

## The Archaeology of Iran from the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire

Mehdi Mortazavi

*Department of Archaeology and Archaeological Sciences Research Centre, University of Sistan and Baluchestan, Zahedan, Iran.  
E- mail: mehdi.mortazavi@lihu.usb.ac.ir*

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**TITLE OF BOOK:** *The Archaeology of Iran from the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire*

**AUTHORS:** *Roger Matthews and Hassan Fazeli Nashli*

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### Abstract

The Archaeology of Iran from the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire by Roger Matthews and Hassan Fazeli Nashli, Publisher: Taylor & Francis, 2022, (Figures. 1-3) stands as a monumental undertaking, offering a comprehensive and engaging journey through the vast expanse of Iranian history. Spanning from the first flickers of human habitation over a million years ago to the rise and fall of the Achaemenid Empire in 330 BCE, this tome unravels the intricate tapestry of Iranian society, revealing its evolution, struggles, and triumphs across millennia.

### Framework and Compass

What distinguishes this work is its extraordinary breadth. It explores many facets of Iranian history, including as subsistence techniques, technical developments, social structure, belief systems, and relationships with the environment, and spans a chronological period of more than a million years. Painting a vivid picture of societal evolution, it painstakingly breaks down each epoch, from the hunter-gatherers of the Palaeolithic to the sophisticated urban cultures of the Achaemenid Empire.

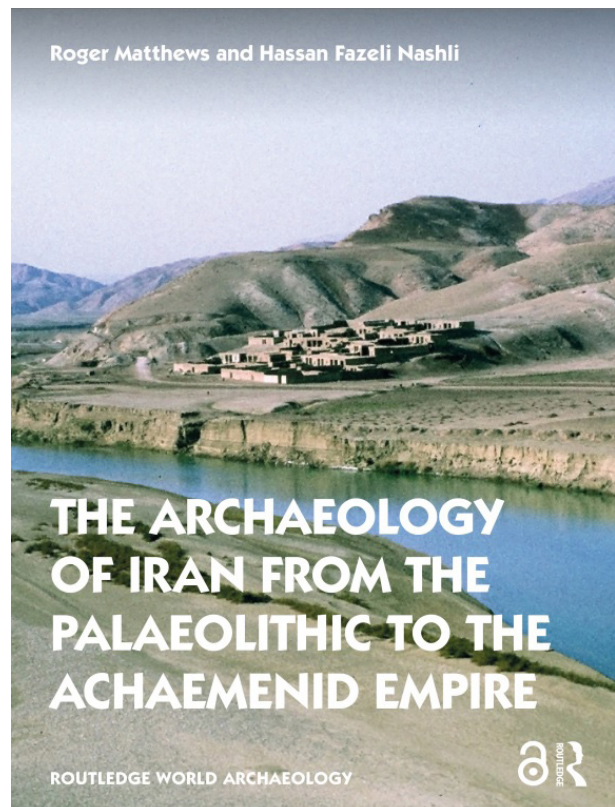


Figure 1: The Book's Cover Page



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Such an enormous breadth demands a well-organised story. The twelve chapters that make up the book's structure each focus on a different time period or subject. The organisation of the material makes it simple for readers to explore the large quantity of content and go further into particular topics of interest.

### Interdisciplinary Approach

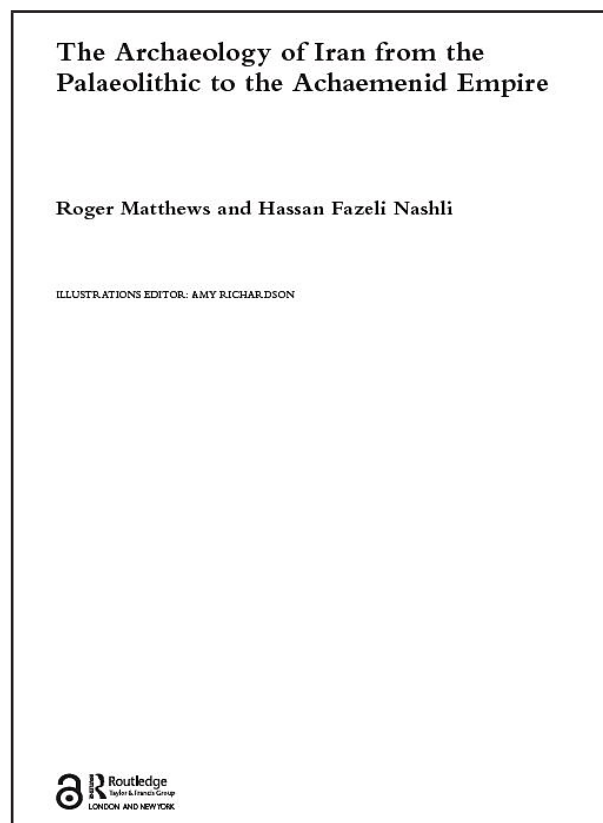
The book's interdisciplinary approach is one of its strongest points. The writers expertly combine data from a number of disciplines, such as environmental science, history, anthropology, and archaeology. By examining the social, cultural, and environmental factors that influenced Iranian society, as well as going beyond just the physical remnants, this produces a comprehensive picture of the past.

For example, the book addresses the effects of farming on social structure, settlement patterns, and religious views in addition to describing the history of farming. This connectivity adds depth to the story and offers a more complex perspective of the past.

### Novelties and Strengths

The book has a number of innovative aspects. Even when discussing intricate archaeological ideas, the writers' language is comprehensible and captivating. The content is brought to life by the abundance of maps, figures, and photos, which enable readers to picture the landscapes, relics, and monuments that are addressed.

The book's concentration on scholarship with an Iranian basis is one of its distinctive features. Through the integration of information and viewpoints from archaeologists in Iran, the writers expand the reach and question conventional Eurocentric narratives. An understanding of Iranian history that is more representative and diverse is fostered by this inclusion.



*Figure 2: The Contributors Page*

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*Figure 3: The Copyright page*

### **Discussion Topics**

Although the book shines in many areas, there are a few that could use more attention. First of all, there is a challenge in the book's enormous vastness. Although it offers a thorough summary, some readers might find themselves desiring a deeper examination of particular eras or subjects.

Second, while material culture is important, it might be counterbalanced by studying more about intangible elements of society like language, mythology, and oral traditions. This might offer a more comprehensive view of the experiences and lifestyles of earlier populations.

### **Overall Significance**

"The Archaeology of Iran from the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire" is still a significant work of archaeology despite these small issues. It is a priceless resource for scholars, students, and everybody else curious about Iran's lengthy history. Through the integration of concepts from several fields and archaeological evidence, the book presents an engaging portrayal of a constantly changing and dynamic civilisation. It provides insightful information about human adaptability, resilience, and societal change, acting as a potent reminder that the past may teach us important things about the present.

This review has provided a summary of the book's salient points, areas of strength, and possible debate points. "The Archaeology of Iran from the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire" is a monument to the ongoing potential of archaeology to reveal the past and enhance our understanding of the human experience because of its vast scope, captivating narrative, and interdisciplinary approach. Anyone interested in piecing together the intriguing history of ancient Iran should definitely read it.

### **Acknowledgment**

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### **References**

Matthews, Roger & Hassan Fazeli Nashli .2022. *The Archaeology of Iran from the Palaeolithic to the Achaemenid Empire*. London and New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.