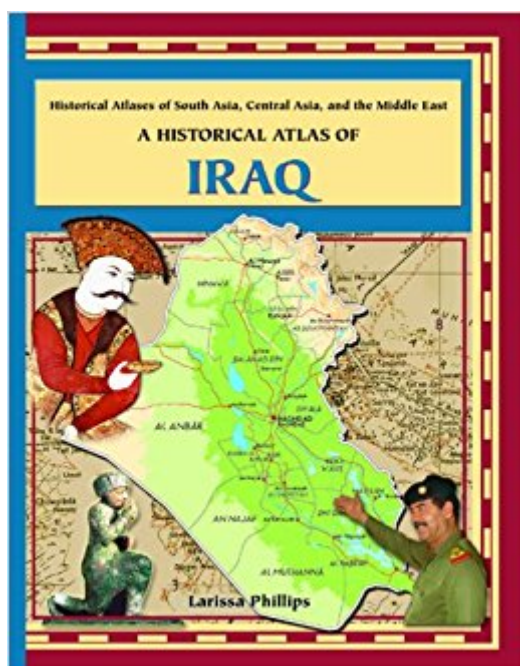


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A Historical Atlas Of Iraq (Historical Atlases Of South Asia, Central Asia And The Middle East)



Synopsis

Objective Portraits of the Geography, History, and Culture of Six Countries in This Complex Area of the World Asian and Middle Eastern countries are home to some of the world's richest and most complex cultures. Yet to the average student, these areas of the world sometimes conjure images of remote, political hotspots or cultures of religious fanaticism. This unique and timely geography series offers an objective portrait of south asia, central Asia and the Middle East while tracing each country's history to the present day. Using maps of the ancient to modern worlds as its foundation, each book explores pivotal historical moments, encompassing various periods of leadership, the rise and fall of empires, wars, conquests, and any other dramatic changes that affect each country and its surrounding environs. Special attention is paid to include facts about modern events such as the Iran hostage crisis, the Persian Gulf War, and the recent war in Afghanistan. Each book in this series contains rare maps, vivid photography, extensive captions, and resources that include a timeline, glossary, suggested reading list, and bibliography. An invaluable resource for young readers in today's world. Many empires have fought on Iraqi soil and claimed its territory as their own. In fact, few regions have experienced more war, more violent political upheaval, and more ruthless campaigns to oust potential enemies than Iraq. Here students can follow the history of the Sumerians, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, and Mongols, who have all lived and prospered in the region. With the United States's dependency on the Middle East for its oil, and the threat of Saddam Hussein's unconventional weaponsprograms, knowledge of Iraq's history is more essential now than ever before.

Book Information

Series: Historical Atlases of South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Rosen Publishing Group; 1st edition (January 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823938654

ISBN-13: 978-0823938650

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,067,570 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Reference > Atlases](#) #103 in [Books > Teens > Education &](#)

Reference > History > Middle East #160 in *Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Asia*

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

An atlas lacking accurate maps is a truly pathetic thing. Add a few biased cracks from out of nowhere, and you have this waste of paper which makes me shudder every time I think that taxpayer money paid to put this in my library. You deserve a few examples, so let's go, beginning with this doozy from page 37 - "Baghdad's calm and prosperity was about to end. Jews and Christians began to persecute Muslim groups." The somewhat slippery text implies that this was before the Buyid era, but gives no date and can't because it never happened! One of this booklet's many non sequiter paragraphs (v. page 38) starts with a throwaway statement about how for centuries (no time referent supplied) "the Islamic Empire" (specificity without referent) battling "Western (sic) Christian kingdoms

The "Historical Atlas of Iraq" provides a good, brief High School level overview of Mesopotamia and Iraq that concentrates as much on history as on maps. It covers the history of the area from about 3000 BC until 2002 AD, just before the current American involvement in Iraq. There are about 20 maps and also very nice illustrations, pictures, and text boxes on various topics. There are some minor disconnections between text and maps. For example, the text makes reference to the Zagros Mountains but these are not labeled on any of the map so that if you did not already know where they were you would need to look them up. Also, the book covers the period from Alexander the Great (about 320 BC) to the Arab conquest (about 650 AD) in just a few sentences, though to be fair this is the period of Mesopotamian history about which we know the least. There is a brief chapter for each of the major periods of Mesopotamian history along with accompanying illustrations and maps. One of the nice things about this book is that it does a good job discussing the modern history of the area, from about World War I forwards. So that any student looking for the background to current events can find a brief but balanced discussion here (it even includes a map of the First Gulf War). In the back of the book are suggestions for further reading and a listing of a few related websites. The publishers, perhaps realizing how quickly events were changing in the region, also include related links on their website.

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