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