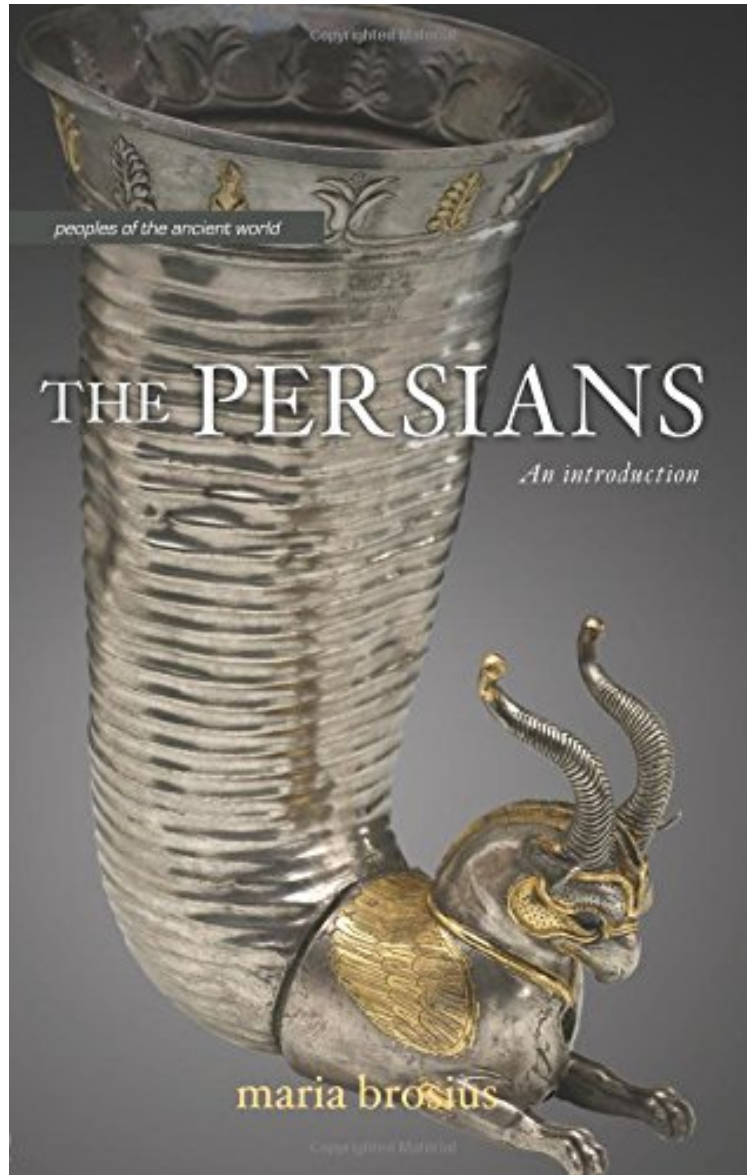


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The Persians (Peoples of the Ancient World)

Maria Brosius

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#1318280 in Books Maria Brosius 2006-05-03 2006-03-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .55 x 5.431, .73 #File Name: 0415320909240 pages The Persians An Introduction | File size: 23.Mb

Maria Brosius : The Persians (Peoples of the Ancient World) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Persians (Peoples of the Ancient World):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Relatively bare-bones, yet still quite informative By Listo This is one of those history books that tries most of all to relay a chronological telling of events rather than a breakdown of the society or societies in question. (I find that it's useful to have one of each type, as they are quite complementary.)

While the author does touch on some of the academic debates, she does not get bogged down in them and is to be commended for sticking to topic while still informing the reader of the debates-- it is very tempting for writers to come down on one side of a debate when describing it, surely it would be difficult not to! Ok, so why 4 stars? First off, while well written and admittedly an introduction to the topic, it is a very bare-bones treatment of it. Brosius only covers the Achaemenid Persian, Arsacid Parthian, and Sassanid Persian dynasties. Very, very little for the pre-Achaemenid, Seleucid, and early Muslim periods. It's not a big issue, but it is helpful to know some about at least the first two periods I mentioned, and interesting to know about the influence of Persian culture on the nascent Muslim world. For a more academic (and less accessibly written) book on the subject, I strongly recommend *Ancient Persia*. It's a mixture of thematic and chronological writing, though the author is a bit more opinionated than Brosius. Also informative are *Rome and Persia in Late Antiquity: Neighbours and Rivals*, which covers the relationship between the Roman/Byzantine and the Sassanid Persian empires. For some background on the pre-Persian Ancient Near East, check out *A History of the Ancient Near East ca. 3000 - 323 BC* (Blackwell History of the Ancient World), a history that at times is quite mind boggling given the great number of names and the relatively fast telling-- it is useful for understanding the world that the Achaemenids took over.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Best introductory level book to pre-Islamic Iranian history
By DJ Perso
The book goes over three periods of Iranian dynasties before Islam. The Achaemenids (550-330), The Parthians (Arsacids) (mid 200's B.C - 220's a.d) and the Sassanids (220's - 640's). Each chapter starts with a full historical survey and moves on to inform of other aspects of society under the rule of those kings. The book examines aspects such as The King and his court, Religion, Nobility, Military, status of women and royal women and etc. It's a good starting point for history enthusiasts, and those with no background on Persian history. It's also useful and informative to those students who have never studied ancient Iran in detail.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Why not go back to the beginning
By Dr Jake
The ancient world is not so far from the modern world. What do we _ so called educated westerners - know about South West Asia.?? In general, I say squat!!!! We study Alexander the Great from the Greek point of view and we embrace him as a western icon and hero. The Persians are older, wiser, more advanced and more powerful than Alexander for a longer period of time and yet the average American knows nothing about them. This book is easy to read. It's interesting. It's engaging. If you like history and you specialized too soon, take a trip back in history and read this. Buy it used if you must, but, you may wish to add it to your permanent library.

The only book of its kind to cover both the Achaemenid period and the thousand years following Alexander's conquest, *The Persians* explores the period from the seventh century BC, to the seventh century AD, and presents a comprehensive introduction to ancient Persia. Incorporating recent research, and translated sources from a wide range of corpus material, Maria Brosius explores the history of Persia, and brings a new understanding of Persian society and culture and the structures on which these empires were built: the king and his court; religion and culture; art and architecture. From the lands of Egypt to the Indus River, from the Russian Steppes to the Indian Ocean, Brosius has provided an up-to-date account of the three empires of pre-Islamic Iran, and discussing key topics such as women, religion and art and architecture, she presents a clear survey of the history of these empires. Providing additional reading references along with frequent source citations, students of ancient Persia will find this an invaluable addition to their course studies.

'the work is an excellent introduction to these three ancient civilisations which combines a depth of research, and a wide focus with a lively literary style, which makes it an easy and highly enjoyable read... this work is an excellent introduction to the Achaemenid, Parthian and Sasanian civilisations, and takes a refreshing, non-western based, approach to ancient history.' - Gareth C. Sampson, BMCR