Dynamics of Production in the Ancient Near East
Edited by Juan Carlos Moreno Garcia

Key Features:
· Considers key developments in monetarization, trade and resource management at the transition form the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age
· Analyses the economic transformations which affected the old Near Eastern dominant powers, including Egypt
· Examines the emergence of new economic actors and the impact of socio-economic changes on a range of social sectors and communities

The transition between the 2nd and the 1st millennium BC was an era of deep economic changes in the ancient Near East. An increasing monetization of transactions, a broader use of silver, the management of the resources of temples through "entrepreneurs", the development of new trade circuits and an expanding private, small-scale economy, transformed the role previously played by institutions such as temples and royal palaces. The 17 essays collected here analyse the economic transformations which affected the old dominant powers of the Late Bronze Age, their adaptation to a new economic environment, the emergence of new economic actors and the impact of these changes on very different social sectors and geographic areas, from small communities in the oases of the Egyptian Western Desert to densely populated urban areas in Mesopotamia. Egypt was not an exception. Traditionally considered as a conservative and highly hierarchical and bureaucratic society, Egypt shared nevertheless many of these characteristics and tried to adapt its economic organization to the challenges of a new era. In the end, the emergence of imperial super-powers (Assyria, Babylonia, Persia and, to a lesser extent, Kushite and Saite Egypt) can be interpreted as the answer of former palatial organizations to the economic and geopolitical conditions of the early Iron Age. A new order where competition for the control of flows of wealth and of strategic trading areas appears crucial.

About the Author:
Juan Carlos Moreno García is a CNRS senior researcher at the University of Paris IV – Sorbonne and lecturer at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris). He has published extensively on pharaonic administration, as well as on socio-economic history and landscape organization of ancient Egypt, usually in a comparative perspective with other civilizations of the ancient world.
The Provincial Archaeology of the Assyrian Empire
Edited by John MacGinnis, Dick Wicke and Tina Greenfield

Key Features:
- This volume brings together the outcomes of key investigations from across the Assyrian empire.

The Assyrian empire was in its day the greatest empire the world had ever seen. Building on the expansion of the Middle Assyrian state in the late second millennium BC, the opening centuries of the first millennium witnessed a resurgence which led to the birth of a true empire whose limits stretched from Egypt to Iran and from Anatolia to the Persian Gulf. While the Assyrian imperial capital cities have long been the focus of archaeological exploration, it is only in recent decades that the peripheral areas have been the subject of sustained research. This volume sets out to synthesise the results of this research, bringing together the outcomes of key investigations from across the empire. The provincial archaeology of the empire is presented in a new light, with studies of the archaeological imprint of Assyria in present-day Israel, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. A wide range of methodological and interpretive approaches are brought to bear on the data. Analyses of environmental zones and ecofactual datasets, material culture and architectural traditions, the permeation of literacy and the use of para-literate systems form the platform for innovative and integrative evaluations and lead to a new appreciation for the diversity of local responses to the Assyrian expansion.

About the Author:
John MacGinnis is an independent post-doctoral researcher at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the study of Neo-Babylonian and Assyrian archaeology and written sources, particularly cuneiform.