



Labor in the Ancient World

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LABOR IN THE ANCIENT WORLD Edited by Piotr Steinkeller and Michael Hudson. The fifth volume in this series sponsored by the International Scholars Conference on Ancient Near Eastern Economies (ISCANEE) and the Institute for the Study of Long-Term Economic Trends (ISLET) offers case studies on how labor was mobilized and remunerated in the early Near East and Mediterranean world. The initially voluntary character of labor on public building projects evolved into corvée as the primary way of obtaining labor. Among other characteristics are the minor significance of slave labor; the role of large building projects as a tool of social and political integration; the use of hired workers as a way of dealing with the systemic shortage of labor, and the practice of compensating the employees of “large organizations” with salaries in food and/or land allotments. By late Neolithic times the obligation to supply corvée labor services became the basis for assigning land tenure. The historical data demonstrate that the corvée labor tax became the basis for assigning property rights, not a later intrusion on these rights. (2015) Other books in this series: PRIVATIZATION IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND CLASSICAL WORLD Edited by Michael Hudson and Baruch A. Levine. Archaeologists, economists, and Assyriologists describe the increasingly private control of land, handicraft workshops, and credit from the Bronze Age through classical antiquity. (1996) URBANIZATION AND LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST Edited by Michael Hudson and Baruch A. Levine. The impact of debt, private land ownership, and urbanization on ancient societies as evidenced by archaeological data, surviving financial records, and other documents. (1999) DEBT AND ECONOMIC RENEWAL IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST Edited by Michael Hudson and Marc Van De Mieroop. The origins of interest-bearing debt and its dynamics from Sumer down through the Neo-Babylonian epoch, and the tradition of royal Clean Slates that later became the Biblical Jubilee Year. (2002) CREATING ECONOMIC ORDER – RECORD-KEEPING, STANDARDIZATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACCOUNTING IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST Edited by Michael Hudson and Cornelia Wunsch. The extent to which accounting practices shaped economic life from early Uruk (c. 3300 BC) through the Neo-Babylonian period, as well as in Egypt, Crete, and Mycenaean Greece. (2004)

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