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Assyria was one of the most influential kingdoms of the Ancient Near East.

In this Very Short Introduction, Karen Radner sketches the history of Assyria from city state to empire, from the early 2nd millennium BC to the end of the 7th century BC. Since the

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archaeological rediscovery of Assyria in the mid-19th century, its cities have been excavated extensively in Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Israel, with further sites in Iran, Lebanon, and Jordan providing important information. The Assyrian Empire was one of the

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most geographically vast, socially diverse, multicultural, and multi-ethnic states of the early first millennium BC. Using archaeological records, Radner provides insights into the lives of the inhabitants of the kingdom, highlighting the diversity of

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human experiences in the Assyrian Empire. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead

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this knowledge alive and relevant.

While systematically analyzing all accounts of the western campaigns of Shalmaneser III of Assyria, Shigeo Yamada not only discusses the historiographical problems encountered, but in his philological

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analysis offers new results, and an original historical reconstruction.

The mass killing of Ottoman Armenians is today widely recognized, both within and outside scholarly circles, as an act of genocide. What is less well known, however, is

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that it took place within a broader context of Ottoman violence against minority groups during and after the First World War. Among those populations decimated were the indigenous Christian Assyrians (also known as Syriacs or Chaldeans) who

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lived in the borderlands of present-day Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. This volume is the first scholarly edited collection focused on the Assyrian genocide, or “ Sayfo ” (literally, “ sword ” in Aramaic), presenting historical, psychological,

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anthropological, and political  
perspectives that shed much-needed  
light on a neglected historical atrocity.

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*Page 15/243*

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**of Assyria is designed to give some of the results attained from the translations of the Cuneiform inscriptions, which contain the records of the Assyrian empire. Prominence has been given to the**



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**incidents of the period when Assyria came in contact with Palestine, and the bearing of some of these is pointed out; but it is rather intended that the reader should compare for himself the history here given**

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**from the Assyrian with the parallel account of the Books of Kings. Beside the direct account of persons and events given in the Bible, there is a mass of evidence and illustration on manners and**

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**customs, language and literature, tending to throw light on the earlier books of the Bible, which renders the study of Assyrian so important and desirable. An examination of the dates in this history will**

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**show that many of them do not agree with the authorized system of chronology in the margins of the Bible. Here I must note that, although there is a striking agreement in the order and substance of the**

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**events mentioned in both histories, there sometimes appears to be considerable difference as to the dates. As this is an Assyrian history, I have taken the dates as they appear to stand in the**

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**Assyrian records; but it must be remembered that many of the Assyrian chronological documents are mutilated and incomplete, and that the Assyrians are not always correct in the statements of**

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**\*Includes ancient Assyrian accounts documenting their military campaigns and more**  
**\*Includes a bibliography for further reading “I fought daily, without interruption against Taharqa, King of Egypt and**

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**Ethiopia, the one accursed by all the great gods. Five times I hit him with the point of my arrows inflicting wounds from which he should not recover, and then I laid siege to Memphis his royal residence,**

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**and conquered it in half a day by means of mines, breaches and assault ladders.” - Esarhaddon “I captured 46 towns...by consolidating ramps to bring up battering rams, by infantry attacks,**

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**mines, breaches and siege engines.” - Sennacherib** When scholars study the history of the ancient Near East, several wars that had extremely brutal consequences (at least by modern standards) often stand

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**out. Forced removal of entire populations, sieges that decimated entire cities, and wanton destruction of property were all tactics used by the various peoples of the ancient Near East against each**



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**other, but the Assyrians were the first people to make war a science. When the Assyrians are mentioned, images of war and brutality are among the first that come to mind, despite the fact that their**

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**culture prospered for nearly 2,000 years. Like a number of ancient individuals and empires in that region, the negative perception of ancient Assyrian culture was passed down through Biblical**

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**accounts, and regardless of the accuracy of the Bible's depiction of certain events, the Assyrians clearly played the role of adversary for the Israelites. Indeed, Assyria (Biblical Shinar) and the**

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**Assyrian people played an important role in many books of the Old Testament and are first mentioned in the book of Genesis: “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech, and Akkad, and Calneh,**

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**in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Ashur and built Nineveh and the city Rehoboth and Kallah.” (Gen. 10:10-11). Although the Biblical accounts of the Assyrians are among the most**

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**interesting and are often corroborated with other historical sources, the Assyrians were much more than just the enemies of the Israelites and brutal thugs. A historical survey of ancient**

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**Assyrian culture reveals that although they were the supreme warriors of their time, they were also excellent merchants, diplomats, and highly literate people who recorded their history and**

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**religious rituals and ideology in great detail. The Assyrians, like their other neighbors in Mesopotamia, were literate and developed their own dialect of the Akkadian language that they used to**



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**write tens of thousands of documents in the cuneiform script (Kuhrt 2010, 1:84). Furthermore, the Assyrians prospered for so long that their culture is often broken down by historians into the**

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**“Old”, “Middle”, and “Neo”  
Assyrian periods, even though  
the Assyrians themselves  
viewed their history as a long  
succession of rulers from an  
archaic period until the  
collapse of the neo-Assyrian**

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**Empire in the 7th century BCE. In fact, the current divisions have been made by modern scholars based on linguistic changes, not on political dynasties (van de Mieroop 2007, 179). The Assyrians: The**

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*Assyrian Empire*  
*The Assyrian Empire was the largest, most powerful, and longest-lasting in the ancient world. It*

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*included lands that  
comprise modern Egypt,  
Syria, Iraq, Israel,  
Lebanon, Palestine,  
Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain,  
and Cyprus as well as  
large parts of modern*

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*Saudi Arabia, Libya,  
Turkey, and Iran. The  
Assyrian army was the  
most effective, most  
highly trained, and best  
equipped in the ancient  
world, and few nations*



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*dared to stand against  
it. This force was used  
with ruthless brutality  
by Assyrian kings to  
ensure that potential  
foes were terrified of  
losing a battle with the*

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**Assyrians. Inside you  
will read about... [?] The  
City of Ashur [?] The Old  
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The Fall of the Assyrian**

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*Empire And much more!*

*There wasn't just one  
Assyrian Empire; there  
were three. Each rose,  
seized lands in the  
ancient Near East, and  
then declined to*

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*insignificance. It was  
only the third empire,  
the Neo-Assyrian Empire,  
that finally attained  
the full size and scope  
which previous rulers  
had attempted. Yet the*

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*very size of the empire  
was part of what  
eventually led to its  
downfall. Internal  
dissent and civil wars  
weakened the empire to  
the point that it was*

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*not able to exercise  
effective control over  
the lands it had  
conquered. When this  
point arrived, the  
Assyrian Empire  
collapsed and*

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*disintegrated with  
bewildering speed. This  
is the story of the rise  
and fall of the three  
Assyrian Empires.  
Assyria was one of the  
most influential*

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*kingdoms of the Ancient  
Near East. In this Very  
Short Introduction,  
Karen Radner sketches  
the history of Assyria  
from city state to  
empire, from the early*



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*2nd millennium BC to the end of the 7th century BC. Since the archaeological rediscovery of Assyria in the mid-19th century, its cities have been*

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*excavated extensively in  
Iraq, Syria, Turkey and  
Israel, with further  
sites in Iran, Lebanon,  
and Jordan providing  
important information.  
The Assyrian Empire was*

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*one of the most  
geographically vast,  
socially diverse,  
multicultural, and multi-  
ethnic states of the  
early first millennium  
BC. Using archaeological*

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*records, Radner provides  
insights into the lives  
of the inhabitants of  
the kingdom,  
highlighting the  
diversity of human  
experiences in the*

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*Assyrian Empire. ABOUT  
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*ancient accounts*

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for further reading When  
scholars study the  
history of the ancient  
Near East, several wars  
that had extremely*



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*brutal consequences (at  
least by modern  
standards) often stand  
out. Forced removal of  
entire populations,  
sieges that decimated  
entire cities, and*

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*wanton destruction of  
Ancient Near East  
property were all  
tactics used by the  
various peoples of the  
ancient Near East  
against each other, but  
the Assyrians were the*

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*first people to make war  
a science. When the  
Assyrians are mentioned,  
images of war and  
brutality are among the  
first that come to mind,  
despite the fact that*

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*their culture prospered  
for nearly 2,000 years.  
Like a number of ancient  
individuals and empires  
in that region, the  
negative perception of  
ancient Assyrian culture*

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*was passed down through Biblical accounts, and regardless of the accuracy of the Bible's depiction of certain events, the Assyrians clearly played the role*

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*of adversary for the  
Ancient Near East  
Israelites. Indeed,  
Assyria (Biblical  
Shinar) and the Assyrian  
people played an  
important role in many  
books of the Old*

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*Testament and are first mentioned in the book of Genesis: "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech, and Akkad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out*

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*of that land went forth Ashur and built Nineveh and the city Rehoboth and Kallah." (Gen. 10:10-11). Although the Biblical accounts of the Assyrians are among the*



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*most interesting and are often corroborated with other historical sources, the Assyrians were much more than just the enemies of the Israelites and brutal*

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*thugs. A historical  
survey of ancient  
Assyrian culture reveals  
that although they were  
the supreme warriors of  
their time, they were  
also excellent*

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*merchants, diplomats,  
and highly literate  
people who recorded  
their history and  
religious rituals and  
ideology in great  
detail. The Assyrians,*

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*like their other  
neighbors in*

*Mesopotamia, were  
literate and developed  
their own dialect of the  
Akkadian language that  
they used to write tens*

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*of thousands of  
documents in the  
cuneiform script (Kuhrt  
2010, 1:84).*

*Furthermore, the  
Assyrians prospered for  
so long that their*

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*culture is often broken  
down by historians into  
the "Old", "Middle", and  
"Neo" Assyrian periods,  
even though the  
Assyrians themselves  
viewed their history as*

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*a long succession of rulers from an archaic period until the collapse of the neo-Assyrian Empire in the 7th century BCE. In fact, the current*

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*divisions have been made  
by modern scholars based  
on linguistic changes,  
not on political  
dynasties (van de  
Mieroop 2007, 179). The  
city of Nimrud was one*



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*of the Assyrians' most  
important cities, and it  
has been known by many  
different names  
throughout its history.  
In ancient Assyrian, the  
city was called Kalḫu, a*

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*name first attested to  
in texts dating back to  
the 13th century BCE. In  
the Bible, it is known  
as Calah, and the city  
is now called Nimrud  
from an association with*

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*the Biblical figure*  
*Ancient Near East*  
*Nimrod. Nimrud is*  
*located in northern Iraq*  
*on the east bank of the*  
*Tigris River, about 20*  
*miles south of modern*  
*Mosul and ancient*

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Assyrian capital during  
the Neo-Assyrian period,  
the city has produced  
many glorious artifacts  
and provided countless  
insights into this*

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*ancient civilization,  
but the history of the  
city after the fall of  
the Assyrians has proven  
just as turbulent and  
interesting. Nimrud: The  
History and Legacy of*

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*the Ancient Assyrian  
City chronicles the  
origins of the city, how  
it became a power center  
in antiquity, and its  
controversial fate.  
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*depicting important  
people, places, and  
events, you will learn  
about Nimrud like never  
before.*

*This book is the first  
of its kind and takes an*

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*in-depth look at one of  
the oldest nations in  
the world, while  
documenting various  
traditions and rituals  
tracing Assyrian lineage  
from cuneiform, the*



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*beginning of time and  
writing, until now.*

*Their rich history has  
engaged various  
archaeological groups  
throughout the world to  
visit their homelands*

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*and conduct various excavations, which has led to incredible ancient discoveries that have been housed in universities and museums for centuries. Their*

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*heartland is called the  
Cradle of Civilization,  
and their legacy has  
earned the prestigious  
name of History of the  
World. They were one of  
the first people to*

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*convert to Christianity  
and have been mentioned  
in the Bible and various  
books throughout time.  
This book highlights  
information on their  
artifacts, including one*

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*of the seven wonders of  
the ancient world, the  
Hanging Gardens. We also  
take an insider look at  
some topics that have  
been extensively  
chronicled and studied,*

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*such as religion, the  
legendary Winged Bulls,  
the famous Tree of Life,  
and angels.*

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Approaches*  
Ancient Near East

*Nineveh*

Who are the Assyrians and  
what role did they play in  
shaping modern Iraq? Were  
they simply bystanders,



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victims of collateral damage who played a passive role in the history of Iraq? And how have they negotiated their position throughout various periods of Iraq's state-building processes? This book details the narrative

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and history of Iraq in the 20th century and reinserts the Assyrian experience as an integral part of Iraq's broader contemporary historiography. It is the first comprehensive account to contextualize this native

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people's experience  
alongside the developmental  
processes of the modern  
Iraqi state. Using primary  
and secondary data, this  
book offers a nuanced  
exploration of the dynamics  
that have affected and

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determined the trajectory of  
the Assyrians' experience in  
20th century Iraq.

How can we understand the  
remarkable success of the  
Assyrian Empire? This book  
provides an agent-centred  
explanation using

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archaeological data.

Backed by an unparalleled  
military force, Sargon II  
outwitted and outfought  
powerful competitors to  
extend Assyrian territory  
and secure his throne. As  
Sarah C. Melville shows

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through a detailed analysis of each of his campaigns, the king used his army not just to conquer but also to ensure regional security, manage his empire's resources, and support his political agenda. Under his

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leadership, skilled  
chariotry, cavalry, and  
infantry excelled in all  
types of terrain against an  
array of culturally diverse  
enemies. This book  
represents the first in-  
depth military study of the

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great Assyrian king. Drawing extensively from original sources, including cuneiform inscriptions, the letters of Sargon and his officials, archival documents, and monumental art, Melville presents Sargon's



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achievements as king,  
diplomat, and conqueror.

Contrary to the stereotype  
of the brutal Assyrian  
despot, Sargon applied force  
selectively, with deliberate  
economy, and as only one of  
several possible ways to

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deal with external threat or  
to exploit opportunity. The  
Campaigns of Sargon II  
demonstrates how Sargon  
changed the geopolitical  
dynamics in the Near East,  
inspired a period of  
cultural florescence,

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established long-lasting  
Assyrian supremacy, and  
became one of the most  
influential kings of the  
ancient world.

Revised thesis (doctoral) -  
University of Michigan, Ann  
Arbor, 2004.

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Sayfo - The Genocide Against  
the Assyrian, Syriac, and  
Chaldean Christians in the  
Ottoman Empire  
An Archaeological Approach  
People of Ancient Assyria  
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from Nineveh to Södertälje - both in  
space and time. This  
straightforward book recounts the

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long, dramatic history of the  
Assyrians: The ancient Assyrian  
Empire, how the Assyrians became  
the first nation to adopt Christianity  
how they have been persecuted by  
the Persians, Arabs, Turks and  
Kurds, and why they left their

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homeland of Assyria to settle in  
Södertälje, Chicago, Gütersloh,  
Sydney, Enschede and Gothenburg.  
The book deals with the Assyrian  
language and self-designation,  
churches and secular organizations,  
and also attempts to describe why

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they are split into different groups with varying views of their identity and history. The book is based on modern, scientific research and provides answers to common questions raised by both Assyrians and non-Assyrians regarding one of



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Sweden's largest immigrant groups.  
The Armenian genocide of 1915 has  
been well documented. Much less  
known is the Turkish genocide of the  
Assyrian, Chaldean and Syriac  
peoples, which occurred  
simultaneously in their ancient

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homelands in and around ancient Mesopotamia - now Turkey, Iran and Iraq. The advent of the First World War gave the Young Turks and the Ottoman government the opportunity to exterminate the Assyrians in a series of massacres

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and atrocities inflicted on a people whose culture dates back millennia and whose language, Aramaic, was spoken by Jesus. Systematic killings, looting, rape, kidnapping and deportations destroyed countless communities and created a vast

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refugee diaspora. As many as 300,000 Assyro-Chaldean- Syriac people were murdered and a larger number forced into exile. The "Year of the Sword" (Seyfo) in 1915 was preceded over millennia by other attacks on the Assyrians and has

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been mirrored by recent events, not least the abuses committed by Islamic State. Joseph Yacoub, whose family was murdered and dispersed, has gathered together a compelling range of eye-witness accounts and reports which cast light on this

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'hidden genocide.' Passionate and yet authoritative in its research, his book reveals a little-known human and cultural tragedy. A century after the Assyrian genocide, the fate of this Christian minority hangs in the balance.

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This meticulously researched and handsomely illustrated volume explores the chronology, historic events, key public figures, and cultural legacy of the Assyro-Babylonian civilization. Tracing the roots of this ancient society to

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3000—2001 BC, historian Alfredo Rizza reveals the impact of various earlier civilizations on the development of Mesopotamia in the second and first millennium BC (ca. 2000—500 BC). Offering fresh insight into the pivotal historical



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events and the complex political and cultural configuration of the Assyrians and Babylonians, this book delves into the convergence in Mesopotamia of various ethnic and cultural groups. The authoritative text describes the role played by

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each group in trade, diplomatic relations, cultural heritage, and military action. Specially commissioned photographs depict the topography, archaeology, and antiquities of this ancient civilization, including stone reliefs

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discovered in royal palaces depicting battle scenes, kings with different deities conducting religious ceremonies, ziggurats, ornate gates guarding the cities, and much more, all of which reveal details of this intriguing epoch.

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The Conquest of Assyria tells what must surely be one of the most romantic tales of archaeological endeavour. The great cities and ancient palaces of Mesopotamia had lain buried for over two millenia, and were all but forgotten, half

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Negotiating Political and Cultural  
Space

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identity in twentieth-century Iraqi  
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the relationship between the state and  
the Assyrians.



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This book collects the writings of the prominent author, the late David Barsum Perley (1901-1979), who devoted his life to the Assyrian cause. He continuously supported and fought for the rights of the Assyrians. Through his numerous writings, he gave a voice to the situation of Assyrians in their

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countries of origin in the Middle East. He also vehemently supported the historical Assyrian name, the Assyrian identity and the history of the Assyrians.

For the greater part of the period from the end of the 10th century to the 7th century BC, the Ancient Near East

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was dominated by the dynamic military power of Assyria. At the zenith of its rule Assyria could lay claim to an empire that stretched from Egypt in the west to the borders of Iran in the east and encompassed for the first time in history, within the realm of a single imperial domain, the whole of the

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'Fertile Crescent'. Mark Healy, covers the history of the Assyrians from their ancient beginnings to the eventual fall of the city of Nineveh.

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the late 1800s. Eventually, by the turn of the century, they began to reside in Chicago. Following several waves of persecution in their homeland, these indigenous people of Mesopotamia continued to migrate to America, and now the largest concentration of them reside in Chicago. Through the

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Relating to His Campaigns to the West

***The purpose of the papers read at the meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2014, and of the relevant proceedings forming this volume, was to discuss and update the historical***

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***methodologies adopted in the past and present study of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. The title of the meeting and of this proceedings volume, "Writing Neo-Assyrian History", clearly indicates the aim of the organizers and of the***

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***participants: to submit to both specialized scholars and educated readers a comprehensive outline of the various studies about Neo-Assyrian history, and to thoroughly comment on all possible problems so as to***

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***offer a basic "manual" for further innovative studies. All this was conceived in the framework of the scientific mission of the International Research Project which produces the series State Archives of Assyria, aimed at***

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***publishing all available Neo-Assyrian texts according to a modern and commonly shared editing system. The importance of the meeting and of this volume is relevant not only because of the innovative character of most***

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***articles, but also because of the prospective methodological spin-off in other historical sectors, from Greek and Roman history to medieval, modern or even Oriental (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Indian) history. The***

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***importance of the spin-off in other sectors of the history of Ancient Mesopotamia, and in general of the Ancient Near East, is self-evident. The volume offers a distinctive contribution to knowledge in history and historiography in***

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***general, but also in demonstrating and applying a tight connection between history, philology, archaeology and history of art, extending to the fields of ideology, politics, sociology, religion, economy and law.***



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***The sources discussed in the various articles extend from cuneiform texts of various kinds to monumental relics and archaeological findings of all kinds, studied according to the most updated Assyriological methodologies***

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*and the most advanced  
historical approaches.*

*The history of the Arabs in  
antiquity from their earliest  
appearance around 853 BC  
until the first century of  
Islam, is described in this  
book. It traces the mention of*

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***people called Arabs in all relevant ancient sources and suggests a new interpretation of their history. It is suggested that the ancient Arabs were more a religious community than an ethnic group, which would explain***

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***why the designation 'Arab'  
could be easily adopted by the  
early Muslim tribes. The  
Arabs of antiquity thus  
resemble the early Islamic  
Arabs more than is usually  
assumed, both being united by  
common bonds of religious***

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specific wars, few study the  
history of war worldwide and  
from an evolutionary  
perspective. A Global History  
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works to focus not on the**

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***are today. Chaliand's questions provoke a new understanding of the development of armed conflict. How did the foremost non-European empires rise and fall? What critical role did the nomads of the Eurasian***



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***Explore the Captivating History of the Assyrian Empire Located in modern-***

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*day Iraq, ancient Mesopotamia, the land between the great Tigris and Euphrates rivers, is where it all began. It's the part of the world where some 6,000 years ago people finally said goodbye to their lives as*

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***hunters and gatherers, started farming, and began building civilizations. It's from these civilizations that we get some of the most famous contributions to world history and culture, from the Epic of Gilgamesh to***

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***Hammurabi's famous code of law, which gave rise to the popular saying "an eye for an eye." The story of Mesopotamia is one that is full of constantly changing borders, rising and falling civilizations, and, of course,***

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***war and conquest. The world's first empires would emerge here and spend thousands of years exchanging territories, swapping alliances, and fighting for supremacy. It was a real-life game of Risk being played out by some of the***

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***world's most revered, yet feared, leaders. But of all the famous civilizations to emerge from Mesopotamia, a list that includes the Akkadians, the Sumerians, and the Babylonians, it's the Assyrians who deserve the fame and***

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***glory. The empire they constructed over the course of some 1,200 years survived constant attacks, a few defeats, and the famed Dark Age known as the Bronze Age collapse to become one of the largest and most expansive***



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**for further reading \*Includes a table of contents "I captured 46 towns...by consolidating ramps to bring up battering rams, by infantry attacks, mines, breaches and siege engines." - Sennacherib When**

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***scholars study the history of the ancient Near East, several wars that had extremely brutal consequences (at least by modern standards) often stand out. Forced removal of entire populations, sieges that***

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***decimated entire cities, and  
wanton destruction of  
property were all tactics used  
by the various peoples of the  
ancient Near East against each  
other, but the Assyrians were  
the first people to make war a***

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***science. When the Assyrians are mentioned, images of war and brutality are among the first that come to mind, despite the fact that their culture prospered for nearly 2,000 years. Like a number of***

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***ancient individuals and empires in that region, the negative perception of ancient Assyrian culture was passed down through Biblical accounts, and regardless of the accuracy of the Bible's***

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***depiction of certain events, the Assyrians clearly played the role of adversary for the Israelites. Indeed, Assyria (Biblical Shinar) and the Assyrian people played an important role in many books***

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**of the Old Testament and are first mentioned in the book of Genesis: "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech, and Akkad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Ashur and**



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***built Nineveh and the city Rehoboth and Kallah." (Gen. 10:10-11). Although the Biblical accounts of the Assyrians are among the most interesting and are often corroborated with other***

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***historical sources, the  
Assyrians were much more  
than just the enemies of the  
Israelites and brutal thugs.  
Among all the cities that  
thrived in the ancient Near  
East, few can match the***

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***opulence and ostentatiousness of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire for much of the seventh century BCE. During that time it became known for its mighty citadels, grand palaces, beautiful***

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***gardens, and even its zoos. In fact, the beauty of Nineveh, especially its gardens, impressed later writers so much that they assigned its gardens as one of the original Seven Wonders of the World,***

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***except unfortunately for Nineveh's memory, the location was placed in Babylon. The confusion that assigned one of the Wonders of the World to Babylon instead of Nineveh is in fact a***

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***large part of Nineveh's history - it was a great city during its time, but incessant warfare brought the metropolis to oblivion and eventually its history was forgotten or distorted. An examination of***

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***Nineveh demonstrates that in many ways it was the victim of the people who built it. When Nineveh was at its height, they controlled an empire that encompassed Egypt, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and parts of***

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***Iran. Eventually, the Assyrians overextended themselves and their enemies overthrew them and destroyed much of their cities. Nineveh became lost for centuries, only mentioned in fragments by classical Greek***



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**historians, but modern archaeological methods were able to bring the lost city back to life in the nineteenth century. Today, through a combination of archaeological reports, classical Greek**

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***accounts, and ancient cuneiform inscriptions, the chronology of Nineveh can be reconstructed. An examination reveals that Nineveh played a vital role in the religious and political history of the ancient***

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***Near East and despite suffering immense damage at the hands of the Assyrians' enemies, continued to function as an important city for several centuries after the Assyrian Empire collapsed.***

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***religious rituals and ideology in great detail. The Assyrians, like their other neighbors in Mesopotamia, were literate and developed their own dialect of the Akkadian language that they used to***

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***write tens of thousands of documents in the cuneiform script (Kuhrt 2010, 1:84). Furthermore, the Assyrians prospered for so long that their culture is often broken down by historians into the***

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***"Old", "Middle", and "Neo" Assyrian periods, even though the Assyrians themselves viewed their history as a long succession of rulers from an archaic period until the collapse of the neo-Assyrian***

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***Empire in the 7th century BCE. In fact, the current divisions have been made by modern scholars based on linguistic changes, not on political dynasties (van de Mieroop 2007, 179). When Nineveh was***

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***at its height, they controlled an empire that encompassed Egypt, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and parts of Iran. Eventually, the Assyrians overextended themselves and their enemies overthrew them and destroyed***



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***much of their cities. Nineveh became lost for centuries, only mentioned in fragments by classical Greek historians, but modern archaeological methods were able to bring the lost city back to life. In***

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***northern Iraq, on the banks of the Tigris River, lie the ruins of the ancient city of Assur, the first capital and the most important religious center of the Assyrian Empire. Known today as Qal'at Sherqat, and***

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***also as Kilah Shregat, the city dates back to the 3rd millennium BCE. In that time period, the Assyrian army became the largest yet seen, and their warriors were both the greatest and cruelest in***

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***the land. They conquered an empire from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea; they despoiled the great city of Babylon, and they enslaved the tribes of Israel. Even the pharaoh of Egypt paid them***

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***tribute. No army had ever carried war so far. The city of Nimrud was one of the Assyrians' most important cities, and it has been known by many different names throughout its history. In***

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***ancient Assyrian, the city was called Kalḫu, a name first attested to in texts dating back to the 13th century BCE. An ancient Assyrian capital during the Neo-Assyrian period, the city has produced***

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***many glorious artifacts and provided countless insights into this ancient civilization, but the history of the city after the fall of the Assyrians has proven just as turbulent and interesting.***

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***further reading "I fought daily, without interruption against Taharqa, King of Egypt and Ethiopia, the one accursed by all the great gods. Five times I hit him with the point of my arrows inflicting wounds from***

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***and brutality are among the first that come to mind, despite the fact that their culture prospered for nearly 2,000 years. Like a number of ancient individuals and empires in that region, the***

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***negative perception of ancient Assyrian culture was passed down through Biblical accounts, and regardless of the accuracy of the Bible's depiction of certain events, the Assyrians clearly played***

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***the role of adversary for the Israelites. Indeed, Assyria (Biblical Shinar) and the Assyrian people played an important role in many books of the Old Testament and are first mentioned in the book of***



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**Genesis: "And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech, and Akkad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land went forth Ashur and built Nineveh and the city Rehoboth and Kallah." (Gen.**

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**10:10-11). Although the Biblical accounts of the Assyrians are among the most interesting and are often corroborated with other historical sources, the Assyrians were much more**

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***and developed their own dialect of the Akkadian language that they used to write tens of thousands of documents in the cuneiform script (Kuhrt 2010, 1:84). Furthermore, the Assyrians***

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***prospered for so long that their culture is often broken down by historians into the "Old", "Middle", and "Neo" Assyrian periods, even though the Assyrians themselves viewed their history as a long***

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Sumerians inaugurated civilisation itself, but it was the Babylonians and then the Assyrians who fulfilled its potential. Their early experiments in state formation remain fascinating to us today: just like our governments, for a thousand years Babylon and Assyria grappled with the challenges

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