further readings are listed for each entry. Sidebars are included for many entries, and there is a separate index for these. Volume III provides indexing based on name, geographical location, and category of crime.

The inclusion of some names seems to be a bit odd. Mad Joan, Queen of Castile, merits two pages, when her only crime was that she seems to have suffered from bipolar disorder. She was declared unfit to rule following her husband’s death in the early 1500s and then was locked away for nearly forty years. Even the impact statement fails to make clear what her crime was or how she came to be notorious. Barabbas, released from prison in 30 C.E., thus escaping crucifixion, has an entry as a “Jewish rebel against Rome.” Little is known about him, and this entry does not amplify the information that is known. Despite this, the reader may find other interesting entries and wander away from the original purpose.

Occasionally there are illustrations that fail to clarify the entry. The Barbarossa entry, “Muslim pirate and governor of Algiers,” 1473–1518, is illustrated with the painting or engraving “Prisoners of Barbarossa” by F. R. Niglutsch. The subjects appear to be wearing Victorian clothing, while a man, whose hands are bound behind him, kneels as a child kisses him and a woman swoons nearby. Behind him stands a large man with a very large sword in his hand. There is no explanation about what is happening, nor is there any mention of a presumably famous collection of prisoners.

Many of the entries are covered in other works, such as Alan Axelrod’s Cops, Crooks, and Criminologists: An International Biographical Dictionary of Law Enforcement (Zenda, 2000), Harvey Kushner’s Encyclopedia of Terrorism (Sage, 2003), George C. Kohn’s Dictionary of Culprits and Criminals (Scarecrow, 1995), and Jurg Gerber and Eric L. Jensen’s Encyclopedia of White-collar Crime (Greenwood, 2007). Notorious Lives combines a smattering of entries from all of these works and many others. Although it is handy to have so many criminal types gathered in one work, the scope is so broad that it is unlikely to be the first source that comes to a librarian’s mind when asked about criminals and people considered notorious. For libraries that can afford it, Notorious Lives will make a nice addition to their criminal reference collections.

The major weakness of the work is the index. Because the guide does not strictly follow an A-to-Z arrangement, the index serves as the primary access point for readers who might not know in which section a particular topic is covered. While nearly all of the entry headings appear in the index, the indexing of entry contents is sporadic. For example, in the geographically based “Mapping the Empire” section, the indexing of entry contents is sporadic. For example, in the geographically based “Mapping the Empire” section, the index serves as the primary access point for readers who might not know in which section a particular topic is covered. Despite this flaw, the author has achieved his goal of creating a comprehensive guide to the Ku Klux Klan. This reference title would be useful for all levels of undergraduate and graduate academic libraries as well as for larger public libraries.—Brent D. Singleton, Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino


This work is the culmination of forty-five years of research by Newton and presents an encyclopedic view of all aspects of the Ku Klux Klan’s (KKK) history, membership, and activities during its 140-year history. It is timely, as readers are reminded that the KKK is the oldest and most violent terrorist organization in American history and the progenitor of the white supremacist movements currently active in the United States. Other reference works on hate groups in general have been published in the recent past, including Jeffrey Kaplan’s Encyclopedia of White Power: A Sourcebook on the Radical Racist Right (AltaMira, 2000). In addition, there is no shortage of books on various aspects of the Ku Klux Klan, but the value of this work is its unique reference book format and comprehensive focus on the KKK.

The guide contains more than five hundred pages of well-researched, clearly written essays and entries arranged into eleven discrete subject groupings. The opening section is an essay on the history of the Klan, followed by alphabetized encyclopedic subject sections, including a glossary of Klanspeak; biographies of members, supporters, and foes; descriptions of local Klans across the country; and press coverage of the group. There are more than 130 illustrations from all time periods; many of these chilling photos capture the Klan committing depraved and cruel acts of hate. There is a large section of appendixes comprising an extensively detailed chronology from the group’s inception to the present and facsimiles of various Klan organizational documents.


This work is an updated and expanded version of Makers of Modern Culture (Routledge, 1981), a collection of more than five hundred biographical articles on individuals who significantly influenced twentieth-century culture. Makers of Modern Culture was well-received for the quality of its entries and is in the collections of many large academic and public libraries.

New Makers of Modern Culture expands the coverage to 957 entries, taking into account the cultural changes of the past quarter century, including the fall of communism, the adoption of the Internet as a means of communication, and the rise of fundamentalist Islam. Subjects include philosophers, religious leaders, scientists, writers, artists, musicians, political leaders, film directors, and such popular culture icons as the Beatles, Elvis Presley, and Jimi Hendrix. Although the editor also published a volume titled Makers of Nineteenth