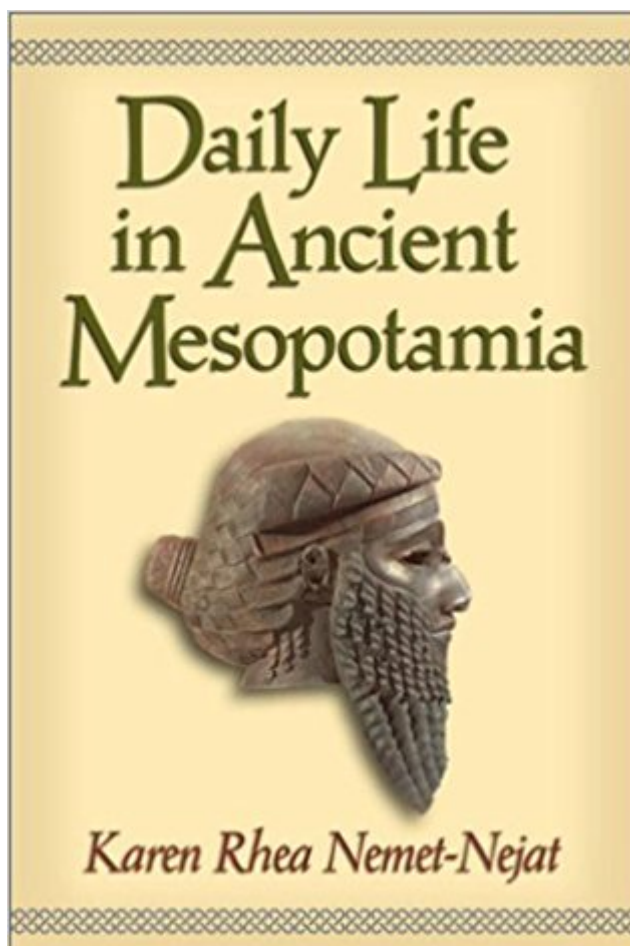


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# Daily Life In Ancient Mesopotamia



## Synopsis

This account brings the ancient world of Mesopotamia to life with details taken from primary texts such as economic records, scientific and mathematical texts, legal documents, official and personal correspondence, and magic and religious texts, drawing on the most recent discoveries of new excavations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Utilizing a generation of new scholarship, Karen Nemet-Nejat has given us a lively, up-to-date account of daily life in ancient Mesopotamia—from the foods that were eaten, the games that were played, the gods who were served, to methods of surveying and fortune-telling—in short, the whole gamut of life over two thousand years in one of the great literate civilizations of the ancient world.”—Robert D. Biggs, Professor of Assyriology, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago  
“The author has here distilled the essence of a vast number of studies and translations to craft a synthesis that is at once authoritative and eminently readable.”—William W. Hallo, The William M. Laffan Professor of Assyriology and Babylonian Literature, Yale University  
“Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia is a welcome addition for those who teach introductory courses on Mesopotamian (or Near Eastern) civilization and have searched in vain for a useful supplemental text.”—Journal of Near Eastern Studies -- Review

A fascinating tour through the highways and byways of a lost world. Dr. Nemet-Nejat's survey

covers every stratum of society, from courtier to slave, and every sphere of human activity, sacred and profane. (Raymond Westbrook<sup>^L</sup>Professor of Near Eastern Studies<sup>^L</sup>Johns Hopkins University)The excavation of the great cities of ancient Mesopotamia and the recovery of their cuneiform archives and libraries have combined to open a unique window on 'the first half of history.' The author has here distilled the essence of a vast number of studies and translations to craft a synthesis that is at once authoritative and eminently readable. (William W. Hallo<sup>^L</sup>Professor of Assyriology and Babylonian Literature<sup>^L</sup>Yale University)Utilizing a generation of new scholarship, Karen Nemet-Nejat has given us a lively, up-to-date account of daily life in ancient Mesopotamia--from the foods that were eaten, the games that were played, the gods who were served, to methods of surveying and fortune-telling--in short, the whole gamut of life over two thousand years in one of the great literate civilizations of the ancient world. (Robert Biggs<sup>^L</sup>Professor of Assyriology, Oriental Institute<sup>^L</sup>University of Chicago)This is an introduction, for the general reader and student, to the world of ancient Mesopotamia. It offers an unusually comprehensive survey of the range of Mesopotamian culture, society, and everyday activities, and does so in an easily accessible style. (Peter Machinist<sup>^L</sup>Hancock Professor of Hebrew and Other Oriental Languages<sup>^L</sup>Harvard University) --This text refers to the Digital edition.

Little boring

When I bought this book the price was \$19.95, a bit steep for a Kindle ebook but not at all unusual for an academic value like this. However, the price of this book rose to the \$50 region just for the Kindle versions! Even worse, every 5th download you have to pay the cover price again!This book used to be one of the best Sumer and Akkad references a person could buy. I depend heavily on both<sup>^A</sup> Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia (The Greenwood Press Daily Life Through History Series)<sup>^A</sup> and<sup>^A</sup> Ancient Near East: Historical Sources in Translation(Blackwell Sourcebooks in Ancient History)<sup>^A</sup> but I can no longer recommend either book because the pricing for the Kindle versions has become insane and greedy.

Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia is an excellent volume and highly recommended for the general audience, especially those who are interested in learning more about ancient Near Eastern backgrounds. Chapters center on major areas of life and society, for example, society, scholarship, recreation, religion, economy, and etc. Nemet-Nejat is sensitive to both the diachronic and synchronic development of topics so discussion is quite well developed in each chapter. With such

an arrangement, however, there is some repetition, though minor, throughout the book. The beginning historical review is very helpful, even if most brief, and sets the stage for the development of topics in each chapter. The author's strength is in the area of mathematics and technology and they get emphasis in the book. Less discussion is found on integrated matters like environmental issues. There is a wealth of material in this book and so much is covered it is a bit encyclopedic at times but, nevertheless, well done. This book will be of interest to students of ancient history or any seeking a greater appreciation of biblical background material. There are very limited reference to the Bible and some strange. Saul's change of mind (literally heart) is take by the author as "he went off his rocker," 81, an older and limited perspective, indeed. Karen Rhea Nemet-Nejat is conversant in many areas of ANE studies and balances her discussion with excerpts from ancient texts and relevant contemporary sources. The book would be enhanced by a better bibliography. The book is a welcome contribution to the field and will be a very informative to any who read it!

Nemet-Nejat has compiled a great deal of information into this book. Although the historical overview was a little long and dry, most of the book was very interesting. Nemet-Nejat quotes from a number of original writings of the ancient Mesopotamians, giving a unique view into the thinking and culture of this ancient civilization. The insights into education, religion, writing, and recreation were most interesting.

Informative and engrossing. Well-organized and well-researched. The best book on Mesopotamia I've read! It definitely gets a lot more of the daily-life issues correct than others (which occasionally suggest citizens lived in large two-story houses--what a joke). All books I've read, however, make the same error about the map pictured on the cover of an earlier version of this book--a circle with triangular shapes coming from it. This map is often mistakenly cited as partly being of Scandinavia, as it has been translated as "country where the sun has not been seen." An understandable mistake, but what it actually signifies is unknown country--no one has seen the sun there because no one from the known world at the time had explored it. A more comprehensive (intact) map would have shown that this symbol was only one part of the world, not the entire world. I hope Ms. Nemet-Nejat accepts this bit of information in the spirit in which it is offered. :-)

...very dissapointed to start reading the book of an "expert" by reading at the preface the phrase "with diverse ethnic groups occupying the region": what is an "ethnic" group in a pre-ethnic world?kpph.d. student in pol. sciences & history

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