

“It is not possible even in an encyclopedia to convey all the variation and variety of NRMs (New Religious Movements) that now exist,” (vi) editor Peter B. Clarke writes. It is likely that many librarians and library users have little idea that NRMs are so numerous and so varied (I didn’t). The book’s stated purpose is to provide examples of the multifarious NRMs now in existence around the world, in order to demonstrate the universality of the phenomenon.

A global scope and wide-ranging scholarship are two of this encyclopedia’s many strengths. The editor’s learned introduction will be of use to both scholars of the subject and those with little knowledge of it. While most entries deal with particular movements, others explore broad classifications and themes, as well as key topics, thinkers, and ideas. The entries are alphabetically arranged, with an index at the end and an extensive, nine-page list of entries at the beginning of the work, ranging from movements as large as Reform Judaism to the little-known “Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.” A point to consider is that the “accessibility” of this book—not in terms of clarity of arrangement but in terms of content and style—will be questionable for some undergraduates.

The recent publication *New Religious Movements: A Documentary Reader*, edited by Dereck M. Daschke and W. Michael Ashcraft (New York Univ. Pr., 2005), will be an important companion to the *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*. Comparable in quality though not in scope, its primary documents, gleaned from the movements themselves, will surely shed light and encourage further study. Used in conjunction with *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements*, the *Documentary Reader* can flesh out and contextualize many NRMs.

Another work that can be compared to *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements* is John Wolffe’s *Global Religious Movements in Regional Context* (Ashgate, 2002). It is the fourth monograph in the textbook series, *Religion Today: Tradition, Modernity, and Change*. The function of this book in an academic collection might be to introduce undergraduates to NRMs as a field of study. It includes an introduction to the key issues and controversies, amplified with some case studies from around the world. It has illustrations and extensive references. It is a very useful volume, if less erudite and comprehensive than the other two covered here.

The purpose that Clarke puts forth for *Encyclopedia of New Religious Movements* is modestly stated in comparison to the wealth of information and educational potential that the work offers. The purpose is most certainly achieved, and the quality of the book is excellent. It is desirable for seminars and larger academic libraries, especially religion, comparative religion, and theology collections.—*Benedette Palazzola, Librarian, University of Michigan English Language Institute, Ann Arbor*

Encyclopedia of Social Theory. Ed. by Austin Harrington, Barbara L. Marshall, and Hans-Peter Müller. New York: Routledge, 2006. 723p. acid free \$225 (ISBN 0-415-29046-5).

If you are a regular reader, you may be wondering if *RUSQ* is reprinting earlier reviews. Yes, we critiqued an *Encyclopedia*

of *Social Theory* in spring 2005. However, that was a different work, edited by George Ritzer (Sage, 2005).

This latest offering is published by Routledge. Each of its three editors has made important scholarly contributions. Harrington, a professor at the University of Leeds (United Kingdom), has authored works on the history of social thought, while Marshall (Trent University, Canada) has explored feminism, gender, and sexuality. Over the past twenty years, Müller (Humboldt University, Berlin) has written numerous books and articles on social inequality and political sociology, mainly in German. Most of the volume’s two hundred contributors are university faculty in Europe and the United States.

While the Sage title is especially notable for its treatment of contemporary theorists (biographical articles account for about 40 percent of that work), the Routledge volume concerns itself more with drawing linkages between schools of thought. Though about 20 percent of the entries relate to major figures such as Jacques Derrida, such entries are typically brief, providing few personal details. The most extensive essays (up to 2,500 words) cover themes such as “consumption” and “queer theory.” Boldface type (used extensively in the text to cross-reference other entries) enables users to explore and recall connections between terms.

Approximately 140 of the 479 items in Routledge’s encyclopedia are covered by main entries in Sage’s. However, the Routledge work does a finer job of teasing out concepts. For instance, related ideas like “domination,” “freedom,” “race,” and “slavery” are each identified and discussed, helping students develop greater precision in their thinking and writing. Looking in its index, the Sage encyclopedia does not seem to address any of these terms discretely. Unfortunately, a major drawback of the Routledge title is that it generally assumes an extensive vocabulary of its readership. For instance, the article on “deconstruction” uses unexplained terms like “aporetic” and “discursive,” words unknown to the typical undergraduate. In contrast, Sage’s encyclopedia is quite readable.

In sum, Routledge’s encyclopedia is useful for advanced students, faculty, and serious readers, and would be a helpful addition to an academic collection on social theory. Yet given the steep price of such works, many libraries can only afford one title. Those primarily serving the general public or lower-division undergraduates will probably be satisfied with the Sage title. Purchase Sage first, then Routledge if you have sufficient funds.—*Bernadette A. Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

Encyclopedia of the Blues. Ed. by Edward Komara. New York: Routledge, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$295 (ISBN 0-415-92699-8).

This two-volume set focuses on the blues in America from its roots in African and American traditional music up to the present contemporary style. It is well organized and complete, covering all the essentials of this genre in more than 2,100 entries. Included are not only the major artists, but also the historians and songwriters, the musical forms and

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styles, instruments, and other characteristics of the blues. It is very helpful that almost all the entries include a bibliography and discography pertinent to the entry. An extensive index, two hundred pages long, is included. Some black-and-white photographs add further interest to the text.

Entries vary from a brief paragraph to extensive essays. For example, the entry under “Harmonica” presents a history of the instrument, a description of the types of harmonicas, detailed instructions on playing the instrument, categories of harmonica music, and an introduction to the harmonica’s most influential players. Other equally complete and detailed examples are the entries for “Hispanic Influence on the Blues” and “Historiography.” The entry under “Periodicals” includes a list of blues journals, newsletters, fanzines, and additional serial publications.

There are several other recent publications of blues reference books that also make a rich contribution to the genre. Irwin Stambler and Lyndon Stambler’s *Folk and Blues: The Encyclopedia* (St. Martin’s, 2001) is a one-volume work that contains interesting introductory essays and an extensive list of awards in the fields of folk and blues music. *The Language of the Blues from Alcorub to Zuzu* by Debra DeSalva (Billboard Bks., 2006) and *Blues* by Dick Weissman (Facts On File, 2006) are both short works with discography and bibliographical references. Gerard Herzhaft’s second edition of *Encyclopedia of the Blues* (Univ. of Arkansas Pr., 1997) contains many very fine photographs and appendixes, including a list of blues standards. But none of these works are as extensive and inclusive as Komara’s new set.

Encyclopedia of the Blues is well worth its price for most liberal arts colleges and universities. It will be of interest to music students and to non-music majors doing research in this area. Some high schools might also want to consider for purchase.—Betty Porter, Assistant Director for Education Services, Xavier University Library, Cincinnati, Ohio

Encyclopedia of the Developing World. Ed. by Thomas M. Leonard. New York: Routledge, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$565 (ISBN 1-57958-388-1).

Editor Thomas Leonard, a professor of history at the University of North Florida, previously edited *The Encyclopedia of Cuban-United States Relations* (McFarland, 2004) and authored *Fidel Castro: A Biography* (Greenwood, 2004). Now he has gathered more than 250 contributors from institutions around the world to put together this three-volume reference set concentrating on the post-1945 period. The beginning of each volume contains an alphabetical list of entries, a thematic list of entries (the themes are Countries and Regions, Organizations, Persons, and Topics) and an introduction. Neither of the lists gives corresponding page numbers for the entries so the user must browse through the volumes or use the extensive index to find the entries.

The introduction states that the encyclopedia “provides a ready reference work for understanding the issues that affect approximately three quarters of the globe’s residents” (xxxvi). The set covers developing countries, which, as stated in the in-

troductory, is widely assumed to be all countries except for the G-7 (United States, Japan, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Canada) and Australia and New Zealand. Those countries are not covered as separate entries in the encyclopedia but are included in the index as they are referenced in other sections.

The alphabetically arranged articles range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. All articles are signed and have bibliographies that vary widely in length and currency. Most entries have “see also” references.

Most of the country-specific entries only give brief histories. More thorough country treatment can be found in sources such as *Europa World Year Book* (Europa Pub., annual), *Worldmark Encyclopedia of National Economies* (Gale Group/Thomson Learning, 2002), or the Country Studies series from the Library of Congress (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html>). There are “see also” references for countries. So, for example, a reader will be referred from the entry on Yemen to the sections, “Middle East: History and Economic Development” and “Middle East: International Relations” for more information about Yemen.

A strength of this source is the extensive number of organizations listed. The organizations range from the well known, such as the World Bank and UNICEF, to the less familiar, such as the Visegrad Group and the Awami League. Information given in the entries usually includes the history and mission of the organization, the members, the work done, and plans for the future if the organization is still active.

Lengthier coverage than what is provided for the individual countries is given to regions such as the Southern Cone (Latin America), Oceania, Central Asia, and North Africa. There are many individuals profiled, such as Ni John Fru Ndi (chairman of Cameroon’s Social Democratic Front), Juan Bosch (Dominican writer and politician), and Franjo Tujman (the father of Croatia). The bulk of the topics address wide themes such as deforestation, HIV and AIDS, Kurds, socialist economic model, and water resources and distribution.

Libraries may have some outdated resources on the developing world such as *Encyclopedia of the Third World* (Facts On File, 1992) and the *Dictionary of Development: Third World Economy* (Garland, 1990). Although the topics in *Encyclopedia of the Developing World* can be researched in a number of other sources, the editor does a nice job of bringing all the current information together in these volumes. *Encyclopedia of the Developing World* would be a worthwhile addition for any library.—Stacey Marien, Business and Economics Librarian, American University, Washington, D.C.

Encyclopedia of the Documentary Film. Ed. by Ian Aitken. New York: Routledge, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$465 (ISBN 1-57958-445-4).

Although the documentary is one of the earliest film genres, only now has it been treated by a reference source of this magnitude. Routledge is promoting its set as “the first comprehensive reference work of documentary film,” and although completed before the huge commercial successes of Morgan Spurlock’s *Super Size Me* and Luc Jacquet’s *March*