present day.

Klytaimnestra heeft veel moeten doorstaan. Haar man heeft haar kind, haar mooie oudste dochter, geofferd aan

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de goden, en zij heeft hem niet kunnen tegenhouden. Hoe kan ze dit ooit te boven komen? En hoe zullen haar andere twee kinderen reageren op deze ontwrichtende gebeurtenis? Eén ding neemt ze zich voor: haar man zal dit met de dood moeten bekopen.

The first book to compare the world's earliest cities, the history of research and meaning of early cities.

In Sapiens boog Yuval Noah Harari zich over het verleden, in Homo Deus over de toekomst; nu laat hij zijn licht schijnen over het heden. Wat zijn de uitdagingen van onze tijd? Hoe beschermen we onszelf

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tegen een nucleaire oorlog, ecologische rampen en technologische bedreigingen? Wat is de oorzaak van de opkomst van populisten als Donald Trump? Hoe weren we ons tegen fake news? Moeten we ons voorbereiden op een nieuwe wereldoorlog? Wat moeten we denken van het opkomend nationalisme? Vragen de mondiale problemen die op ons afkomen om andere politieke systemen? Is het een goed idee dat we onze data overdragen aan enkele grote commerciële spelers, of wordt het tijd om het eigendom van data te reguleren? En wat wordt de grote nieuwe wereldmacht, Amerika, Europa of China? In

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dit boek beantwoordt Yuval Noah Harari de 21 meest urgente vragen van onze tijd.

Ontmoet Tomi Adeyemi op YALFest NL 2018! "The Orïsha Legacy Zélie heeft maar één kans om haar volk te redden... Deel 1 Ooit leefden er in Orïsha mensen met magische krachten. Tot een wrede koning besloot de maji, een minderheid met donkere huid en zilverwitte haren, te vervolgen. Zélie kan zich de nacht dat ze toe moest kijken hoe de handlangers van de koning haar moeder ophingen nog levendig herinneren. Sindsdien is magie een doodzonde en een donkere

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huid iets om op neer te kijken. Tien jaar later krijgt Zélie de kans om de magie terug te brengen naar Orïsha. Met de hulp van een prinses op de vlucht, moet ze uit handen zien te blijven van Inan, de kroonprins, die vastbesloten is de magie nu voorgoed uit te bannen. Gevaar ligt overal op de loer in Orïsha, maar het grootste gevaar schuilt misschien nog wel in haar groeiende gevoelens voor de vijand... Over Bloed en beenderen: 'Een van de grootste boekendeals voor een young adult-romandebuut van het jaar. Naast een meeslepend plot en een sterke heldin als

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hoofdpersoon, behandelt het boek grote thema's - als ras, politiegeweld, onderdrukking en macht - die op het moment ook in de wereld spelen.' Teen Vogue 'Complexe personages, een hoge inzet, en een caleidoscopisch narratief boeien, en het snelle tempo schiet de lezer naar een overweldigend slot dat net zo veel vragen als antwoorden heeft.' PW 'Het epos waar ik op heb gewacht.' Marie Lu, New York Times-bestsellerauteur van Legend en Warcross

A Companion that examines together two pivotal periods of Greek archaeology and offers a rich analysis of

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early Greek culture A Companion to the Archaeology of Early Greece and the Mediterranean offers an original and inclusive review of two key periods of Greek archaeology, which are typically treated separately—the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age. It presents an in-depth exploration of the society and material culture of Greece and the Mediterranean, from the 14th to the early 7th centuries BC. The two-volume companion sets Aegean developments within their broader geographic and cultural context, and presents the wide-ranging interactions

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with the Mediterranean. The companion bridges the gap that typically exists between Prehistoric and Classical Archaeology and examines material culture and social practice across Greece and the Mediterranean. A number of specialists examine the environment and demography, and analyze a range of textual and archaeological evidence to shed light on socio-political and cultural developments. The companion also emphasizes regionalism in the archaeology of early Greece and examines the responses of different regions to major phenomena such as state formation,

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literacy, migration and colonization. Comprehensive in scope, this important companion: Outlines major developments in the two key phases of early Greece, the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age Includes studies of the geography, chronology and demography of early Greece Explores the development of early Greek state and society and examines economy, religion, art and material culture Sets Aegean developments within their Mediterranean context Written for students, and scholars interested in the material culture of the era, A Companion to the Archaeology

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of Early Greece and the Mediterranean offers a comprehensive and authoritative guide that bridges the gap between the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age.

[Publicizing the Qin Dynasty](#)

[Divorcing International](#)

[Relations Theory from the](#)

[State and Stage Models](#)

[The Birth of the State](#)

[Defining Citizenship in](#)

[Archaic Greece](#)

[Ancient Civilizations](#)

[A Companion to the](#)

[Archaeology of Early Greece](#)

[and the Mediterranean](#)

[Griekse en Romeinse sagen](#)

[The Shang and their World](#)

[Bloed en beenderen](#)

[The Syro-Anatolian City-](#)

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[A Study of the Earliest South Asian City and Civilization](#)

[A Social Theory of Corruption](#)

From the fourth millennium BCE to the early second millennium CE the world became a world of cities. This volume explores this critical transformation, from the appearance of the earliest cities in Mesopotamia and Egypt to the rise of cities in Asia and the Mediterranean world, Africa, and the Americas. Through case studies and comparative accounts of key cities across the world, leading scholars chart the ways in which these cities grew as nodal points of pilgrimages and

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ceremonies, exchange, storage and redistribution, and centres for defence and warfare. They show how in these cities, along with their associated and restructured countrysides, new rituals and ceremonies connected leaders with citizens and the gods, new identities as citizens were created, and new forms of power and sovereignty emerged. They also examine how this unprecedented concentration of people led to disease, violence, slavery and subjugations of unprecedented kinds and scales.

"We Greeks are one in blood and one in language; we have temples to the gods and religious rites in common, and a common way of

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life." Herodotus Throughout the course of ancient Greek civilisation, there always existed a sense of shared culture among the many Greek communities scattered throughout the Mediterranean. During the Classical (479-338) and Hellenistic (338-30) periods, the countless individual poleis of the Archaic period gradually came together in leagues and alliances, and finally were more or less united when they fell under the Roman empire. But what is fascinating about this process is how much resistance there was to it. The Greeks found it impossible to unify when faced with common enemies. Even under Roman rule

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the Greek cities still bickered. Acts of union -- going back to the legendary Trojan War -- were widely celebrated, but made little practical difference. If the Greeks knew that they were kin, why is Greek history so often the history of their internecine wars and other forms of competition with one another? This is the question acclaimed historian Robin Waterfield sets out to explore in *Creators, Conquerors, and Citizens*. This extraordinary contradiction -- the recognition that they were all Greeks, but the deep-seated reluctance to unify -- is at the heart of this ambitious new history. The culmination of a lifetime of research, Waterfield

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gives a comprehensive account of seven hundred years, from the emergence of the Greeks around 750 BCE to the downfall of the last of the Greco-Macedonian kingdoms in 30 BCE, looking at political, military, social, and cultural history.

Honderdduizend jaar geleden leefde de Homo sapiens nog een tamelijk onbekommerd bestaan in een uithoek van het Afrikaanse continent en deelde hij de planeet met ten minste vijf andere menssoorten. Maar op een zeker moment onderging het brein van deze mens een ingrijpende verandering: nu kon hij zich plots verbeelden dat het gras elders wel eens groener zou kunnen zijn, en

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dus maakte hij zich op om de wereld te veroveren. In Sapiens neemt Yuval Noah Harari ons mee op een fascinerende reis door de geschiedenis van de mensheid. Wie zijn we? Waar komen we vandaan? En hoe zijn we zo geworden als we nu zijn? In zijn aanstekelijke relaas laat Harari ons kennismaken met het meest dominante wezen op aarde: de mens.

A social theory of grand corruption from antiquity to the twenty-first century. In contemporary policy discourse, the notion of corruption is highly constricted, understood just as the pursuit of private gain while fulfilling a public duty. Its paradigmatic manifestations are

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bribery and extortion, placing the onus on individuals, typically bureaucrats. Sudhir Chella Rajan argues that this understanding ignores the true depths of corruption, which is properly seen as a foundation of social structures. Not just bribes but also caste, gender relations, and the reproduction of class are forms of corruption. Using South Asia as a case study, Rajan argues that syndromes of corruption can be identified by paying attention to social orders and the elites they support. From the breakup of the Harappan civilization in the second millennium BCE to the anticolonial movement in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,

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elites and their descendants made off with substantial material and symbolic gains for hundreds of years before their schemes unraveled. Rajan makes clear that this grander form of corruption is not limited to India or the annals of global history. Societal corruption is endemic, as tax cheats and complicit bankers squirrel away public money in offshore accounts, corporate titans buy political influence, and the rich ensure that their children live lavishly no matter how little they contribute. These elites use their privileged access to power to fix the rules of the game—legal structures and social norms—benefiting themselves, even while most

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ordinary people remain faithful to the rubrics of everyday life.

This volume examines political life in the Kingdom of Dahomey, located in the Republic of Bénin.

The contributors to this volume argue for a much richer view of variation in Mississippian leadership structures-including variation in gender relations, economic structure, political institutions, and religious organization--than the often dichotomized view of "simple" vs. "complex" chiefdoms.

In the book titled Birth of the State, readers learn what researchers nowadays think about the rise and stabilization of the oldest statehood in the original

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civilization centres of the Old World - Egypt, Mesopotamia, India and China. The scholar takes them through essential economic, political and spiritual changes caused in those societies by the rise and stabilization of the first states. The overviews are completed with a comprehensive view of the entire theme, attempting to provide a balanced view of the rise of the oldest states not only as a question of economy, politics or power, but also as exceeding the basic threshold in the spiritual sphere. The book allows the very founders and cultivators of the oldest state units to speak: in the moments when their work seemed to be on the

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verge of total collapse, they spoke to their contemporaries urging them to defend the ideals that formed the basis of their civilizations. The book is intended for university students as well as others interested in the rise and development of the oldest states of the humankind.

[Het huis van de namen](#)

[Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archäologie](#)

[Communication and Cooperation in Early Imperial China](#)

[The Cambridge World History: Volume 3, Early Cities in Comparative Perspective, 4000 BCE-1200 CE](#)

[De derde chimpansee](#)

[Ancient Pakistan - An](#)

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[Archaeological History](#)

[Global Histories and Cultures of
Statehood](#)

[The Oxford Handbook of the State
in the Ancient Near East and
Mediterranean](#)

[An Iron Age Culture](#)

[Homeland and Exile](#)

[The Cambridge World History
Sapiens](#)

This is the fourth volume of the Ancient Pakistan - An Archaeological History. It deals with a number of issues of the Indus Civilization, which are primarily of theoretical importance. The main topics that have been discussed are the social and political organization of the Harappan

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society, the Harappan religion, the Indus script and language, the beginning and the end of this vast civilization, and the recent attempts in creating some myths around the Indus Civilization. Since this volume is primarily dedicated to the theoretical and the abstract, descriptive material is kept to a minimum.

This volume revisits the controversial issues of continuity and great tradition in protohistoric and early historic south Asia from a novel and provocative analytical perspective. It investigates the phenomena of the city and civilization in Bronze and Iron

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Age south Asia from the point of view of archaeology and ancient Indian literature.

Mensen zijn voor 98% genetisch gelijk aan de gewone aap en de dwergchimpansee. Hoe is het dan te verklaren dat wij in staat zijn beschavingen, talen, godsdiensten en wetenschappen te ontwikkelen maar ook om dat in een oogwenk weer te vernietigen? Diamond schreef een baanbrekend, onderhoudend en soms schokkend boek over dat unieke schepsel en zijn evolutie: de derde chimpansee die mens heet. Scherp geschreven, een genot om te lezen. Deze uitdagende stijl

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van het boek dwingt de lezer ertoe zich grondig te bezinnen op het raadsel van de menselijke evolutie.? New York Times Book Review Jared Diamond is hoogleraar fysiologie in Los Angeles. Hij verricht onderzoek op het terrein van de evolutionaire biologie en is bekend als internationale bestsellerauteur van onder andere Zwaarden, paarden en ziektekiemen en Ondergang.

The violence of war and sacrifice were not the antithesis of civilization at Shang Anyang, but rather its foundation.

This volume is a tribute to B.

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Oded's career, and it points to the span of his research. It's thirty contributions deal with a wide range of topics, focusing on the Assyrian Empire, as well as on the Hebrew Bible.

A History of the Archaic Greek World offers a theme-based approach to the development of the Greek world in the years 1200-479 BCE. Updated and extended in this edition to include two new sections, expanded geographical coverage, a guide to electronic resources, and more illustrations Takes a critical and analytical look at evidence about the history of the archaic Greek World Involves the

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reader in the practice of history by questioning and

reevaluating conventional beliefs Casts new light on traditional themes such as the rise of the city-state, citizen militias, and the origins of egalitarianism Provides a wealth of archaeological evidence, in a number of different specialties, including ceramics, architecture, and mortuary studies

Featuring a sweeping array of essays from scholars of state formation and development, this book presents an overview of approaches to studying the history of the state. Focusing on the question of state

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formation, this volume takes a particular look at the beginnings, structures, and constant reforming of state power. Not only do the contributors draw upon both modernist and postmodernist theoretical perspectives, they also address the topic from a global standpoint, examining states from all areas of the world. In their diverse and thorough exploration of state building, the authors cross the theoretical, geographic, and chronological boundaries that traditionally shape this field in order to rethink the customary macro and micro approaches to the study of state building

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and make the case for global histories of both pre-modern and modern state formations.

[Leadership and Polity in Mississippian Society](#)

[Evolution of the Earliest Cities, States and Civilizations](#)

[21 lessen voor de 21ste eeuw](#)

[A History of the Archaic Greek World, ca. 1200-479 BCE](#)

[What's Left of Marxism](#)

[The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History](#)

[New Insights into the Iron Age](#)

[Archaeology of Edom, Southern Jordan](#)

[A History of Ancient Greece](#)

[The Oxford World History of Empire](#)

[Violence, Kinship and the Early](#)

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[Chinese State](#)
[Civilizations](#)
[Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia,](#)

[India and China](#)

[Biblical and Ancient Near](#)

[Eastern Studies in Honour of](#)

[Bustenay Oded](#)

Situated south of the Dead Sea, near the famous Nabatean capital of Petra, the Faynan region in Jordan contains the largest deposits of copper ore in the southern Levant. The Edom Lowlands Regional Archaeology Project (ELRAP) takes an anthropological-archaeology approach to the deep-time study of culture change in one of the Old World's most important locales for studying technological

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development. Using innovative digital tools for data recording, curation, analyses, and dissemination, the researchers focused on ancient mining and metallurgy as the subject of surveys and excavations related to the Iron Age (ca. 1200-500 BCE), when the first local, historical state-level societies appeared in this part of the eastern Mediterranean basin. This comprehensive and important volume challenges the current scholarly consensus concerning the emergence and historicity of the Iron Age polity of biblical Edom and some of its neighbors, such as ancient

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Israel. Excavations and radiometric dating establish a new chronology for Edom, adding almost 500 more years to the Iron Age, including key periods of biblical history when David, Solomon, and the Egyptian pharaoh Shoshenq I are alleged to have interacted with Edom. Included is a 7 gigabyte DVD with over 55,000 files of additional data and photographs from the project. Have Marxian ideas been relevant or influential in the writing and interpretation of history? What are the Marxist legacies that are now re-emerging in present-day

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histories? This volume is an attempt at relearning what the “discipline” of history once knew – whether one considered oneself a Marxist, a non-Marxist or an anti-Marxist.

Drawing on many avenues of inquiry: archaeological excavations, surveys, laboratory work, highly specialized scientific investigations, and on both historical and ethnohistorical records; Ancient Civilizations, 3/e provides a comprehensive and straightforward account of the world’s first civilizations and a brief summary of the way in which they were discovered.

"This book presents a new model

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for the cluster of ancient kingdoms that clustered around the northeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea during the Iron age, ca. 1200-600 BCE. Rather than presenting them as ancient versions of the modern nation-state, characterized by homogenous ethnolinguistic communities like "the Aramaeans" or "the Luwians" living in neatly bounded territories, this book sees these polities as being fundamentally diverse and variable, distinguished by demographic fluidity and cultural mobility. This conclusion is reached via an examination of a host of

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evidentiary sources, including site plans, settlement patterns, visual arts, and historical sources. Together, these lines of evidence lead to the awareness that this time and place consists of a complex fusion of cultural traditions that is nevertheless distinctly recognizable unto itself. This book thus proposes a new term to encapsulate that diversity: the Syro-Anatolian Culture Complex"--

Presents a new multi-layered model for the evolution of ancient societies.

In the last few years, anarchism has been rediscovered as a transnational, cosmopolitan and

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multifaceted movement. Its traditions, often hastily dismissed, are increasingly revealing insights which inspire present-day scholarship in geography. This book provides a historical geography of anarchism, analysing the places and spatiality of historical anarchist movements, key thinkers, and the present scientific challenges of the geographical anarchist traditions. This volume offers rich and detailed insights into the lesser-known worlds of anarchist geographies with contributions from international leading experts. It also explores the

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historical geographies of anarchism by examining their expressions in a series of distinct geographical contexts and their development over time.

Contributions examine the changes that the anarchist movement(s) sought to bring out in their space and time, and the way this spirit continues to animate the anarchist geographies of our own, perhaps often in unpredictable ways.

There is also an examination of contemporary expressions of anarchist geographical thought in the fields of social movements, environmental struggles, post-statist geographies, indigenous

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thinking and situated cosmopolitanisms. This is valuable reading for students and researchers interested in historical geography, political geography, social movements and anarchism.

This is the first world history of empire, reaching from the third millennium BCE to the present. By combining synthetic surveys, thematic comparative essays, and numerous chapters on specific empires, its two volumes provide unparalleled coverage of imperialism throughout history and across continents, from Asia to Europe and from Africa to the Americas. Only a few decades

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ago empire was believed to be a thing of the past; now it is clear that it has been and remains one of the most enduring forms of political organization and power. We cannot understand the dynamics and resilience of empire without moving decisively beyond the study of individual cases or particular periods, such as the relatively short age of European colonialism. The history of empire, as these volumes amply demonstrate, needs to be drawn on the much broader canvas of global history. Volume Two: The History of Empires tracks the protean history of political domination

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from the very beginnings of state formation in the Bronze Age up to the present. Case studies deal with the full range of the historical experience of empire, from the realms of the Achaemenids and Asoka to the empires of Mali and Songhay, and from ancient Rome and China to the Mughals, American settler colonialism, and the Soviet Union. Forty-five chapters detailing the history of individual empires are tied together by a set of global synthesizing surveys that structure the world history of empire into eight chronological phases.

[Een lied voor Achilles](#)

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[American Book Publishing
Record](#)

[Asian Perspectives](#)

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[Possibilities of Thinking with](#)

[Marxian Themes and Concepts](#)

[Volume IV: Harappan Civilization](#)

[- Theoretical and the Abstract](#)

[Myths of the Archaic State](#)

[Building Power in Dahomey](#)

[Based on Papers Read at the](#)

[Symposium on the Myth of the](#)

[State Held at Åbo on the 6th-8th](#)

[September, 1971](#)

[The Precolonial State in West](#)

[Africa](#)

[Volume Two: the History of](#)

[Empires](#)

[State Formations](#)

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This book presents a case for a basic reorientation of International Relations away from the state and towards the study of social institutions in the sense of patterned practices, ideas and norms/rules. IR has always suffered from a parochial occupation with the state and the Western system of state. Its main theories revolve around these phenomena, and have resulted in the reification of the state: it has been turned into an essential actor, with certain immutable and fundamental properties that remain constant

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throughout time. A list of these properties usually includes territorial limits, centralisation, monopolisation of violence and exclusive loyalties. International Institutions in World History shows how the state is an inherently modern phenomenon, a modern social institution, and that foundational concepts in IR should be based on a full appreciation of the wider record of human existence on earth, trans-historically and cross-culturally. Schouenborg argues that these social institutions may be captured via a universal functional typology consisting of four categories: legitimacy and

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**membership; regulating
conflicts; trade; and
governance. The book will be
of interest to scholars and
students within IR
(particularly IR theory),
anthropology, archaeology
and sociology, and those
interested in general social
theory.**

**Questioning Collapse
challenges those scholars and
popular writers who advance
the thesis that societies - past
and present - collapse because
of behavior that destroyed
their environments or because
of overpopulation. In a series
of highly accessible and
closely argued essays, a team
of internationally recognized
scholars bring history and**

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context to bear in their radically different analyses of iconic events, such as the deforestation of Easter Island, the cessation of the Norse colony in Greenland, the faltering of nineteenth-century China, the migration of ancestral peoples away from Chaco Canyon in the American southwest, the crisis and resilience of Lowland Maya kingship, and other societies that purportedly 'collapsed'. Collectively, these essays demonstrate that resilience in the face of societal crises, rather than collapse, is the leitmotif of the human story from the earliest civilizations to the present. Scrutinizing

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the notion that Euro-American colonial triumphs were an accident of geography, Questioning Collapse also critically examines the complex historical relationship between race and political labels of societal 'success' and 'failure'.

Tracing the evolution of the state from its beginnings to the early Middle Ages, this comprehensive handbook focuses on key institutions and dynamics while providing accessible accounts of states and empires in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean. Challenges traditional views of the Qin dynasty as an oppressive regime by

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revealing cooperative aspects of its governance. This revealing book challenges longstanding notions of the Qin dynasty, China's first imperial dynasty (221-206 BCE). The received history of the Qin dynasty and its founder is one of cruel tyranny with rule through fear and coercion. Using a wealth of new information afforded by the expansion of Chinese archaeology in recent decades as well as traditional historical sources, Charles Sanft concentrates on cooperative aspects of early imperial government, especially on the communication necessary for government. Sanft suggests

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that the Qin authorities sought cooperation from the populace with a publicity campaign in a wide variety of media—from bronze and stone inscriptions to roads to the bureaucracy. The book integrates theory from anthropology and economics with early Chinese philosophy and argues that modern social science and ancient thought agree that cooperation is necessary for all human societies.

Citizenship is a major feature of contemporary national and international politics, but rather than being a modern phenomenon it is in fact a legacy of ancient Greece. The concept of membership of a

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community and participation in its social and political life first appeared some three millennia ago, but only towards the end of the fourth century BC did Aristotle offer the first explicit statement about it. Though long accepted, this definition remains deeply rooted in the philosophical and political thought of the classical period, and probably fails to account accurately for either the preceding centuries or the dynamics of emergent cities: as such, historians are now challenging the application of the Aristotelian model to all Greek cities regardless of chronology, and are looking instead for alternative ways of

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conceiving citizenship and community. Focusing on archaic Greece, this volume brings together an array of renowned international scholars with the aim of exploring new routes to archaic Greek citizenship and constructing a new image of archaic cities, which are no longer to be considered as primitive or incomplete classical poleis. The essays collected here have not been tailored to endorse any specific view, with each contributor bringing his or her own approach and methodology to bear across a range of specific fields of enquiry, from law, cults, and military obligations, to

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athletics, commensality, and descent. The volume as a whole exemplifies the living diversity of approaches to archaic Greece and to the Greek city, combining both breadth and depth of insight with an opportunity to venture off the beaten track.

In this ground-breaking work, Norman Yoffee shatters the prevailing myths underpinning our understanding of the evolution of early civilisations. He counters the emphasis in traditional scholarship on the rule of 'godly' and despotic male leaders and challenges the conventional view that early states were uniformly constituted bureaucratic and

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regional entities. Instead, by illuminating the role of slaves and soldiers, priests and priestesses, peasants and prostitutes, merchants and craftsmen, Yoffee depicts an evolutionary process centred on the concerns of everyday life. Drawing on evidence from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, China and Mesoamerica, the author explores the variety of trajectories followed by ancient states, from birth to collapse, and explores the social processes that shape any account of the human past. This book offers a bold new interpretation of social evolutionary theory, and as such it is essential reading for

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