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978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOUTH ASIA

This book offers a critical synthesis of the archaeology of South Asia from the Neolithic period (c. 6500 BCE), when domestication began, to the spread of Buddhism accompanying the Mauryan Emperor Asoka's reign (third century BCE). The authors examine the growth and character of the Indus civilisation, with its town planning, sophisticated drainage systems, vast cities and international trade. They also consider the strong cultural links between the Indus civilisation and the second, later period of South Asian urbanism which began in the first millennium BCE and developed through the early first millennium CE. In addition to comparing the evidence for emerging urban complexity, this book gives equal weight to interactions between rural and urban communities across South Asia and considers the critical roles played by rural areas in social and economic development. The authors explore how narratives of continuity and transformation have been formulated in analyses of South Asia's Prehistoric and Early Historic archaeological record.

Robin Coningham is UNESCO Chair in Archaeological Ethics and Practice in Cultural Heritage at Durham University. He has participated in more than twenty UNESCO missions and currently codirects UNESCO's excavations in Nepal at Tilaurakot and Lumbini, the birthplace of the Buddha. He has published eight books and more than eighty papers and chapters.

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978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of Illustrations, Timelines and Boxes</i>	<i>page</i> xii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xix

PART I THE CONTEXT

I Introduction and Definitions	3
Scope and Themes	3
Chronological and Geographical Span	6
Key Concepts and Their Archaeological Indicators	10
Differentiation and Social Inequality	11
Urban Form	12
Craft Specialisation	15
Indo-Aryan/Indo-European	16
Complexity	17
Collapse and Transformation	18
Nomenclature and Terminologies	20
Chronologies in South Asia	23
Traditions, Eras and Phases	25
Dating Conventions in the Text	30
Conclusions	30
2 Environment and Culture: South Asia's Environmental, Linguistic and Religious Patterns	32
Introduction	32
Definitions of South Asia	33
The Main Geographical Features of South Asia	35
Mountains and Rivers: Barriers or Opportunities?	39
Areas of Attraction and Areas of Relative Isolation	45
Major Changes in the Environment of South Asia, The Last 10,000 Years, and Their Impact	46
Summary of Some of the Major Environmental Changes in the Holocene	46
Major Linguistic Families of South Asia	53
Caste in South Asia	57

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

	Religious Identities in South Asia	61
	Conclusions	66
3	Histories of South Asian Archaeology	67
	Introduction	67
	Trading and Colonial Beginnings	69
	From the Early Twentieth Century to Partition	77
	Foundations of Postcolonial Archaeology	85
	Post-Partition Archaeology	90
	Conclusions	96
PART II THE INDUS VALLEY TRADITION (c. 6500–1900 BCE)		
4	Food Producers: Multiple Neolithics (c. 6500–2000 BCE)	103
	Introduction	103
	Baluchistan	108
	Mehrgarh	109
	Kashmir-Swat	119
	Ganga Basin and Vindhyan Escarpment	127
	Western India and Gujarat	130
	Peninsular India	131
	Sri Lanka	136
	Conclusions	137
5	Regionalisation and Differentiated Communities (c. 5000–2600 BCE)	141
	Introduction	141
	An Era of Regionalisation? (c. 5000–3200 BCE)	145
	Variation and Material Culture	147
	The Baluchistan Uplands	148
	Kili Gul Muhammad Phase (c. 4300–3500 BCE)	149
	Kechi Beg Phase (c. 3500–3000 BCE)	151
	Damb Sadaat Phase (c. 3000–2600 BCE)	151
	The Lower Indus Plain	153
	Balakot Phase (c. 4000–3500 BCE)	153
	Amri Phase (c. 3600–3000 BCE)	154
	The Punjab	157
	Hakra/Ravi Phase (c. 3500–2700 BCE)	157
	The Helmand Tradition (c. 3500–2800 BCE)	159
	Anticipating Integration	160
	Kot Diji Phase (c. 3200–2600 BCE)	160
	Conclusions	168
6	An Era of Integration: The Indus Civilisation (c. 2600–1900 BCE)	177
	Introduction	177
	Physical Spread and Setting	178
	History of Discovery and Interpretation	180
	What Characterises the Integration Era?	182

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

ix

Settlements of the Indus Valley Tradition	183
Mohenjo-daro	184
Harappa	189
Dholavira	190
Rakhigarhi and Ganweriwala	192
Urban and Rural Sites of the Indus Valley Tradition	192
Public Buildings, Palaces, Granaries, Great Halls or Warehouses?	202
Baths, Drains and Wells	204
Cemeteries	206
Seals, Sealings and Script	211
Weights and Measures	213
Sourcing, Manufacturing and Redistribution	216
The Baluchistan Uplands and the Indo-Iranian Plateau	224
The Helmand Basin	226
The Arabian Sea	229
Conclusions	234
7 Localisation: Transformations of a System (c. 1900–1200 BCE).....	241
Introduction	241
Regional Analysis	245
The Northern Valleys	246
Western India	248
The Punjab/Cemetery H	250
The Lower Indus	254
The Baluchistan Uplands	257
The Helmund Basin	259
The Arabian Sea	263
Theories of Collapse	263
Invasions	265
Floods and Sea Level Change	267
River Shift	268
Wearing Out the Landscape, Salinity and New Crops	270
Climate Change	271
Epidemics	272
Trade Collapse	272
Multicausal Explanations	274
Conclusions	275
PART III THE EARLY HISTORIC TRADITION (c. 1900–200 BCE)	
8 South Asia: Transformations and Continuities (c. 1900–1200 BCE).....	281
Introduction	281
Regional Analysis	290
The Northern Valleys	290
Gandharan Grave Culture (c. 1700–1400 BCE)	290

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

Contents

The Ganga-Yamuna Doab	297
Ochre Coloured Pottery Phase (c. 1750–1250 BCE)	297
Western India and the Deccan	298
Ahar-Banas Phase (c. 3000–1500 BCE)	300
Kayatha Phase (c. 2000–1700 BCE)	302
Malwa Phase (c. 1700–1500 BCE)	303
Jorwe Phase (c. 1500–900 BCE)	305
Peninsular India (c. 2100–1700 BCE)	308
Sri Lanka (c. 2300–1000 BCE)	310
Conclusions	311
9 The Re-Emergence of Regional Differentiation	
(c. 1200–600 BCE)	315
Introduction	315
Taxila, Charsadda and the Northern Valleys (c. 1200–600 BCE)	324
The Bannu Basin (c. 900–600 BCE)	330
The Helmand Basin	331
Mundigak (c. 1500–1000 BCE)	331
Kandahar (c. 1200–600 BCE)	332
Baluchistan	332
Pirak (c. 1300–800 BCE)	332
The Arabian Sea (c. 1300–600 BCE)	333
The Ganga Basin	333
Painted Grey Ware Phase (c. 1200–600 BCE)	333
The Deccan	337
Late Jorwe Phase (c. 1000–700 BCE)	337
Peninsular India	339
Black and Red Ware (c. 1200–600 BCE)	339
Megalithic Sites	339
Settlement Sites	344
Sri Lanka	348
Anuradhapura (c. 1000–600 BCE)	348
Conclusions	350
10 Reintegration: Towards an Early Historic World	
(c. 600–250 BCE)	354
Introduction	354
Key Challenges and Constraints	356
The Helmand Basin	363
The Oxus	370
The Bannu Basin	372
The Northern Valleys	372
The Vale of Peshawar	376
The Taxila Valley	377
The Arabian Sea	379
The Ganga Basin and Central India	380
Peninsular India	386
Sri Lanka	390
Conclusions	396

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

<i>Contents</i>	xi
II The Mauryans and the Asokan Ideal (c. 321–185 BCE)	406
Introduction	406
Physical Spread and Setting	410
What Characterises the Era of Mauryan Integration?	412
Settlements of the Mauryan Empire	415
Urban and Rural Sites of the Mauryan Empire	427
Public Buildings	433
Script, Boulders and Pillars	444
Sourcing, Manufacturing and Redistribution	447
Conclusions	450
PART IV CONCLUSIONS	
12 Conclusions and Challenges	461
Introduction	461
Legacies of the Mauryan Empire	464
Asoka's Successors	467
Transformations and Continuities	474
Prospect	487
<i>References</i>	493
<i>Index</i>	523

ILLUSTRATIONS, TIMELINES AND BOXES

ILLUSTRATIONS

1.1	Map of South Asia showing modern nation states	<i>page</i> 4
2.1	View of the Himalayas from Pokhara, Nepal	34
2.2	Map showing South Asia's tectonic plates	35
2.3	View of the Padma River, Bangladesh	36
2.4	Ploughing in Rajbari District, Bangladesh	37
2.5	View of Brahmagiri, India	38
2.6	View of the Western Ghats from Madurai, India	39
2.7	View of tank and bund complex from Yapahuwa, Sri Lanka	40
2.8	View of the Horton Plains, Sri Lanka	40
2.9	Map showing monsoon circulation	42
2.10	View of the Hindu Kush from Malam Jabba in the Swat Valley, Pakistan	43
2.11	View across Karimabad to the Hunza River and the Hindu Kush, Pakistan	44
2.12	Map showing the distribution of Indo-European languages	54
2.13	Map showing the distribution of non-Indo-European languages	56
3.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 3	68
3.2	Asokan pillar on the Firoz Shah Kotla, Delhi, India	70
3.3	Engraving of William Jones (1746–1794)	71
3.4	Early illustration of an Asokan edict by Postans in 1838	72
3.5	Alexander Cunningham (1814–1893) as a young man	72
3.6	Alexander Cunningham's plan of the Taxila Valley	75
3.7	Meadows Taylor's early recording of stratigraphy in the 1850s	78
3.8	Harappa railway station, Pakistan	78
3.9	Taxila Museum, Pakistan	79
3.10	Mortimer Wheeler (1890–1976) on fieldwork at the Bala Hisar of Charsadda, Pakistan	82
3.11	Wheeler's box grid in action in Sri Lanka	82
3.12	The old French Jesuit Mission at Arikamedu, India	84
3.13	Mortimer Wheeler's section at the Bala Hisar of Charsadda, Pakistan	87
3.14	Looters excavating the Indo-Greek city of Shaikhan Dheri, Pakistan	96

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Illustrations, Timelines and Boxes*

xiii

3.15	The standing Buddha of Bamiyan before its destruction, Afghanistan	97
3.16	The Bombing Temple of Tooth in Kandy, Sri Lanka	98
3.17	Graffiti on Buddha carving in the Swat Valley, Pakistan	99
4.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 4	104
4.2	View up the Bolan Pass, Pakistan	108
4.3	Plan of the site of Mehrgarh, Pakistan	110
4.4	Mud-brick compartmentalised structure at Mehrgarh, Pakistan	111
4.5	Deep section at Mehrgarh, Pakistan	112
4.6	Map of sites in the Northern Valleys	120
4.7	View across the Kashmir Valley, India	120
4.8	The site of Burzahom, India	121
4.9	The cave site of Ghaligai, Pakistan	123
4.10	Section of pits at Kalako-deray, Pakistan	125
4.11	'Pit Dwelling' at Kalako-deray, Pakistan	126
4.12	Plan of the site of Mahagara, India	129
4.13	Plan of the site of Utnur, India	132
4.14	Section through the ash mound at Utnur, India	133
4.15	Plan of structure built within boulders at Tekkalakota, India	134
4.16	Plan of building at Tekkalakota, India	135
5.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 5	142
5.2	Plan of mud-brick platform at Damb Sadaat, Pakistan	152
5.3	Map showing the location of Amri, Pakistan	155
5.4	The site of Amri, Pakistan	156
5.5	Plan of the site of Amri, Pakistan	157
5.6	Ravi phase levels on Mound AB at Harappa, Pakistan	158
5.7	Plan of the residential structures at Area A at Mundigak during Period II-3, Afghanistan	159
5.8	Kot Dijian phase walls around Harappa, Pakistan	161
5.9	Air photograph of Rehman Dheri, Pakistan	166
5.10	Building visible on surface at Rehman Dheri, Pakistan	167
5.11	Map showing settlement patterns in Cholistan during the Regionalisation Era	168
5.12	The site of Shahr-i Sokhta, Iran	170
5.13	Seals from Rehman Dheri, Pakistan	173
6.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 6	179
6.2	Map of key Indus sites	184
6.3	Plan of the city of Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan	185
6.4	The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan	186
6.5	Plan of the Granary at Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan	187
6.6	The 'Granary' at Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan	187
6.7	Lane view in the Lower Town of Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan	188
6.8	Circular brick 'grain-threshing' platforms on Mound F at Harappa, Pakistan	190
6.9	The 'granary' at Harappa, Pakistan	190
6.10	Plan of the city of Dholavira, India	191
6.11	Plan of the site of Kalibangan, India	193
6.12	Plan of the site of Banawali, India	194

6.13	Plan of the site of Lothal, India	195
6.14	Street view in Lothal, India	196
6.15	The ‘Warehouse’ at Lothal, India	197
6.16	Isometric plan of the ‘Warehouse’ at Lothal, India	198
6.17	Lothal ‘dock’ and sluice, India	199
6.18	Plan of the site of Surkotada, India	199
6.19	Plan of the site of Kuntasi, India	200
6.20	Map showing settlement patterns in Cholistan during the Integration Era	201
6.21	Buildings at Nausharo, Pakistan	202
6.22	Bathroom and drain in the Lower Town of Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan	205
6.23	Plan of burial within Cemetery R37 at Harappa, Pakistan (i)	207
6.24	Plan of burial within Cemetery R37 at Harappa, Pakistan (ii)	208
6.25	Plan of part of the cemetery at Lothal, India (i)	209
6.26	Plan of part of the cemetery at Lothal, India (ii)	210
6.27	Distribution map of seals	212
6.28	Indus unicorn seal	213
6.29	Indus seals and sealings	214
6.30	Indus weights from Shikarpur	215
6.31	Semi-precious stone debitage and working in Kutch, India	219
6.32	Plan of Mundigak, Afghanistan	226
6.33	Plan of Palace at Mundigak, Afghanistan	227
6.34	Plan of Shahi-i Sokhta, Iran	228
6.35	Two of the tower tombs at Bat, Oman	233
7.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 7	246
7.2	Plan and section of structures at Kalako-deray, Pakistan	248
7.3	Urn burial from Cemetery H in the Harappa Museum, Pakistan	254
7.4	Map showing settlement patterns in Cholistan during the Localisation Era	255
7.5	The site of Jhukar, Pakistan	256
7.6	The site of Pirak, Pakistan	258
7.7	Isometric plan of building at Pirak, Pakistan, in Period IIb	259
7.8	Terracotta camel from Pirak, Pakistan, Period II	260
7.9	Terracotta horse from Pirak, Pakistan, Period II	260
7.10	Plan of buildings at Pirak, Pakistan, in Period IIIa	261
7.11	Isometric plan of the stepped structure on Mound A at Mundigak, Afghanistan	262
7.12	Skeletons in the lane between Houses CVIII and XXXIII, VS Area, Mohenjo-daro	264
8.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 8	282
8.2	Anthropomorph from the ‘Copper Hoard Culture’ in the National Museum, New Delhi, India	288
8.3	Harpoon from the ‘Copper Hoard Culture’ in the National Museum, New Delhi, India	289
8.4	Map of sites associated with the Gandharan Grave Culture	291
8.5	Plan and section of Gandharan Grave Culture burial at Kherai, Pakistan	294

Illustrations, Timelines and Boxes

xv

8.6	Gandharan Grave Culture burial at Timargarha, Pakistan	295
8.7	Anthropomorphic vessel from the Gandharan Grave Cemetery at Timargarha, Pakistan	295
8.8	The Bala Hisar of Charsadda, Pakistan	296
8.9	Plan and section of 'pit-dwellings' at Bir-kot-ghwandai, Pakistan	296
8.10	Plan of buildings at Lal Qila, India	299
8.11	Plan of the site of Ahar, India	300
8.12	Plan of buildings in Trenches F and G at Ahar, India	301
8.13	Plan of buildings at Navdatoli, India	303
8.14	Plan of buildings at Inamgaon, India, during the Malwa Phase	306
8.15	Intramural urn burial at Inamgaon, India (i)	307
8.16	Intramural urn burial at Inamgaon, India (ii)	308
8.17	Plan of buildings at Daimabad, India, during the Jorwe Phase	309
8.18	View of the Prehistoric settlement at Brahmagiri, India	310
9.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 9	316
9.2	Iron swords in the Indian Museum, Kolkata, India	322
9.3	Antennae swords in the Vellore Government Museum, India	323
9.4	Plan of buildings at Aligrama, Pakistan	326
9.5	Plan of the early buildings at Balambat, Pakistan	327
9.6	Excavation trench at the Bala Hisar of Charsadda, Pakistan	330
9.7	Plan of buildings at Inamgaon, India, during the Late Jorwe Phase	338
9.8	Cists with portholes at Hire Benekal, India	340
9.9	Map of megalithic cemeteries in the Deccan and Peninsular India	341
9.10	Terracotta sarcophagus in the Kanchipuram Government Museum, India	342
9.11	Plan of the megalithic cemetery at Brahmagiri, India	343
9.12	Circular buildings within the Citadel of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	349
9.13	Megalithic cemetery at Ibbankatuva, Sri Lanka	349
9.14	Plan of the megalithic cemetery at Ibbankatuva, Sri Lanka	350
10.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 10	355
10.2	Map of major Early Historic trade routes	357
10.3	Map of the <i>Mahajanapadas</i>	359
10.4	Map showing the location of the site of Dahan-e Gholaman, Iran	364
10.5	Plan of Building QN3 at Dahan-e Gholaman, Iran	365
10.6	Isometric plan of Building QN3 at Dahan-e Gholaman, Iran	366
10.7	Altar oven in Building QN3 at Dahan-e Gholaman, Iran	366
10.8	Portico of QN3 at Dahan-e Gholaman, Iran	367
10.9	Plan of the city of Old Kandahar, Afghanistan	368
10.10	Section through the city walls at Old Kandahar, Afghanistan	369
10.11	The town wall at Bir-kot-ghwandai, Pakistan	373
10.12	The settlement of Aligrama, Pakistan	374
10.13	The 'Achaemenid' buildings at Balambat, Pakistan	375
10.14	Plan of the 'Achaemenid' buildings at Balambat, Pakistan	375
10.15	The Hathial Mound in the Taxila Valley, Pakistan	378
10.16	Map of key sites within the Ganga Basin	380
10.17	Plan of the city of Rajgir and section through the rampart of New Rajgir, India	382

10.18	The fortified valley of Rajgir, India	383
10.19	Gateway through Rajgir's walls, India	383
10.20	Plan of the city of Ujjain and section through its ramparts, India	385
10.21	Cist burial at Brahmagiri, India	387
10.22	Pit burial at Brahmagiri, India	387
10.23	Section of Megalith X at Brahmagiri, India	388
10.24	Plan of Megalith X at Brahmagiri, India	389
10.25	Plan of square building within the Citadel of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	391
10.26	Square building within the Citadel of Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	391
10.27	First phase of the city rampart at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	392
10.28	Grey Ware vessel from Anuradhapura engraved with a ship, Sri Lanka	395
10.29	Map of the Persian Empire	397
10.30	Gold Achaemenid foundation slab in the National Museum, Tehran, Iran	398
10.31	The Great Staircase at Persepolis, Iran	399
10.32	Plan of the palace at Persepolis, Iran	400
10.33	The Citadel of Kandahar	401
11.1	Map of sites mentioned in Chapter 11	407
11.2	The Great <i>Stupa</i> of Sanchi, India	415
11.3	Map of key sites associated with South Asian Buddhism	416
11.4	Plan of an idealised city from the <i>Arthashastra</i>	420
11.5	The wooden palisade of Pataliputra, Patna, India	421
11.6	City rampart and moat at Mahasthangarh, Bangladesh	422
11.7	Asokan rock edict at Mansehra, Pakistan	423
11.8	The winding streets of the Bhir Mound, Pakistan	424
11.9	Plan of the street layout of the Bhir Mound, Pakistan	425
11.10	Aerial photograph of the city of Sisupalgarh, India	426
11.11	Plan of an idealised kingdom from the <i>Arthashastra</i>	428
11.12	Plan of the site of Bhita, India	429
11.13	Plan of street layout in Bhita, India	430
11.14	Early Brahmi inscription at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	433
11.15	Plan of the Pillared Hall at Patna, India	434
11.16	Elevation of the Pillared Hall at Patna, India	435
11.17	<i>Stupa</i> of Gotihawa with Asokan pillar in foreground, Nepal	437
11.18	The Asokan edict at Niglihawa, Nepal	441
11.19	Plan of the Buddhist shrine at Lumbini, Nepal	442
11.20	The Asokan pillar at Lumbini, Nepal	443
11.21	Plan and section of the Buddhist shrine at Bairat, India	443
11.22	Asoka capital at Sarnath, India	445
11.23	The Asokan edict at Taxila, Pakistan	446
11.24	Detail of Rouletted Ware from Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka	448
11.25	View across Khor Rori towards the natural harbour, Oman	449
11.26	Alternative map of the Mauryan Empire (after Smith 2008)	453
11.27	Pillars at Persepolis, Iran	454
11.28	The Asokan pillar at Lauriya-Nandangarh	455

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Illustrations, Timelines and Boxes*

xvii

12.1	View across the Main Street of Sirkap in the Taxila Valley, Pakistan	468
12.2	The city wall of Sirkap in the Taxila Valley, Pakistan	468
12.3	The Temple of the Double-Headed Eagle at Sirkap in the Taxila Valley, Pakistan	470
12.4	Map of the Kushan Empire	472
12.5	Stirup bastion at Sirsukh in the Taxila Valley, Pakistan	473
12.6	The discovery of the 'Priest King' at Mohenjo-daro	484

TIMELINES

1.1	General timeline for the Indus Valley and Early Historic Traditions	8
4.1	Timeline for Chapter 4	105
5.1	Timeline for Chapter 5	142
6.1	Timeline for Chapter 6	180
7.1	Timeline for Chapter 7	247
8.1	Timeline for Chapter 8	283
9.1	Timeline for Chapter 9	317
10.1	Timeline for Chapter 10	356

BOXES

1.1	Childe and Urban Forms	13
1.2	What Are Microliths?	20
2.1	The South Asian Monsoon	41
2.2	Proxy Environmental Indicators	47
2.3	Pollen Evidence for Environmental Change	50
2.4	Early Historic Texts and Traditions	62
3.1	The East India Company	73
3.2	Mortimer Wheeler (1890–1976)	80
3.3	B. B. Lal	83
3.4	Romila Thapar	92
4.1	The Neolithic	106
4.2	Mehrgarh Human Skeletal Material	113
4.3	How Do We Identify Domesticates?	117
5.1	Seals and Sealings	143
5.2	Kalibangan	163
5.3	Rehman Dheri	164
6.1	Reconstructing the Location of Craft Activities	217
6.2	Indus Subsistence	221
6.3	Searching for Dilmun	230
7.1	Settlement Survey Methods	243
7.2	Cemetery R37 and Cemetery H	251
8.1	The Gandharan Grave Culture	284
8.2	The Copper Hoard Culture	291
9.1	Iron Technology	318
9.2	Brahmagiri	345

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84697-4 - The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka, c. 6500 BCE–200 CE

Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xviii

Illustrations, Timelines and Boxes

10.1	Ideology and Food	393
10.2	Punch-Marked Coins	402
11.1	Prinsep and the Rediscovery of Asoka	408
11.2	Urban Microcosms	417
11.3	Searching for Kapilavastu	438
12.1	Priest-Kings and Dancing Girls	481

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Robin Coningham and Ruth Young

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

xxi

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