

Charles Gates, **Ancient Cities. The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece and Rome, 2nd Edition**, London, Routledge, 2011, XXIII + 474 pages, ISBN 978-0-415-49864-7 (paperback), 978-0-5415-49865-4 (hardback), 978-0-203-83057-4 (e-book)

Charles Gates taught at the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill before joining the faculty staff at Bilkent in 1990. He is currently senior lecturer of archaeology and art history at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. Since 1993, he has participated in the excavations taking place at Kinet Höyük in Turkey, a Bronze and Iron Age port city on the shores of the northeast Mediterranean. His research focuses on Minoan, Mycenaean and Greek art and archaeology.

The book discussed presently represents the second edition of Gates' "Ancient Cities. The Archaeology of Urban Life in the Ancient Near East and Egypt, Greece and Rome", with the first edition published in 2003. As we find out from the introduction the text has been revised and updated and the illustrations have been reworked while a new chapter concerning Phoenician cities in the 1st millennium BC and new sections on Göbekli Tepe, Sinope, Deir el-Medina, London, Trier and Nîmes have been added. Last but not least the second edition comes with a very useful and user-friendly companion website, accessible at <http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415498647/>.

The book contains a total of XXIII + 474 pages and is structured as follows: contents (V-X), a list of illustrations (XI-XIX), preface (XX-XXI), preface to the 2nd edition (XXII-XXIII), a timeline, the introduction (1-10), 25 chapters (11-426), glossary (427-433), a list of books for further reading (434-440), bibliography (441-456), a list of illustration sources (457-464) and an index (465-474). The contents of the book is divided in three large parts: part one deals with cities of the near east and the eastern Mediterranean from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages, part two discusses Greek cities while part three focuses on cities of ancient Italy and the Roman Empire.

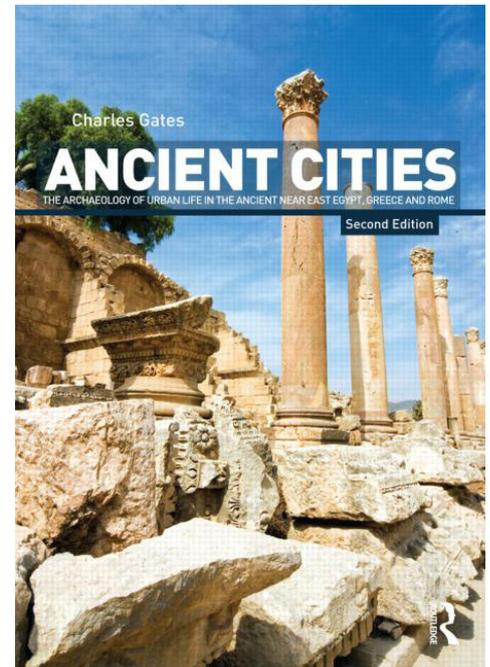
Each of the 25 chapters presents not only the urban archaeology and architectural history of the settlements in question but discusses as well other cultural aspects and political events and relationships that have influenced their developments. The broad structure is a presentation of the natural landscape and overall plan of the cities, their architecture – not only monumental, religious and civil complexes or the palaces of the kings – but also the average city dweller's house in some cases. Besides this, Charles Gates presents objects or artifacts that were part of everyday life: pottery, sculpture, wall paintings, mosaics, coins etc.

In the introductory chapter the author states that he rallies behind Gordon Childe's definition of a city and its characteristic features and that Fernand Braudel's concept of *longue durée* is the reason for the vast chronological period covered in the book: from the Neolithic Revolution (~9500 BC) until the period of Constantine the Great (4th century AD).

The first part of the book, entitled "Cities of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean: Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age" (11-202) comprises 11 chapters. Obviously, the focus is the earliest forms or urban

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settlements and how they developed in time: from Jericho and Çatalhöyük (Chapter 1, 11-28), to the early Sumerian cities (Uruk, the royal tombs from Ur, the Oval Temple at Khafajeh in Chapter 2, 30-51), the Mesopotamian cities that developed in the late 3rd and 2nd millennia BC (Lagash, Ur, the palace complex from Zimri-Lim in Chapter 3, 52-65). We are introduced in the urban civilization that developed in the Indus Valley, with Mohenjo-Daro, Lothal as examples in Chapter 4 (67-76). The urban settlements of Egypt are discussed in two chapters: Chapter 5 (78-97) focuses on the Egypt of the pyramids (Saqqara, Giza, the Sun Temple from Abu Gurab) while Chapter 6 (98-117) presents the Egyptian cities, temples and tombs of the 2nd millennium BC (with case studies from Thebes, Luxor, Karnal, Abu Simbel, the Valley of Kings). Chapter 7 (118-136) presents the Aegean Bronze Age towns and cities (Knossos and the Minoan period, Akrotiri, Mycenae and Pylos) while Chapter 8 (138-152) discusses the Anatolian Bronze Age cities of Troy and Hattusa. The Cypriots, Canaanites and Levantine Late Bronze Age trading cities are exemplified in Chapter 9 (153-164) by Enkomi, Ugarit and the two shipwrecks from Cape Gelidonya and Uluburun. Near Eastern Iron Age cities are discussed in Chapter 10 (167-189), the discussion focusing on northern Mesopotamia and its Neo-Assyrian cities, Kalhu (Nimrud), Dur-Sharrukin (Khorsabad), Nineveh, Babylon and Persepolis. Part one ends with a discussion of the Phoenician and Punic cities (Chapter 11, 189-200) of Tyre, Sidon, Gadir and Carthage.

Part two, entitled Greek Cities, contains 7 chapters. Chapter 12 (205-216) presents the Early Greek city-states of the Iron Age (11th to 7th centuries BC): Charles Gates discusses the historical background, how the polis appeared and case studies include Zagora, the cemeteries of Lefkandi and Athens, the sanctuary of Hera from Samos. The chapter ends with a discussion of votive offerings, the contacts that existed between cities in this period, writing and coinage. Chapter 13 (219-226) presents the architectural orders of Greek architecture, exemplified by the temples from Themon, Olympia, Kerkyra, Samos and Ephesus. The East Greek cities of Samos and Miletus are also presented. Chapter 14 (228-237) focuses on the archaic Greek cities of Sparta and Athens and ends with a discussion of the Persian Wars. Chapter 15 (238-245) exemplifies the Greek sanctuaries from Delphi and Olympia. Chapter 1 (252-264) is entirely dedicated to the evolution of Athens in the 5th century BC and the topics touched upon by the author are the Acropolis, the Theater of Dionysos and the houses and the Agora. Chapter 17 (269-282) presents the Greek cities and sanctuaries of the Late Classical period: Asklepios' sanctuary from Epidauros, Priene, the houses from Olynthos and the royal burials from Vergina and Halikarnassos. Part two ends with a discussion about Hellenistic cities (Chapter 18, 286-304). Examples

include Didyma with its temple dedicated to Apollo and the cities of Pergamon, Alexandria, the port-city of Delos and Sinope.

In part three of the book – also comprising seven chapters – we are presented the Cities of Ancient Italy and the Roman Empire. Chapter 19 (307-327) presents the Greek cities of Paestum and Syracuse and also the influence and role of the Etruscans. The city of Rome is discussed in the next two chapters. Chapter 20 (328-347) focuses on the development of Rome from its origins to the end of the Republic while Chapter 21 (348-355) is dedicated entirely to Rome in the age of Augustus. Chapter 22 (356-370) contains two case studies of the cities of Pompeii and Ostia. Chapter 23 (371-392) again focuses on Rome from Nero to Hadrian and the discussion focuses on its palaces, temples, commemorative monuments, civic buildings and imperial tombs. Chapter 24 (393-413) presents Roman provincial cities: Athens, Ephesus, Pergamon, Perge, Palmyra, Gerasa, Lepcis Magna, Nemausus, Londinium and Augusta Treverorum. Part three ends with a discussion in Chapter 25 (414-426) about Late Antique transformations: Rome, Jerusalem and Constantinople in the age of Constantine.

The book benefits from great illustrations, the work of Neslihan Yilmaz, in total amounting to 320, each of them clearly referenced in the text. In addition, every chapter begins with a short chronological text box which help the reader achieve a clear overview of the period. Overall Charles Gates tends to focus more on presenting urban life from the point of view of the elites: the study clearly focuses on the vast architectural complexes, palaces, temples, great tombs but notable exceptions can be found (e.g. the houses from Pompeii, 361-365, or the discussion about the Athenian residential areas, 264-266).

Last but not least the book is accompanied by another excellent study instrument: the companion website containing an interactive timeline that aids a lot in understanding the chronology and dates mentioned in the book and resources for every chapter: a full glossary, even more illustrations, flashcards to help students understand the topic and afterwards quiz them, a chapter study guide and a series of useful internet links, not only to bibliography but also leading to websites of major archaeological dig sites.

The book itself is an excellent study guide for the students of archaeology but combined with the companion website it becomes an incredibly useful tool for classroom teaching. Overall Charles Gates provided an excellent and exciting introductory book to urban life as it existed in ancient times. Both students of archaeology and the public will enjoy the ease of style, the explanations, how the illustrations connect and help the understanding of the text and how every topic is again covered and synthesized in the companion website.