

Sources

Reference Books

Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Editor

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>African American War Heroes</i> | 80 |
| <i>American Immigration: An Encyclopedia of Political, Social, and Cultural Change</i> | 81 |
| <i>Battles That Changed American History: 100 of the Greatest Victories and Defeats</i> | 81 |
| <i>Encyclopedia of Human Memory</i> | 82 |
| <i>Encyclopedia of Insurgency and Counterinsurgency: A New Era of Modern Warfare</i> | 83 |
| <i>Encyclopedia of Social Deviance</i> | 83 |
| <i>From Famine to Fast Food: Nutrition, Diet, and Concepts of Health Around the World</i> | 83 |
| <i>Industrialization in the Modern World: From the Industrial Revolution to the Internet</i> | 84 |
| <i>The New Encyclopedia of Islam</i> | 84 |
| <i>Slave Culture: A Documentary Collection of the Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project</i> | 85 |
| <i>Soccer Around the World: A Cultural Guide to the World's Favorite Sport</i> | 86 |
| <i>Warfare in the Roman Republic: From the Etruscan Wars to the Battle of Actium</i> | 86 |
| <i>The World of Musicals: An Encyclopedia of Stage, Screen, and Song</i> | 87 |

RUSQ considers for review reference books and professional materials of interest to reference and user services librarians. Serials and subscription titles normally are not reviewed unless a major change in purpose, scope, format, or audience has occurred. Reviews usually are three hundred to five hundred words in length. Views expressed are those of the reviewers and do not necessarily represent those of ALA. Please refer to standard directories for publishers' addresses.

Correspondence concerning these reviews should be addressed to "Reference Sources" editor, Tammy Eschedor Voelker, Humanities Librarian, Kent State University, 1125 Risman Dr., Kent OH 44242; e-mail: tvoelker@kent.edu

African American War Heroes. Ed. By James B. Martin. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 203 pages. acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-365-3). Ebook available (978-1-61069-366-0), call for pricing.

James B. Martin, Associate Dean U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, editor of *African American War Heroes*, presents a biographical dictionary in which 80 African American men (79) and women (1—Harriet Tubman) have been "...chosen to recognize specific combat actions that resulted in recognition for heroism." ("Preface," xii). Each of the war heroes profiled in this reference work have been awarded one or more military medals for valor save for three whose actions predate our nation's medal system. Still, inclusion in *African American War Heroes* is highly selective. Of the eighty-seven African Americans awarded the nation's highest honor fifty-four combat veterans are profiled.

African American War Heroes is arranged in alphabetical order according to personal name. A fact box preceding each biography provides at-a-glance information that includes vital statistics, branch of service, arena of conflict, age at time of award, but not the title of the award or awards conveying war hero status. This is a regrettable omission the more so given the biographical dictionary's alphabetical-by-name arrangement. True, the names of those who received specific military honors are listed in the volume's index under the title of each military award but this presupposes a familiarity with these honors (Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Valor Device, Legion of Honor) which students, for whom this reference work is most suitable, may not possess.

Each biographical sketch is signed by one of the five other contributors, three of whom share with the editor posting at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Each essay focuses in detail on the heroic actions for which the subject received recognition, in a number of cases retroactively and/or posthumously. Black and white photographs illustrate some biographies. All entries provide a list of further readings which may include published books, journal articles, newspaper articles, and web sites with date of access noted. A concluding six-page general bibliography brings these further readings together.

An introductory essay presents an overview of African Americans in the nation's military with an emphasis on combat history in line with the volume's war hero focus. The volume also contains ten sidebars throughout the text (for example "Tuskegee Airmen" on pages 76-77) each of which contributes information about African American participation in the armed forces. Although a color picture of the Medal of Honor appears on the cover of *African American War Heroes* an additional sidebar devoted to explaining U.S. military decorations in their order of precedence with a brief history of each accompanied by an illustration would not have been unwelcome.

Unlike *African American War Heroes*, Charles W. Hanna's *African American Recipients of the Medal of Honor*; a

Biographical Dictionary, Civil War through Vietnam War (McFarland & Company, 2002) is comprehensive rather than selective and is arranged chronologically and then alphabetically by name. Rather than summarizing the combat details surrounding the Medal of Honor as *African American War Heroes* does, Hanna's work quotes the text of each combat veteran's Medal of Honor citation. Hanna's work also includes the several African American seamen who were awarded a Medal of Honor, and in one case two, during peacetime, a practice since disallowed. Although Hanna traces the history of the Medal of Honor in his work's introduction he too presupposes that the Medal's appearance is common knowledge or may be deduced from black and white photographs of Honor recipients wearing theirs.

Catherine Reef's *African Americans in the Military* (Facts on File, 2004), differs from both Martin and Hanna by expanding coverage to include African American participation in both combatant and non-combatant roles and by defining military service more broadly so as to include a spy, a journalist, and a civilian interpreter. Reef's more expansive approach to her subject results in greater coverage of African American women in the military which neither Martin's nor Hanna's more focused works permit.

African American War Heroes is suitable for public and school libraries. Academic libraries, especially those whose collections already include Hanna's and Reef's reference works, may purchase if comprehensiveness is a collection development policy. Otherwise, *African American War Heroes* may be considered supplemental rather than necessary.—Sally Moffitt, *Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science; Africana, Asian, Judaic, Latin American, and Women's Gender and Sexuality studies; Cohen Enrichment Collection, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*

American Immigration: An Encyclopedia of Political, Social, and Cultural Change. 2nd ed. Ed. by James Climent and John Radzilowski. Armonk, NY: Sharpe Reference, 2014. 4 vols. \$399 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-8212-3).

The first edition of the work, published as the *Encyclopedia of American Immigration* (Sharpe, 2001), garnered widespread praise. It was described by reviewers as "well-researched, well-written..." and "impressive" (*Choice*, Oct. 2011); "essential in academic libraries and extremely useful in large and medium-sized public libraries." (*Booklist*, Nov.1, 2001); and "An asset to any library supporting research in American history or immigration." (*School Library Journal*, Feb. 2002). The advisory board consisted of "well-recognized experts in the field" (*Library Journal*, Sept. 15, 2001). Given this critical reception, it is little wonder that Sharpe choose to revisit such a well-regarded reference work.

As the authors note in the Introduction, "most of the contentious issues surrounding American immigration today would be very familiar to past generations." (xix). The hot button issues of a century ago remain topics of concern

today, from cultural assimilation and the economic benefits of immigration to the desirable rate of immigration. Given these continuities it is understandable that most essays remain substantively intact from the first edition. Volumes 1-3 contain topical essays organized under themes, time periods, or regions. Almost all of the original contributors have returned for the new edition. They seem satisfied with their previous work, with good reason. The essays hold up well after a decade. While the authors bring events up to date and add newly released data, in most cases the core content remains the same. Commendably, all the bibliographies I reviewed were updated to include references to recent scholarship, and in some cases websites.

Volume 4 contains excerpts from primary source documents ranging from George Washington's Revolutionary War letters to recent immigration reform efforts. Almost all of the historical documents from the first edition appear in the second. The main additions are ten documents created after the publication of the 1st edition.

While historical continuities abound, technology, terrorism concerns, and changes in immigration patterns have raised new issues. These are not addressed in completely new essays in the 2nd edition, but updated information has been incorporated into relevant entries. For example, discussion of the Dream Act was added to the essay on Children and Adolescents, while a paragraph on the newly created Office of Homeland Security concludes the history of Immigration Agencies. There is also a new 21 page section in Volume 1 covering the post 9/11 years with overviews of recent immigration legislation and the impact of 9/11 on policies and attitudes toward immigration. A detailed subject index facilitates the discovery of specific topics across essays.

Libraries not owning the first edition will find this a welcome addition to their reference collection. It upholds the standards of its predecessor, delivering solid well-written overviews of key topics. Those owning the first edition will want to replace it with this set which reflects recent events and points to the latest scholarship for those conducting further research.—Eric Novotny, *Humanities Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA*

Battles That Changed American History: 100 of the Greatest Victories and Defeats. By Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 355 pages. acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-2861-4). Ebook available (978-1-4408-2862-1), call for pricing.

A single volume encyclopedia, Spencer C. Tucker's *Battles that Changed American History: 100 of the Greatest Victories and Defeats* contains 100 entries on military battles from the colonial period to the Iraq War. Each entry averages about three pages in length, contains an information box that lists the date of the battle, the location, opponents and winners, the commanders, approximate number of troops, and a brief sentence on the importance of the battle and all entries end with a brief suggested reading list. Many entries also contain