

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page vi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>ix</i>
1	The rediscovery of the ancient Near East: the physical environment 1
2	History, chronology and social organisation 16
3	Patterns of settlement and agriculture 37
4	Town planning and temple architecture 60
5	Public buildings and private housing 89
6	Upper Mesopotamia 115
7	Life, death and the meaning of the universe 135
8	Manufacturing industries 158
9	Trade 177
10	Writing and the arts 193
11	Conclusions: the development of Sumerian society 214
	<i>References 222</i>
	<i>Index 234</i>