

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455278903321
Autore	Algaze Guillermo <1954->
Titolo	Ancient Mesopotamia at the dawn of civilization [[electronic resource]] : the evolution of an urban landscape // Guillermo Algaze
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2008
ISBN	1-282-07030-4 9786612070303 0-226-01378-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (249 p.)
Disciplina	307.760935
Soggetti	Cities and towns, Ancient - Iraq City planning - Iraq Commerce, Prehistoric - Iraq Electronic books. Iraq Civilization To 634
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [193]-219) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The Sumerian takeoff -- Factors hindering our understanding of the Sumerian takeoff -- Modeling the dynamics of urban growth -- Early Mesopotamian urbanism : why? -- Early Mesopotamian urbanism : how? -- The evidence for trade -- Early Mesopotamian urbanism in comparative perspective -- The synergies of civilization -- Conclusion: The Mesopotamian conjuncture -- Epilogue: Early Sumerian civilization : a research agenda.
Sommario/riassunto	The alluvial lowlands of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in southern Mesopotamia are widely known as the "cradle of civilization," owing to the scale of the processes of urbanization that took place in the area by the second half of the fourth millennium BCE. In Ancient Mesopotamia at the Dawn of Civilization, Guillermo Algaze draws on the work of modern economic geographers to explore how the unique river-based ecology and geography of the Tigris-Euphrates alluvium affected the development of urban civilization in southern Mesopotamia. He argues that these natural conditions granted southern polities significant competitive advantages over their landlocked rivals elsewhere in

Southwest Asia, most importantly the ability to easily transport commodities. In due course, this resulted in increased trade and economic activity and higher population densities in the south than were possible elsewhere. As southern polities grew in scale and complexity throughout the fourth millennium, revolutionary new forms of labor organization and record keeping were created, and it is these socially created innovations, Algaze argues, that ultimately account for why fully developed city-states emerged earlier in southern Mesopotamia than elsewhere in Southwest Asia or the world.
