

Ancient Assyria

A Very Short Introduction

By Karen Radner

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- What is the role of the god Assur in the Assyrian society and state?
- Does it matter that there can only be one temple of Assur?
- How different does Assyrian religion seem from other religions, including our own?
- What made establishing colonies in Anatolia attractive?
- What challenges presented the long-distance trading operations of the Assyrian traders present to their family life?
- How significant is the move of the Assyrian capital from Assur to Kalhu (Nimrud)?
- Why were 19th century audiences so intrigued by the discoveries in Assyria?
- What is the role of Eunuchs in the Assyrian palace and state administration?
- What languages and scripts were used in the Assyrian Empire?
- What can we learn about Esarhaddon's character and personality from the available sources?
- What do we know about his family?
What is the Substitute King ritual?
- How would life in the Assyrian heartland have differed from living in the provinces during the imperial period?
- How would life of an Assyrian woman have differed from that of an Assyrian man?
- How did Assyria interact with the neighbouring states, big and small?
- How do you think Assyria, the Assyrian king and the god Assur were seen by the people whose territories the empire took control of?
- How did Assyrian reactions to Samsi-Addu change over time?
- What happened to those whose homes were conquered by the Assyrian army?
- How was the Assyrian army organised?
- How was the Assyrian postal system organised?
- What makes a person an Assyrian? Does this change over time?
- Does the Assyrian Empire still matter today?

Other Books by this Author

With E. Robson, *The Oxford Handbook of Cuneiform Culture* (Oxford University Press 2011)

State Correspondences of the Ancient World from the New Kingdom to the Roman Empire (Oxford University Press 2014)

Further reading

Joan Aruz, Sarah B. Graff, and Yelena Rakic, eds., *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2014)

Paul Collins, *Assyrian Palace Sculptures* (British Museum Press, 2008)

John E. Curtis and Julian E. Reade, eds., *Art and Empire: Treasures from Assyria in the British Museum* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1995)

Mario Liverani, *The Ancient Near East: History, Society and Economy* (Routledge, 2014)

Assyrian Empire Builders: <<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sargon/>>

Knowledge and Power in the Neo-Assyrian Empire: <<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/saao/knpp/>>