



# The History of the Ancient World: From the Earliest Accounts to the Fall of Rome

By Susan Wise Bauer

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**A lively and engaging narrative history showing the common threads in the cultures that gave birth to our own.**

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Dozens of maps provide a clear geography of great events, while timelines give the reader an ongoing sense of the passage of years and cultural interconnection. This old-fashioned narrative history employs the methods of “history from beneath”—literature, epic traditions, private letters and accounts—to connect kings and leaders with the lives of those they ruled. The result is an engrossing tapestry of human behavior from which we may draw conclusions about the direction of world events and the causes behind them.

13 illustrations, 80 maps

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- Sales Rank: #15776 in Books
- Brand: Bauer, S. Wise
- Published on: 2007-03-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.60" h x 1.80" w x 6.50" l, 2.68 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 896 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Bauer (author of the four-volume *The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child*) guides readers on a fast-paced yet thorough tour of the ancient worlds of Sumer, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Mesopotamia and Rome. Drawing on epics, legal texts, private letters and court histories, she introduces individuals who lived through the famines, plagues, floods, wars and empire building of the ancient world: the marvelous array of characters includes Gilgamesh, Sumer's first epic hero; Yü, the founder of the Xia dynasty in China; and Tiglath-Pileser III, who restored the Assyrian empire's fortunes. Because Bauer covers so much time and territory, she focuses on the Western cultures with which she seems most comfortable; the chapters on Asia and India are the least developed. In addition, some of her assertions—for instance, that the biblical book of Joshua is the clearest guide we possess to the establishment of an Israelite kingdom in Canaan—contradict general scholarly opinion or are simply wrong. However, Bauer's elegant prose and her command of much of the material makes this a wonderful starting point for the study of the ancient world. 80 maps. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Bauer's annals, which span the millennia between the traces of Sumer and the Roman emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity in 312 CE, are an attractive introduction to a subject vast in time and geography. She writes briskly and interpretively, and is attuned throughout to the challenge of rulers: appearing to the ruled as legitimate holders of power. This sensibility makes her narratives acutely interesting, as Bauer pierces the biases inherent in most ancient sources to discern the sincerity or the cynicism with which power seekers pursued their goals. Above, approval of the divine was invaluable; on Earth, a loyal army was indispensable. Acquiring both enabled lawgivers to make their writ stick, and Bauer's chronicles exhibit the interaction of priestly, military, and legal powers as empires and dynasties wax and wane. This endows continuity to her accounts of polities as disparate as the Harappan civilization of the Indus River or the states that emerged from misty prehistory along the Yellow and Yangtze rivers to form China. Nonacademic and sometimes colloquial in composition, Bauer's survey will spark the imagination. *Gilbert Taylor*

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About the Author

Susan Wise Bauer is a writer, teacher, and historian. Her books include *The Story of Science: From the Writings of Aristotle to the Big Bang Theory*, *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home*, *The Well-Educated Mind: A Guide to the Classical Education You Never Had*, the *History of the World* series (W. W. Norton) and the *Story of the World* series (Well-Trained Mind Press). She has a Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William & Mary in Virginia, as well as an M.A. in seventeenth-century literature and a Master of Divinity in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature. For fifteen years, she taught literature and composition at the College of William and Mary.

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**Lillian Chatman:**

This *The History of the Ancient World: From the Earliest Accounts to the Fall of Rome* book is absolutely

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### **Brandy Anderson:**

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book The History of the Ancient World: From the Earliest Accounts to the Fall of Rome it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

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