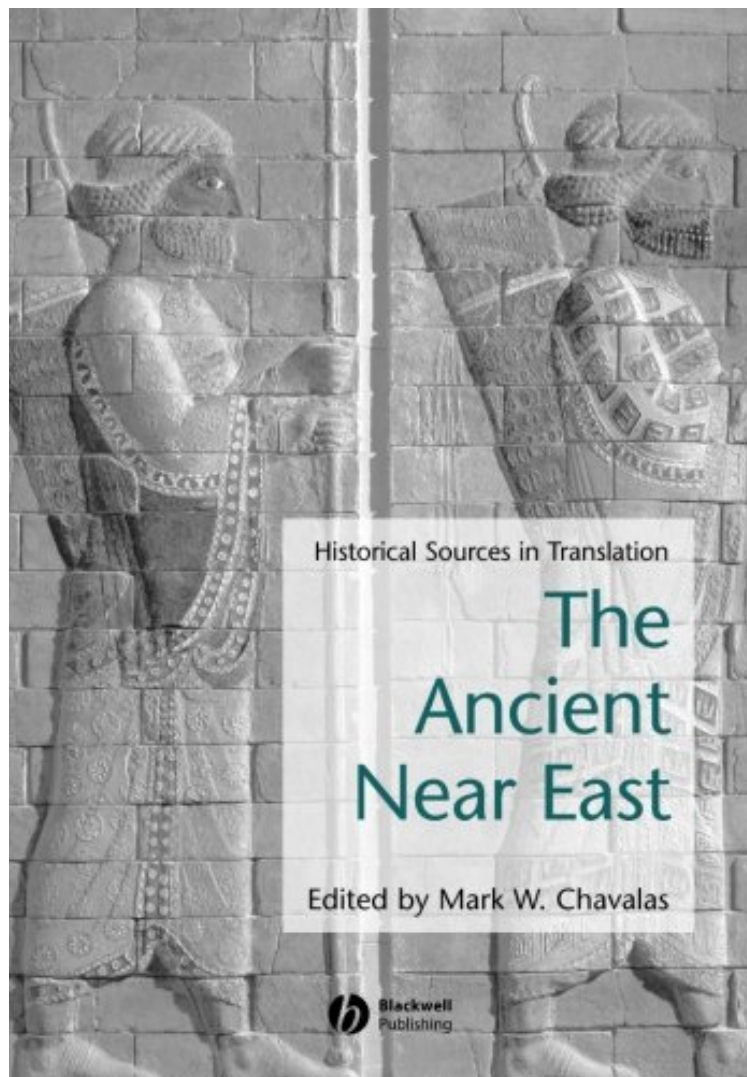


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About the Author Mark W. Chavalas is Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He has edited or authored six books, including most recently *Life and Culture in the Ancient Near East* (2002), *Mesopotamia and the Bible* (2002) and *Bible Background Commentary of the Old Testament* (2000). He is currently on the Board of Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research.