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REFERENCES

1 The Arsacid dynasty’s conquest of Mesopotamia is but partially known. Occupation of the region, as it emerges from archaeological, literary and epigraphic sources, was apparently mild and probably limited in space and time owing to problems often related to the status of the conquered cities. It is well known, for instance, that Seleucia on the Tigris kept its privileged status for a long period and still struck coins with the symbol of the city boule till the first decade of the first century AD during the reign of Artabanus II.

2 Arsacid policy in Mesopotamia must have evolved in a gradual, unequal manner due to local situations. It seems imprudent, therefore, to limit this phenomenon to the decades of the conquest of Mithridates I (after 141 BC). It is preferable to explain it in relation to the context of the subsequent period, till about 50 BC. This description of the Arsacid conquest and occupation of Mesopotamia, especially at the turn of the second and first centuries BC, focuses on the incongruent documentation, which often stems from an analysis of Greek and Roman sources.
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