

SOURCES

Goulart's book is in color, Duncan and Smith's book seems better suited for the academic library with its in depth descriptions of the characters impact on culture and not just background information.

Icons of the American Comic Book: From Captain America to Wonder Woman explores the world of the comic book industry introducing us to not only to the characters we know and love but to their ideals and what they represent to us in our society. Recommended for public and academic libraries.—*Jasmine L. Jefferson, First Year Experience Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation and Integration. Ed. by Elliot Robert Barkan. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 4 vols. acid free \$415 (ISBN 978-1-59884-219-7). Ebook available (978-1-59884-220-3), call for pricing.

The bulk of this four-volume set comprises essays describing the experiences of specific immigrant groups, an approach commonly employed by reference works on immigration. The twist is the chronological focus. Rather than the standard A-Z arrangement, each volume covers immigrants during a specific time period; Volume 1 covers immigrant populations before 1870. Volume 2 covers 1870-1940 and Volume 3, 1940 to present. The fourth volume addresses broader issues such as the "Economic Impact of Immigration," and "Nativism." There is no attempt at comprehensive coverage. For each time period, the most numerous or historically significant populations are profiled. As with any selective work, there are occasional surprises – the volume on immigration after 1940 does not include Afghani, Iraqi, or Sudanese immigrants, groups which although numerically small had significance beyond their numbers. Volumes 2 and 3 contain substantially more essays, reflecting the changing face of American immigration.

The segmentation by time period can take some getting used to—initially the content felt needlessly chopped up. To get a full accounting of German American migration users need to consult three volumes which can be unwieldy. After a period of adjustment, the benefits of a chronological arrangement became more apparent. Focusing on a specific time period allows the authors to explore in detail topics that might be omitted or overshadowed in an essay covering a broader time span. Each author is able to focus on temporally specific context—an important aspect of immigration history. A Chinese migrant in 1890 faced a different legal, social, and political landscape than a Chinese national contemplating immigration after World War II. The stated goal of the chronological arrangement is to facilitate group comparisons and shed light on immigrant opportunities and conditions at similar points in time. There is some merit to this approach—a perusal of the essays can reveal themes. As one example, in later volumes the essays for established (largely European) ethnic groups tell similar narratives of efforts to retain ethnic identity in the face of dwindling numbers. These stories reinforce and complement each other, while starkly contrasting

with experiences of the rising immigrant populations originating from Latin America.

This work is recommended primarily for libraries receiving significant inquiries relating to immigration history. What separates this work is the analysis by time periods which adds some valuable insights, but outside of the chronological arrangement the work does not offer much new. The same basic information can be found for many immigrant groups in recent reference works such as *Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans* (Greenwood Press, 2011) or the *Encyclopedia of American Immigration* (Salem Press 2010). The encyclopedia would have been more valuable if the goal of cross-comparison had been more fully implemented. A standard format would have further encouraged cross-group comparisons. Each author is left to explore different aspects of their topic—one essay might focus on Americanization or residential patterns, while another examines family dynamics, benevolent societies, or political participation. Some entries contain data tables, many do not. Given the diversity of immigrant experiences it is only natural that there would be some divergence, but a set of common core elements would have furthered the goal of comparing the experiences of different ethnic groups. Additional cross-references between essays would have also encouraged this goal. A second edition that more explicitly compares immigrant experiences would be welcome.—*Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania*

Military Robots and Drones: A Reference Handbook. By Paul J. Springer. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 297 pages, acid free \$58 (ISBN 978-1-59884-732-1). Ebook available (978-1-59884-733-8), call for pricing.

Military Robots and Drones: A Reference Handbook proves a versatile and balanced resource. While Vincennes University's collection houses very few materials specifically focused on military robotics, we do own many general robotics-based resources as a result of our robust advanced manufacturing programs. However, a review of available materials via outlets such as YBP GOBI3 and Amazon.com demonstrates the unique nature of this resource. Most published materials in this area demonstrate a somewhat narrow focus. Ethics or specific technical information often encompasses the focus of most resources on military robotics. This book goes well beyond by offering history, ethics, technological developments, a detailed chronology, and worldwide perspectives on the use of robotics in the military.

The historical perspective and chronology included in this book are remarkable, and Springer's background as a military historian certainly contributed to this. Springer goes well beyond the advent of military usages of robotics and into the origins of the concept of robots themselves—beginning with Homer. He also traces the evolution of ethics-based thinking in connection with robots. In this way, *Military Robots and Drones* will prove useful for research on the historical

and ethical aspects of robotics technology in the past, present, and future. The chronology also includes information about how the field of robotics has evolved in areas outside of the military from the first mathematical computational machines to robots employed in the automotive manufacturing field. This broad treatment of the evolution of robotics will prove useful for a variety of fields of study.

Springer also employs a sense of balance in the treatment of this topic. While Springer fully discusses the advantages of employing robots and drones in military endeavors, he never loses sight of the ethical issues connected with the possibility of robots employing deadly force. His treatment of the topic is fair and takes many possibilities into consideration. Springer acknowledges that the United States has been at the forefront of military robotics, but avoids a myopic focus by including detailed information about the use of military robotics worldwide.

On the whole, *Military Robots and Drones: A Reference Handbook* will prove useful for academic libraries—particularly those with programs focused on general robotics, homeland security, law enforcement, and manufacturing, but will also prove useful for those with coursework in computer science, ethics and artificial intelligence. This reasonably priced volume would be a useful addition to most academic collections. Also, with the recent public interest in drone technology, this would also be a welcome addition to many public library collections.—Anita J. Slack, *Information Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups, Cultures, and Contemporary Issues. Ed. by Steven Danver. Armonk, NY: Sharpe Reference, 2013. 3 vols. alkaline \$349 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8222-2).

Our planet is home to more than 5,000 indigenous peoples, according to the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). Some 450 tribal groups live in India (622), while Papua New Guinea is home to speakers of 800 mutually unintelligible languages (656). To begin to sort out this cultural complexity, there is *Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups, Cultures, and Contemporary Issues*, which profiles 394 native groups, seventy-nine countries, and forty-nine contemporary issues affecting indigenous groups worldwide. The 150 contributors to this work include an international roster of academic and independent scholars.

Brief synoptic essays on native groups, “their cultures, their histories, and their current status” (xix) comprise the first two volumes of this three-volume set. Essays are alphabetical, within six alphabetically arranged regions. Thus, “Central and South America” and “North America” are in different volumes. Signed introductory essays of five to seven pages in length preface each regional section. The signed articles average one to two pages in length, with an occasional longer essay, such as the four-page entry on the “Han” (Chinese). Articles conclude with brief bibliographies of books, journal articles, and an occasional web site. There

is inconsistency in the currency of some articles and in the currency and depth of some of the bibliographies.

The third volume contains “Countries,” “Contemporary Issues,” and “Documents” sections. The “Countries” section includes seventy-seven alphabetically arranged articles on seventy-nine countries. In contrast, the United Nations has 193 member states. Terse essays range from a single page article on “Philippines” to seven pages on “China.” These articles include “an evaluation of the historical and current importance of the nations profiled in terms of their relationships with their native populations” (xx). Other than Russia, Eastern Europe is unrepresented in the “Countries” section, although “Bosniaks,” “Slovaks,” and other Eastern European indigenous groups are profiled in the “Groups” section. The third volume also includes forty-nine essays on contemporary issues affecting native peoples. Longer than the articles on individual peoples and countries, these essays address global issues such as “Colonialism,” “Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations,” and “Water Rights.” Inexplicably, the article on the contemporary issue of “Women’s Rights” devotes half of its four pages to a discussion of women in traditional Iroquois society.

Text is interspersed with stock photographs and fifty-eight sidebars, the latter on subjects ranging from “Dracula” to “Darfur Genocide.” Conveniently, there is a separate “List of Sidebars” in the “Contents.”

The work concludes with a “Documents” section, which consists of three documents, including the text of the “Declaration of Indigenous Peoples of the World.” There is a nineteen-page bibliography of books with a single column of relevant web sites. The detailed index spans 107 pages.

A two-page grayscale world map adds little to the work; the Balkan Peninsula is crowded with abbreviations such as “B.H.” and “KO.” As for the unnamed pinpoints in Oceania, it is impossible to locate the individual islands referred to in the essays on “Melanesians” or “Micronesians.” Regional maps would have been more useful.

There is overlap with the five-volume ABC-CLIO series, *Ethnic Groups of the World*, of which four volumes have been published: Jeffrey Cole’s *Ethnic Groups of Europe: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2011); John A. Shoup’s *Ethnic Groups of Africa and the Middle East: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2011); James Minahan’s *Ethnic Groups of South Asia and the Pacific: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2012); and James Minahan’s *Ethnic Groups of the Americas: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2013). The final volume, covering ethnic groups in north, east, and central Asia, is due out at the end of 2013.

The four published volumes, priced at \$89 each, contain alphabetically arranged, signed essays on more than 530 ethnic groups. The fifth volume will add another 100-150 peoples. While lacking features such as articles on countries and issues, the ABC-CLIO series contains lengthier articles on more ethnic groups than are included in *Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups, Cultures, and Contemporary Issues*.

While leaving nearly 4,400 ethnic groups unexplored, either *Native Peoples of the World: An Encyclopedia of Groups,*