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Phone: (860) 347-6933
Fax: (860) 704-0465
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Reaktion Books

The following review appeared in the June 2016 issue of CHOICE:

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Robinson, Andrew. **The Indus**. Reaktion Books, 2015. 208p bibl index ISBN 9781780235028, \$25.00.

Robinson (fellow, Royal Asiatic Society) provides a very well-written, well-illustrated popular account of the Indus civilization. Beginning with a short introduction, he turns to the discovery of the civilization, followed by brief chapters covering architecture, arts and crafts, agriculture, trade, society, religion, the decline and disappearance of the civilization, Indus script, the relationship of the Indus civilization to modern Hinduism, and the Indus civilization's contribution to the modern world. Notes for each chapter; a thorough, up-to-date bibliography; and a useful index conclude the volume. Although Robinson covers much the same territory as Gregory Possehl's seminal *The Indus Civilization: A Contemporary Perspective* (CH, Jun'03, 40-5952) and Rita Wright's innovative *The Ancient Indus: Urbanism, Economy, and Society* (CH, Jul'10, 47-6423), this new work is an important addition to the literature because of the author's extensive knowledge of the subject, his use of the most recent sources, and his succinct but engaging style. Some readers may be disappointed in his cursory attention to theoretical issues, but Robinson's volume is certainly valuable as an introduction to the Indus civilization for general readers and undergraduates studying early civilizations.

--W. Kotter, Weber State University

Summing Up: Recommended. General readers and undergraduates.