

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57652-9 - The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society

Rita P. Wright

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Figures, Tables, and Boxes</i>	<i>page</i> xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xvii
1 A Long-Forgotten Civilization	1
A Civilization Rediscovered	4
Reconstructing a Long-Forgotten Civilization	11
Perspectives on Civilizations	15
Theoretical Perspective	19
The Indus Civilization: Chronologies of Indus Antecedents, Coalescence, Decline, and Transformations	21
Rethinking Perspectives on the Indus Civilization	23
2 Geographical and Environmental Settings	25
Factors to Consider in Assessing Differences between Past and Present	26
Geography and Climate Today	27
Geographical Setting	27
Climate	28
Climate Change Before, During, and After Peak Periods of Settlement	29
The Indus in the Past – Documenting Landscape and River System Dynamics	33
The Upper and Lower Indus	33
The Ghaggar-Hakra	37
The Ganges-Yamuna	38
New Solutions and Perspectives on Climate Change	38
Conclusions	44
3 From Foraging to Farming and Pastoralism	45
From Hunting and Gathering to Farming	48
Focus on Mehrgarh – The Choice of a Site and the Establishment of a Chronology	51

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57652-9 - The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society

Rita P. Wright

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

A First Village (7000–4000 B.C.)	54
Subsistence	56
Architecture	57
Burial Patterns	58
Material Culture and Technology	59
External Contacts	63
Summary – Period I/II	63
Villages at the Crossroads (4000–3200 B.C.)	64
Subsistence	65
Architecture	65
Burial Patterns	66
Material Culture and Technology	67
External Contacts	70
Summary – Period III	70
A Mosaic of Villages and Towns (3200–2500 B.C.)	71
Subsistence	71
Architecture	72
Burial Patterns	73
Material Culture and Technology	74
External Contacts	75
Summary – Period IV/VII	76
Settling Down: The Domestication of Plants and Animals, the Development of a Village Farming Community into a Sizable Town, and Expanded Interaction	76
4 An Era of Expansion and Transformation	79
An Age of Emerging Polities	80
Upper Indus – Harappa Excavations and the Pre-urban Period	81
Upper Indus – Ravi Phase	83
Upper Indus – Early Harappan/Kot Diji Phase	87
Upper Indus Regional Surveys Near Harappa	89
The Ghaggar-Hakra – Cholistan Survey	91
The Ghaggar-Hakra Plains – Hakra Phase	92
Ghaggar-Hakra Plains – Early Harappan/ Kot Diji Phase	93
Ghaggar-Hakra Settlements in Northwest India	95
Expansion of Settlements in the Upper Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra Plains	96
The Lower Indus Valley	96
Lower Indus Valley – Hakra and Kot Diji Phases	97

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57652-9 - The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society

Rita P. Wright

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

Contents	ix
Lower Indus Valley – Amri Phase	99
Expansion of Settlement in the Lower Indus	100
Beyond the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra	
Plains – Baluchistan	100
Pre-urban Ecological and Settlement Diversity	102
5 Urbanism and States: Cities, Regions, and Edge Zones	106
Indus Cities and States – The First Urban Climax	107
Indus Cities	110
City Plans and Physical Layouts	115
Nonresidential Structures	117
Public Works	122
Walls and Separated Sectors (Neighborhoods)	124
City Plans and Physical Layouts Summarized –	
Nonresidential Structures, Public Works,	
Walls, and Neighborhoods	126
City and Countryside	127
The Upper Indus and Beas Regional	
Surveys near Harappa	127
The Ghaggar-Hakra Plain – Cholistan	
Regional Surveys	131
Ghaggar-Hakra Plain – Northwest	
India	133
The Lower Indus Regional Surveys	134
Interpreting the Evidence for Indus Cities,	
City-States, and Regional Surveys	136
Urbanism at Its Margins, Gateway Towns	
and Edge Zones	138
Uniformity and Diversity – Cities, Regions	
and Edge Zones	142
6 Agropastoral and Craft-Producing Economies I –	
Intensification and Specialization	145
Craft Production	148
Craft Production and Intensification	148
Craft Production and Specialization – Resource	
Availability and Selection, Technical Skills,	
and Specialized Production	152
Ceramic Production	153
Stoneware Bangle Production	158
Seal Production	160
Intensification and Specialization of Craft	
Production	166

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57652-9 - The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society

Rita P. Wright

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

x	Contents
Agropastoral Production	166
Agriculture and Intensification	166
Specialization of Cropping Patterns and Regional Diversity	169
Pastoralism and Intensification	170
Pastoralism – Specialization and Regional Diversity	173
Continued Use of Wild Plants and Animals – Foraging and Fishing	174
Specialization and Intensification of the Agropastoral and Craft-Producing Economy	176
7 Agropastoral and Craft-Producing Economies II – Diversification, Organization of Production, and Distribution	179
Diversification and the Organization of Production, Distribution, and Exchange	180
Diversified Crafts and the Organization of Craft Production	182
Seal Production	183
Ceramic Production	187
Stoneware Bangle Production	188
The Diversification and Organization of Production – Seals, Ceramics, and Stoneware Bangles	188
Diversification of Raw Materials and Finished Products – The Organization of Interregional Exchange	189
Chert	189
Lapis Lazuli	193
Carnelian, Chalcedony, Agate, and Jasper	194
Limestone	195
Precious Metals – Copper, Gold, Lead, Silver, and Tin	196
Shell	198
Steatite	200
Diversification of Craft Production, Organization, and Distribution	201
Diversification of Land, Labor, and the Organization of Agropastoral Production	203
Diversification of Farming – Multicropping, Plow Agriculture, Crop Processing, Fiber Crops, and Aboriculture	203
Diversification of Pastoralism – Specialized Breeds, Food and Fiber, Animal Provisioning, Mobility, and the Organization of Production	207

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57652-9 - The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society

Rita P. Wright

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

Contents	xi
The Organization of Interregional Exchange of Plant and Animal Products	210
Agropastoral and Craft-Producing Economies – Intensification, Specialization, Diversification, and the Organization of Production and Distribution	212
8 The Lure of Distant Lands	215
The Lure of Distant Lands – Dilmun, Magan, and Meluhha	215
Mapping the Third Millennium B.C.	216
Indus and Mesopotamian Contact by Sea and Over Land – Texts and Archaeology	221
Indus Contact beyond Mesopotamia – By Sea and Over Land	225
Indus Contacts along Maritime Routes	225
Indus Contacts along Overland Routes	228
The Indus and an Interconnected Third – Millennium World	230
9 Landscapes of Order and Difference – The Cultural Construction of Space, Place, and Social Difference	233
Landscapes as Community Identity – Mohenjo-daro, Dholavira, and Harappa	235
Landscapes as Social Order	242
Space and Public Works	242
Interior Spaces and Social Differences	248
Landscapes and Memory	262
The R37 Cemetery and Cemetery H at Harappa	263
The Cemetery at Kalibangan	267
Human Remains at Mohenjo-daro	268
Death and Memory in the Indus	269
Community Identity, Social Order, and Memory	271
10 Models for Indus Religious Ideologies	274
Direct Historical Analogies and the Study of Indus Religion	275
Identifying Ceremonial Places	275
Terracotta Masks, Figurines, and Narrative Imagery	277
New Approaches to Uncovering Indus Ideologies	282
Comparative Study of Early Civilizations	282
Alternative Visions – Masks and Figurines	284
Terracotta Masks	285

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-57652-9 - The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society

Rita P. Wright

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xii	Contents
Terracotta Figurines	285
Alternative Visions – Seal and Tablet	
Narrative Imagery	288
Themes and Motifs in Indus Narrative Imagery	290
Decoding Indus Narrative	293
Cross-Cultural Comparisons	297
Mesopotamian Seal Imagery	297
Iranian Seal Imagery	299
Rethinking Indus Religion and World Views. Shared	
Vocabularies, Modes of Presentation	
and Systems of Thought	301
An Indus Pantheon, Elements of Order, and	
Conceptions of Power and Hierarchy	303
11 The Decline and Transformation and the Comparative	
Study of Early States	308
The Decline and Transformation of the Indus	309
Causes of a General Nature	312
Environmental Changes – Climate, Precipitation,	
and River Courses	312
Massacres and Aryan Invasions	313
Disruptions and Changes in Intercultural Trade	314
Shifting Regional Histories, Transformations,	
and Decline – Causes of a Local Nature	315
Upper Indus (Cemetery H/Late Harappan)	315
Lower Indus – Late Harappan and Jhukar Styles	316
Post-urban/Late Harappan: The Ghaggar-Hakra	
(Cholistan and Northwest India)	317
Post-urban/Late Harappan – Kutch, Gujarat,	
and Sorath Harappan	318
Borderland Regions – Afghanistan and Baluchistan	
(West and Southern Margins)	320
Collapse, Transition, or Transformation – Culture	
Traits and Political Structure	320
Cycles of Change or Breakdown of Society	324
The Indus Civilization in Comparative Perspective	325
The Harappan Economy and Society	326
Indus Urbanism and City-States	330
<i>Notes</i>	339
<i>Bibliography</i>	345
<i>Index</i>	385