
Talk about timely—a reference book about insurgency arrives for review just as the Islamic State insurgency declares itself a caliphate. Someone might say this is an argument against readers for review just as the Islamic State insurgency declares itself a caliphate. Someone might say this is an argument against something. But such a book edited by such a respected scholar as Tucker is relevant for anyone who wants a better understanding of where the Islamic insurgency fits in the flow of history. That history runs as far back as the Maccabean Revolt and right up to the wars of our time.

Tucker’s format is conventional, with more than 400 alphabetized signed entries and a few illustrations across 636 pages. Each entry offers further readings. People (“Tecumseh”), insurgency movements (“Mujahideen in the Soviet-Afghan War”), theories (“Hearts and Minds”) and tactics (“Propaganda”) are among the types of topics, with special attention to the American experience. The variety of topics is intended to show that various kinds of factors determine how an insurgency begins and how it fares. Also provided are a chronology, a bibliography, a list of contributors, an index and a small section of maps.

Insurgency is a rich subject for military thinkers. Between the colonial wars of the past century and the ethnic and cultural wars that just keep happening today, sustained violent opposition to various governments has been much more common than war between nation states. The publisher Routledge is mining this vein with special vigor. Among its recent titles are Tim Benbow’s and Rod Thornton’s Dimensions of Counter-Insurgency: Applying Experience to Practice ( 2014), Isabelle Duyvesteyn’s and Paul B. Rich’s The Routledge Handbook of Insurgency and Counterinsurgency (2014), and Bruno C. Reiss and Andrew Mumford’s The Theory and Practice of Irregular Warfare: Warrior-Scholarship in Counter-Insurgency (2013). All are more academic than Tucker’s work, and while some handbooks are ready reference books, the Routledge handbook is a collection of only 29 essays.

Most similar to the new encyclopedia may be Ian F. W. Beckett’s Encyclopedia of Guerrilla Warfare (ABC-CLIO, 1999), but it was published before 9/11 and covers only the previous few centuries. In many respects it can still serve well, but a public librarian hoping to put 21st century insurgencies in a larger and more political context will find the Tucker volume helpful.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana.


The editors of the Encyclopedia of Social Deviance set out to create a work on social deviance that provided a broad and comprehensive set of entries written by top scholars in the field. While the editors sought out to be as inclusive as possible, given that the behaviors that fall under the label of deviant are wide ranging and always changing, it would be impossible to be completely inclusive and exhaustive. They focused on theoretical, philosophical, methodological, and substantive topics.

Like all encyclopedias, the Encyclopedia of Social Deviance, is arranged alphabetically. The only standardization in the 313 entries is that they each have a “see also”, in which they direct readers to other entries within the encyclopedia, and they each end with a list of citations for further reading. The entries have been written by top scholars in various discipline, including sociology, anthropology, psychology, criminology, politics, and religion. The Encyclopedia of Social Deviance also contains twenty-two thematic Reader’s Guides. These guides group related entries by topic.

Due to the fact that the number of behaviors that can be labeled as deviant is nearly endless, the entries stick to those behaviors that have been traditionally labeled as deviant. Various criminal, drug related, and sex related behaviors are included. Relatively uncommon, unheard of, or new behaviors were not included.

While I was unable to find another encyclopedia, I looked at two other sources for comparison. The first was John A. Humphrey and Frank Schmalleger’s Deviant Behavior, 2nd ed., Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2012. The individual chapters in this book also include learning objectives and theories on deviant behavior. The behaviors listed are much broader than in the Encyclopedia of Social Deviance. The second source I used for comparison was Rowland Atkinson’s Shades of Deviance: A Primer on Crime, Deviance, and Social Harm, Routledge, 2014. This source groups the behaviors into parts, such as “Acts of Transgression” and “Subcultures and Social Codes”. The entries in this source are much shorter than in the Encyclopedia of Social Deviance. The entries in both sources used for comparison are not nearly as exhaustive or as inclusive as those in the Encyclopedia of Social Deviance.

I think that the Encyclopedia of Social Deviance would be a good addition to any undergraduate library, especially those with programs in sociology, psychology, or criminology. The source is easy to use and covers a wide range of deviant behaviors. The Reader’s Guides are a nice feature because they “help the reader locate similar entries and, hopefully, stimulate new lines of thought” (xxvi).—Mina Chercourt, Head of Cataloging and Metadata, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio.


The distribution of food is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. While some struggle to find enough to eat to meet their minimum nutritional needs, others are eating themselves to death, consuming foods high in sugar, fat and salt that lead to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and
other diet-related illnesses. Often both phenomena can occur in the same country. From Famine to Fast Food examines access to food in countries across the world.

The five-page introduction provides an overview of the many issues related to food distribution and how hunger persists despite increased capacity for food production. It describes the economic, climatic, agricultural, political and environmental factors influencing people’s ability to access sufficient sustenance or their food choices, providing the reader with an understanding of how, in many areas, obesity is not simply a consequence of overindulgence but the result of a lack of access to healthful food options.

Following the introduction, entries are arranged by continent and then alphabetically by country. Each entry begins with a data table that includes the percentage of the population that has access to safe drinking water, the percentage of children who are underweight, the percentage of adults who are overweight, the average daily caloric intake and other data. The charts itself provides an informative and often startling snapshot of the inhabitants’ access to food and water. Though the provided data could likely be found in the U.S. World Almanac, a note to the reader about where the information came from would have been beneficial.

In addition to the data table, entries include explanatory text that provides further contextual information the country's patterns of food production and consumption or lack thereof. The chart depicts the nutritional health of the population while the text illustrates the causes behind the statistics. In a few instances, the text does not provide sufficient insight into the reasons behind the data but merely describes the population's food preferences as well as the cultural and religious beliefs that influence those preferences. Most entries, however, offer more analysis of the population's health.

A recipe for a representative dish is included for many of the countries. While this is a fun addition, it also serves to demonstrate ingredients and cooking methods typically used in a particular country.

Over one hundred contributors supplied the entries in this book. They often included statistics that illustrate their assertions. Though many of the authors cited the source of their statistics, many others did not. This might diminish the book's usability for some readers. Though not necessary, a map depicting where in the continent a nation is located would have been helpful.

This book would be a suitable addition to public and college libraries.—Susan Trujillo, Librarian, West Los Angeles College, Los Angeles


Understanding where the modern world came from is a difficult task; John Hinshaw and Peter Stearns seek to make the task easier for college and high school students. The authors of this two volume work seek to “situate the Industrial Revolution into the context of World history” (xxix), meaning both historically and politically. Hinshaw and Stearns seek to achieve their ambitious goal, with an alphabetical listing of the various people, places, events, and other topics about the Industrial Revolution. These entries range from explain about the “emancipation of the serfs (Russia)” to other things like explaining the IMF (international monetary fund) (243, 149). The authors also include people that had an impact on the period like James Hargreaves (214). Also, the authors include many primary source documents relevant to this area of history. The addition of these documents helps in setting the work apart from others. The scope of these entries and primary sources range from the origins of Industrialization to the dawn of the internet. Some of the documents included are ones like Mark Weisbrodt’s “Time to take a second look at our ‘free trade’ agreements” (619). Also, included are speeches made by world leaders about technology and the impact on society.

These entries tend to be short, most are around a couple to three paragraphs in length, however some of the large theme entries are a page or more; such as the entry on the “Cold War.” At the end of each descriptive listing the author provides the reader with a ‘further reading’ recommendation. These sections help set the work apart from others, however there are not many books that take on the scope of information proved in this work. There are plenty of books that cover the many individual topics contained in Industrialization in the Modern World, as noted in the ‘further reading’ section, however there are few that cover such a wide range of in one title. In addition to the ‘further reading’ section these two volumes also include quality color photos for many of the entries in the book. These photos do a nice job of helping set apart this work from others, such as the Encyclopedia of the Industrial Revolution in America. Industrial Revolution in America, focuses only on the Industrial Revolution period from 1750 to 1920, and includes little photos and no color photos.

Overall, these two volumes provide the reader or researcher with good quality information about a wide variety of topics related to the Industrial Revolution and beyond. The additional primary sources included in this work set it apart from other similar works in the same field. These sources do well to supplement the information contained in each of the alphabetical listing. With the addition of this section, the book is suitable for college and university library collections. It also makes a great addition to any high school library as well.—Michael Hawkins, Library Associate, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio


The 4th edition adds roughly 100 new items as well as revisions and updates to previously published entries. By and large, the entries are well researched and easy to follow,