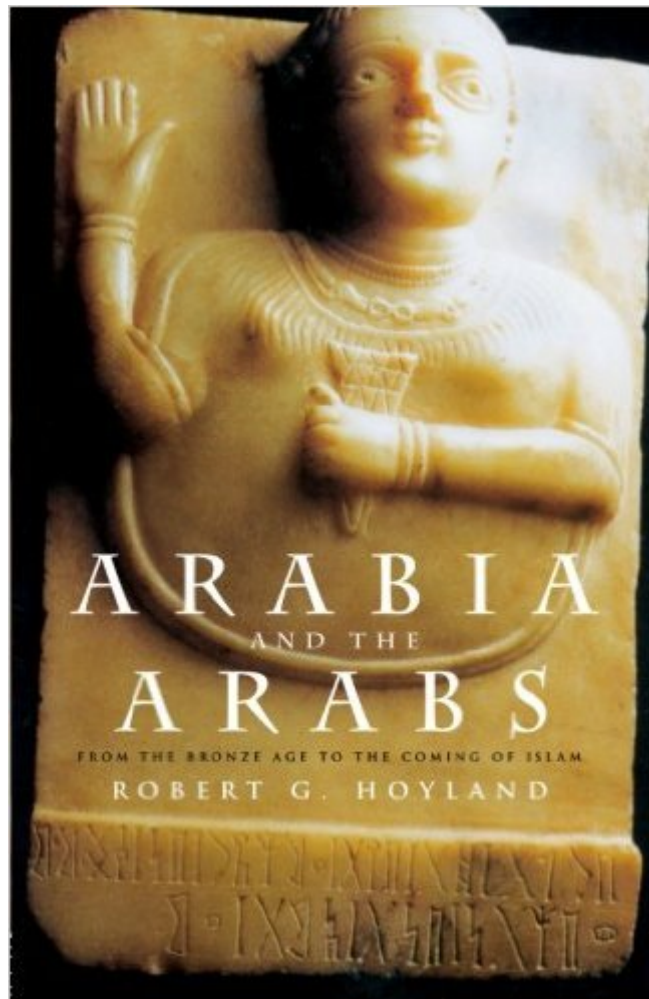


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Arabia And The Arabs: From The Bronze Age To The Coming Of Islam (Peoples Of The Ancient World)



Synopsis

Long before Muhammed preached the religion of Islam, the inhabitants of his native Arabia had played an important role in world history as both merchants and warriors. Arabia and the Arabs provides the only up-to-date, one-volume survey of the region and its peoples, from prehistory to the coming of Islam. Using a wide range of sources - inscriptions, poetry, histories, and archaeological evidence - Robert Hoyland explores the main cultural areas of Arabia, from ancient Sheba in the south, to the deserts and oases of the north. He then examines the major themes of the economy, society, religion, art, architecture and artefacts, language and literature, Arabhood and Arabisation. The volume is illustrated with more than 50 photographs, drawings and maps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert Hoyland's "Arabia and the Arabs" is a much welcomed addition to the limited corpus concerning Arabia before the advent of Islam. Hoyland's work is chronologically and geographically expansive, outlining the history of Arabia, a region which he defines as stretching from the Syrian desert down to the Arabian sea, from the Bronze age up until the early Islamic period. Nevertheless, the author does not bog the reader down with needless information, but rather he provides a smooth narrative of this region's diverse history, which he recounts by way of academic commentary coupled with an extensive selection of quotes from contemporary documentary historical sources. Hoyland explicitly notes that the purpose behind this methodology is "to let the witnesses speak for themselves rather than to deploy an omnipotent narrator, thus allowing the viewers the chance to

form their own opinion" (11-12).Hoyland organizes the text by region and theme. First, he discusses the three distinct Arabian regions (East Arabia, South Arabia, North and Central Arabia) and their people, providing a more general "political" history of the different tribes and societies based in these areas, before moving on to the themes (Economy, Society, Religion, Art and Architecture, Language and Literature, and Arabhood and Arabisation), in which he provides more in-depth information about the structure, culture, and sociological features of the various peoples and civilizations in Arabia as a whole during this time period.

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