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978-0-521-79230-1 - The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (c. 16,000-300 BC)
Peter M. M. G. Akkermans and Glenn M. Schwartz
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The Archaeology of Syria: From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (*c.* 16,000–300 BC)

This is the first book to present a comprehensive review of the archaeology of Syria from the end of the Palaeolithic period to 300 BC. Syria has become a prime focus of field archaeology in the Middle East since the 1970s, and Peter Akkermans and Glenn Schwartz discuss the results of this intensive fieldwork, integrating them with earlier research. Alongside the major material culture types of each period, they examine important contributions of Syrian archaeology to issues like the onset of agriculture, the emergence of private property and social inequality, the rise and collapse of urban life, and the archaeology of early empires. Competing interpretations are set out and considered alongside the authors' own perspectives and conclusions.

PETER M.M.G. AKKERMANS is Curator of the Department of Ancient Near East at the National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden, The Netherlands, and Professor of Near Eastern prehistory at Leiden University. He has directed and participated in archaeological field projects in Syria for over twenty years, including excavations at Hammam et-Turkman and Sabi Abyad. Previous publications include *Villages in the Steppe: Late Neolithic Settlement and Subsistence in the Balikh Valley, Northern Syria* (1993), *Tell Sabi Abyad: The Late Neolithic Settlement* (edited, 1996) and *Tell Sabi Abyad II* (edited with Marc Verhoeven, 2000).

GLENN M. SCHWARTZ is Whiting Professor of Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. He has directed and participated in archaeological field projects in Syria for over twenty years, including excavations at Leilan, Raqa'i and Umm el-Marra. Previous publications include *Archaeological Views from the Countryside: Village Communities in Early Complex Societies* (edited with Steven Falconer, 1994) and *The Study of the Ancient Near East in the 21st Century: The William Foxwell Albright Centennial Conference* (edited with Jerrold Cooper, 1996).

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PETER M.M.G. AKKERMANS
National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden
GLENN M. SCHWARTZ
The Johns Hopkins University

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PREFACE

This book was written to fill the need for a synthetic discussion of the results of recent archaeological fieldwork in Syria. Because of the overwhelming abundance of data as well as their respective research strengths, the authors divided the material chronologically between them. Thus, Akkermans wrote chapters 2–5 and Schwartz wrote chapters 6–11; the introductory and concluding chapters were jointly written. The order of the authors' names on the title page is alphabetical.

Both authors wish to express their immense debt to the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums, Syria, which encouraged and supported the extensive research discussed in this volume. We offer this book as a tribute to our Syrian colleagues and friends, who have been extraordinarily helpful both personally and in the cause of archaeology in Syria.

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Both authors wish to thank the anonymous reviewers for their comments and suggestions.

In this book, the spellings of site names are generally those employed by the excavators.

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