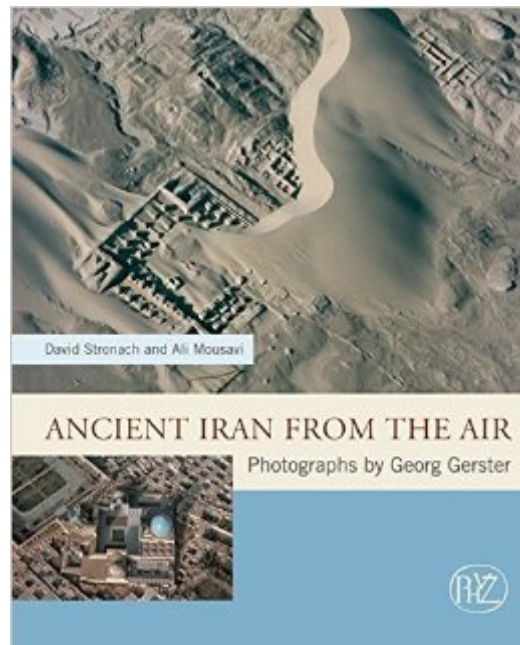


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# Ancient Iran From The Air



## Synopsis

This book features many of the more exceptional landscapes and monuments of Iran as seen through the lens of the world's foremost aerial photographer, George Gerster. The photographs, which were taken between 1976 and 1978, are presented in six chapters, each authored by one or more scholars of international repute, and the work as a whole is edited by two of the main contributors, David Stronach and Ali Mousavi. *Ancient Iran from the Air* takes the reader on an aerial odyssey that explores the country's infinitely varied landscapes; many of the more noted sites associated with Iran's rich prehistoric past; the storied capitals of the Achaemenid and Sasanian empires; the memorable monuments of Saljuk and Safavid Isfahan; and, last but not least, on a journey that celebrates the age-old virtues of Iran's largely unsung vernacular mud-brick architecture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Stronach and Ali Mousavi (2012) *Ancient Iran from the Air*. Zaberns Bildbande Archäologie. Darmstadt/Mainz: Verlag Philippe von Zabern. 192 pp., 115 color and 7 black-and-white images, references; ISBN-10: 3805344538, ISBN-13: 978-3805344531. More than seven years ago, the scholar Charlotte Trümpler (Head of the Archaeological Collection of the Ruhrlandmuseum Essen, Germany) and Swiss-born Georg Gerster, one of the world's foremost aerial photographers who has been photographing ancient sites from the air for more than fifty years, collaborated on a spectacular publication *The Past from Above* (Oxford: Oxford University Press; Los Angeles, CA: Getty Publications, 2005). Trümpler introduced these images with a contextual overview of

importance of aerial photography to archaeological research, architectural history, and the landscape, and provided context for the pictures. Gerster provided amazing aerial photographs of 250 of the world's most significant archaeological sites, with subjects ranging from the temple complex at Karnak, Egypt, to the Great Wall of China, and from the Athenian Acropolis to Aztec palaces in central Mexico. There were nearly a dozen themes used in organizing this work: Archaeological sites in the landscape, settlement types, palaces and royal residences, places of assembly and festival sites, fortifications and bulwarks, limes (military architecture), battlefields, graves and cemeteries, sacred sites, monumental geoglyphs, and resources (water, land, and mineral). Gerster has photographed archaeological sites in 111 countries on six continents and his work has frequently appeared in the National Geographic magazine. It is fitting that the volume is published this year, Professor Stronach's 80th birthday.

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