

SOURCES

The work opens with an alphabetical list of all entries, which allows one to have an immediate sense of the type of information contained within. This directory is followed by a “List of Documents” (primary resources) by date. The primary documents, one of the highlights of this encyclopedia, include letters, speeches, Web-site postings, song lyrics, and interview transcripts. The opening material concludes with a “Reader’s Guide,” which organizes the encyclopedia’s entries into broad subjects such as “Art, Culture, and Memory,” “Race and Ethnicity,” and “Wars.” These broad subjects are mirrored in the organization of the work’s “General Bibliography.” All of these organization tools, in addition to an extremely detailed, ninety-five-page index, make the source remarkably easy to use for both seeking specific information and browsing. Black-and-white images adequately pepper the work, though a bit more illustrative matter would have made it exceptional.

The signed articles are organized alphabetically, range from one to four pages in length, include bibliographic references, further-reading citations, a list of related entries within the encyclopedia, and references to related primary sources that can be found in the work’s “List of Documents.” A comprehensive list of contributors, including their qualifications, is included.

Encyclopedia of War and American Society fills a gap in U.S. war-reference works not only by its unique theoretical manner of coverage but also in its subject matter. Sources such as *War and American Popular Culture: A Historical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 1999), *The Encyclopedia of American Political History* (CQ Pr., 2001), and *Oxford Companion to Military History* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2001) certainly complement the reviewed work, but they do not replace it. Additionally, none of these other works covers U.S. military activity post-9/11. *War and American Popular Culture* complements the reviewed work’s social and cultural aspects, while *Encyclopedia of American Political History* and *Oxford Companion* provide a more traditional, fact-listing, encyclopedic support.

Encyclopedia of War and American Society is highly recommended for undergraduate and graduate academic libraries as well as high school libraries supporting advanced history courses.—Kristi L. Palmer, Assistant Librarian, Cataloging and Liaison to the Department of History, Indiana University–Purdue University, Indianapolis University Library

Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition. Ed. by Richard M. Golden. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2006. 4 vols. acid free \$485 (ISBN 1-57607-243-6).

Covering the period from the late Middle Ages until the late eighteenth century, this encyclopedia fills a distinct void in the literature of witchcraft in the Western world, especially Europe. The editor has skillfully selected and edited 757 entries, providing a depth of coverage unparalleled by other works on witchcraft and giving the reader ready access to articles on all aspects of the history of witchcraft.

During the centuries included by the encyclopedia, it is estimated that nearly 100,000 people were prosecuted for witchcraft in Europe and the Americas, with between 35,000 and 50,000 accused witches executed. Countries as diverse as Moravia, France, England, Italy, Norway, Iceland, Peru, and Bermuda all witnessed trials of witches during the period. The overwhelming majority of individuals prosecuted were women, although no one was immune to accusations of witchcraft, including priests and even popes. The concept of witchcraft had far-reaching influence, touching religion, medicine, education, legislation, the courts, and even everyday life. The strength of this work is that it approaches witchcraft from all these perspectives.

More than 170 scholars from twenty-eight nations and representing fields as diverse as folklore, religion, medicine, anthropology, philosophy, and literature have contributed to the encyclopedia, providing articles grounded in the most recent research and providing citations to historical documents and events. Entries include biographies, folklore, religion and theology, literature, sexuality, law, music, and geography. A few articles discuss topics outside the defined time period covered; for example, there are a variety of articles on antiquity, the early and high Middle Ages, and the modern period, which provide greater context to the work as a whole. The geographic coverage is similarly broad in scope, with more than 120 articles related to Germany, seventy on England and Scotland, more than sixty on France, fifteen on the Americas, and even one on Malta. The index is well done, providing useful cross-references. The complete index is included in each of the four volumes, making it an even more useful tool for navigating through the set.

Compared with other works on witchcraft, such as Rosell Hope Robbins’s *Encyclopedia of Witchcraft and Demonology* (Crown, 1959), Rosemary Eileen Guilley’s *Encyclopedia of Witches and Witchcraft* (2nd ed., Checkmark Bks., 1999), or Michael Bailey’s *Historical Dictionary of Witchcraft* (Scarecrow, 2003), the *Encyclopedia of Witchcraft: The Western Tradition* provides significantly more entries—many of which are several pages in length—and greater coverage, almost three times as many entries as Robbins’ work and almost twice the number of Guilley’s book. Because the work under review focuses on the history of witchcraft, the other books still provide useful information, especially on modern witchcraft and Wicca. Also useful is James R. Lewis’s *Witchcraft Today: An Encyclopedia of Wiccan and Neopagan Traditions* (ABC-CLIO, 1999).

Due to the ongoing interest in witchcraft and occult sciences, this encyclopedia will be a welcome purchase in most medium-sized and larger academic and public libraries. For libraries serving religious institutions and seminaries, it is a required purchase since it provides a balanced, historically based discussion of witchcraft in the Western world.—Gregory A. Crawford, Director, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania