

SOURCES

and organized by state. These three collections are the source for all of the narratives included in *Slave Culture*.

As a derivative source, *Slave Culture* succeeds in applying themes to the narratives; how intuitive or useful those themes are, and what such thematic ordering adds to the already extensive literature, is up for debate. Barring a unique curricular need or surplus acquisitions funds, this volume is not recommended with so much other identical primary source material freely available.—*Kristin J. Henrich, Reference Coordinator, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho*

Soccer Around the World: A Cultural Guide to the World's Favorite Sport. By Charles Parrish and John Nauright. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 400 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-302-8). Ebook available (978-1-61069-303-5), call for pricing.

Although the word “soccer” is primarily used in the United States, it actually derives from the English term “association football.” Known throughout most of the rest of the world as football, the game on the pitch is often cited as the most popular sport on the planet. Going country by country, this book helps explain why and what impact that brings.

The book’s 18 chapters are each devoted to a single nation. The authors openly acknowledge in the introduction that their choices may be controversial, but they have included all the traditional European football powers, plus Cameroon, Egypt, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United States, among others. The rationale for some of those countries is fairly tenuous solely on athletic grounds. For example, it appears that Egypt was included because of the role that soccer plays in that volatile country’s political stability.

Each chapter includes sections on “History & Culture,” “Women’s Soccer,” “Iconic Clubs,” “Soccer Legends,” and “At the World Cup,” as well as a sidebar of tangential interest and references for further reading. The themes covered vary by country. For instance, the Argentina chapter dwells on the problems of violence among fans, while the chapters on both Argentina and Brazil discuss how opening up the sport to the poor in those countries improved the quality of play and broadened the interest in the game.

The sections on women’s soccer are pretty slim and discouraging for some countries, but women have made serious inroads with several countries, such as Japan, Germany, Brazil and the United States—all countries whose women’s teams have done well at the World Cup. The Brazilian chapter includes a sidebar on superstar Marta, while the US chapter includes women in its section on Soccer Legends.

The volume also contains appendices that list iconic teams and legendary players for countries not included here, a soccer timeline, an overall bibliography and an index. This thorough work is clearly written and contains a wealth of information on the game, the teams, the players and the cultural

impact of soccer on each nation. It would be welcome in any reference collection.—*John Maxymuk, Head of Public Services, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey*

Warfare in the Roman Republic: From the Etruscan Wars to the Battle of Actium. Ed. by Lee L. Brice. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 338 pages. Acid free \$58 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-298-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-299-1), call for pricing.

Covering the period from the fall of the kings of Rome until the dawn of the empire under Octavius (later to be known as Augustus Caesar), this work focuses specifically on military affairs during this tempestuous time. This period of history witnessed the rise of Rome as a Mediterranean superpower and the decline of Greece, Carthage, and Egypt. Of the 96 total entries, almost a third covers famous people, primarily military leaders and historians. The biographies are very brief and focus almost exclusively on the military actions of these men (and of Cleopatra VII, the only female who receives an entry). Entries on wars and battles constitute the next greatest number of entries. Of special note are the entries on the three major civil wars of the Republican age and on the Punic wars for which, in addition to providing a brief sketch of the course of the wars, the volume provides a handy chart of the key events for each war that gives the approximate date of the event, its region/locale, key commanders, combatant numbers, and the victor. Other entries include topics related to war and the military such as artillery, cavalry, centurions, forts, military decorations, standards, and training. Some items are conspicuous in their absence. Although there is an entry for the office of quaestor, there is none for praetor or consul which were much higher offices that usually bestowed military command (imperium) upon those who held the office. Also, there is an entry for the Comitia Centuriata but the other assemblies of the people are not mentioned, even in the index. Another entry that is missing is augury which occurred before any battle. A major feature of the work is the inclusion of selections from the work of several ancient historians who discuss the Roman military. These include excerpts from the writings of Polybius, Livy, Julius Caesar, Plutarch, Galba, and Appian. Other useful features of the volume are a detailed chronology for the period 509 to 30 BCE, a short glossary of terms (that could have been expanded), a helpful bibliography of sources, and a comprehensive index. The list of contributors gives ten individuals, but seven of these either wrote or shared authorship of one article each. Lee Brice, the editor of the book, actually wrote or co-wrote almost all the articles.

For those academic libraries that support programs in classics, Latin, and ancient Mediterranean history, this will be a worthwhile purchase. For other libraries that have access to the print or online version of *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* this will be an optional purchase.—*Gregory A.*