MOBILE PASTORALISM AND THE FORMATION OF NEAR EASTERN CIVILIZATIONS

In this book, Anne Porter explores the idea that mobile and sedentary members of the ancient world were integral parts of the same social and political groups in greater Mesopotamia during the period 4000 to 1500 BCE. She draws on a wide range of archaeological and cuneiform sources to show how networks of social structure, political organization, religious ideology, and everyday as well as ritual practice worked to maintain the integrity of those groups when the pursuit of different subsistence activities dispersed them over space. These networks were dynamic, shaping many of the key events and innovations of the time, including the Uruk expansion and the introduction of writing; so-called secondary state formation and the organization and operation of government; the literary production of the Third Dynasty of Ur and the first stories of Gilgamesh; and the emergence of the Amorrites in the second millennium BCE.

Anne Porter was an assistant professor in the School of Religion, Departments of Classics and Anthropology at the University of Southern California. She served as co-director of excavations at the Tell Banat Settlement Complex, Syria. She has been a visiting research Fellow at both the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University and the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia at Princeton University.
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Weaving Together Society

ANNE PORTER
University of Southern California
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