

'Everyone interested in ancient civilizations should read this eloquent, closely argued biography (it is nothing less) that brings the Indus people in from the historical shadows.'

– BRIAN FAGAN, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology,
University of California, Santa Barbara

'Andrew Robinson does an excellent job of condensing key Indus issues to their core, framing them in terms accessible to the intelligent enthusiast and archaeologist alike. Robinson is a superb writer . . .

he knows how to make things interesting without going into numbing detail, always keeping the narrative thread alive . . . well-illustrated and highly recommended.'

– OMAR KHAN, founder, Harappa.com

A century ago, no one was aware of the ancient Indus civilization – including Alexander the Great, whose Greek army invaded the valley of the Indus river in the fourth century BC. Then, in 1921, the civilization's ruins began to be excavated by British and Indian archaeologists. Now we know that the Indus civilization flourished in northwestern India for half a millennium from about 2600 to 1900 BC, and is worthy of comparison with the civilizations of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. The beginning of Indian civilization, it is also possibly the origin of Hinduism.



The Indus is an accessible introduction to every significant aspect of an extraordinary and tantalizing 'lost' civilization that combined artistic excellence, technological sophistication and economic vigour with social egalitarianism, political freedom and religious moderation.

ANDREW ROBINSON is the author of some 25 books on the arts and sciences, including *India: A Short History* and *Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World's Undeciphered Scripts*. He writes for *The Lancet*, *Nature* and *Science*.

with 78 illustrations

COVER: A carved stone seal from the still-undeciphered Indus script, showing a 'unicorn' and a ritual offering stand, found at Mohenjo-daro, major city of the Indus civilization, c. 2600–1900 BC. Karachi Museum, Pakistan (photo © Robert Harding/Robert Harding World Imagery/Corbis)

REAKTION BOOKS LTD
www.reaktionbooks.co.uk

  @reaktionbooks



THE INDUS
ANDREW ROBINSON

THE INDUS

'Wonderfully eloquent and informative . . . a comprehensive account of the Indus people, condensed into a highly accessible volume, and a very good read indeed.'

– *Current World Archaeology*



ANDREW ROBINSON



12.5 mm
(c)