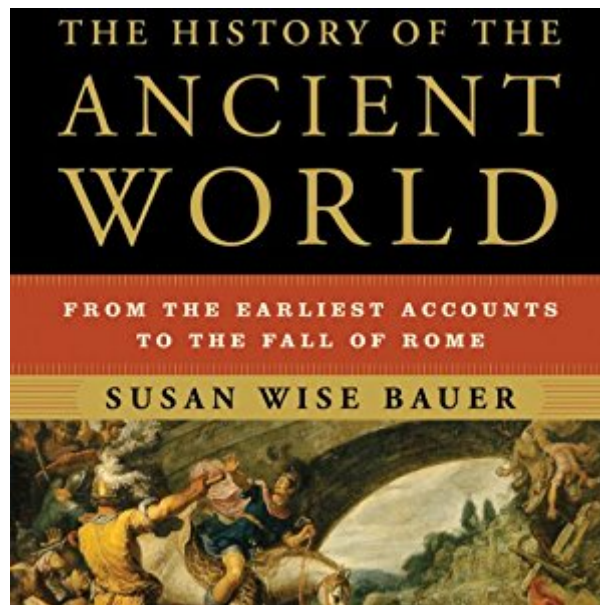




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# **The History Of The Ancient World: From The Earliest Accounts To The Fall Of Rome**



## Synopsis

A lively and engaging narrative history showing the common threads in the cultures that gave birth to our own. This is the first volume in a bold new series that tells the stories of all peoples, connecting historical events from Europe to the Middle East to the far coast of China, while still giving weight to the characteristics of each country. Susan Wise Bauer provides both sweeping scope and vivid attention to the individual lives that give flesh to abstract assertions about human history. This 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Encompassing the earliest civilizations to the fall of Rome, *The History of the Ancient World* takes the reader on a journey deep through ancient history, but it never feels like reading a textbook. Susan Wise Bauer's writing style is very accessible and engaging, and sometimes amusing, making history come to life. I very highly recommend this book for anyone of high school age or older interested in increasing their knowledge of ancient history.

This book is a great summary read of ancient history. It is perfect for those looking to understand the origins and social/political developments of the ancient societies we have all learned bits and pieces of. As she does in her other books on the Medieval and Renaissance times, Susan Wise

Bauer takes a broad view of world history to highlight the key civilizations and political developments and clashes across them. The book races through much of the period, but it's an easy, entertaining read and the structure, including timelines in each chapter holds the timelines and events together. Ms. Bauer's focus is the evolution of the political and, to some degree, economic cultures across the world, so the book is light on social and artistic developments. If the reader wants further detail on a specific period or culture, she also provides reference material for a deeper read in each chapter. The key point is that if you want to understand the inter-relationships of the various cultures and how they developed, this is the perfect read.

Can't wait to start on her next section of history. Because I have not studied history this book was a wonderful and captivating fast path through a huge chunk of time. It seems that her driving focus for the book was political leaders and exchange of power over time. I guess when you are trying to cover such a long stretch of time you have to pick a certain theme to keep things moving. Now I would be interested to find works that cover the same time period but following maybe the progression of technology, or culture, or other subjects that can be followed on a timeline. This book really wet my appetite for putting things in historical context, and gave me some good historical landmarks to keep in mind as a move on to other works.

bought it for my high school child as a supplement to her school work, but I found to be enjoying it on my own. The style of the book is short chapters focusing on a particular culture at a specific point in time. Sometimes it's a bit tough to keep up with the characters when reading from one chapter to the next. There's no development. But it's very readable for the casual history enthusiast.

Sumer, Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Israel, The Hittites, Harappans, Persians, Medes, Greeks, Qin, Han, Romans, it's all here...I like the authors' premise (though some will take exception to it); tell history from written records - it is easier to paint pictures of people from ancient writings, as opposed to divining motivations from the carbon-dated pottery shards of archaeologists. I think if you are willing to go along with this starting point, you will really enjoy what you read. Ms. Bauer's narrative is concise and uncluttered, not needlessly verbose. Written in a fairly colloquial style, it will particularly interest you if you don't know much about history, but you want to start somewhere. I imagine this book could be the springboard for a newcomer to decide what they want to know more about. Maps and timelines abound to help you keep your wits about you. Although a history of the world, it is still fairly Euro-centric. While I understand written records for Indian history are somewhat scarce, China

probably gets a shorter shrift in it's chapters than it deserves - considering there is no dearth of documentation (thanks, Sima Qian). That's my only minor complaint. (I do have a Kindle-specific complaint - the many excellent maps Ms. Bauer includes look shocking on the Kindle [even on my larger DX], and there are some odd minor formatting errors in the text itself.) Buy it if you always wanted to know about the ancient world, but didn't know where to start!

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