

SOURCES

graphs, maps, and illustrations that ably illuminate the text. One amusing moment was noticing that the “du Pont de Nemours Family” entry was by the well-known historian Alfred D. Chandler Jr. His middle name? Du Pont.

Toward the end of the second volume are eighteen “Primary Sources,” grouped under three headings: “Historical Texts,” “Speeches,” and “Agreements, Treaties, and Legislation.” As these are contained within thirty pages, it is not surprising that they are extracts and not full-text. That being said, a frustrating inconsistency is that some sources have citations and some do not. A reference work, of all things, should be thorough in citing borrowings from other texts.

The only comparable work to *History of World Trade Since 1450* happened to be published less than a year before by M.E. Sharpe: *Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present* (2005), edited by Cynthia Clark Northrup and reviewed in the winter 2005 issue of *RUSQ* by Stacey Marien. Prior to these two works, one had to ferret out particular aspects of trade history from either scholarly monographs or more general encyclopedias such as the recent *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History* (2003). Now we have two specialist titles from which to choose.

Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present is seemingly longer (more than fifteen hundred pages in four volumes), but difference in type size and paper thickness account for some of that difference. What about the contents? The most obvious difference is that *History of World Trade Since 1450* focuses on the era of European exploration and since, while *Encyclopedia of World Trade: From Ancient Times to the Present* reaches back to ancient times. Neither time frame is intrinsically better; both have worthy justifications, so patron need is the key rationale on this principal difference. *Encyclopedia of World Trade*’s “Topic Finder” has more subject groupings and more articles (450 versus 400), but then the *History of World Trade Since 1450* has more depth, considering its shorter timespan. One striking difference is that the “Documents” section of *Encyclopedia of World Trade* is vastly longer (more than 180 pages), with only five items prior to 1450. *Encyclopedia of World Trade* has a helpful “Chronology of World Trade” and a valuable “List of Maps”; in the work under review, maps show up as unannounced illustrations. Comparing article titles reveals a surprising lack of overlap between the two works, with *Encyclopedia of World Trade* having just more than one-fifth (96) in common and *History of World Trade Since 1450* having only a quarter (102). So, the vexing conclusion one reaches is that both have much that is desirable, despite their niggling idiosyncrasies. However, for large public and academic research libraries, *History of World Trade Since 1450* stands well enough on its own and is recommended.—Peter B. Ives, Collections Manager, William J. Parish Memorial Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

The purpose of this encyclopedia is “to explore the remarkable diverse, rich, and complex relationship that has characterized Spanish and Portuguese relations with the Americas” and to illustrate “the many political, economic, social, and cultural connections and interconnections between the two worlds” (xv). This encyclopedia is part of ABC-Clio’s Transatlantic Relations series, which studies the impact that the Old World and New World have had on each other. The work’s editor, J. Michael Francis, is associate professor of Latin American history, specializing in the colonial period, at the University of North Florida. Francis’s three-volume set portrays the historical and contemporary association between Iberia and the Americas.

Six informative opening essays introduce readers to the Iberian-American relationship. The essays effectively trace the relationship between Iberia and a variety of New World entities, including Latin America, the Caribbean, Brazil, the United States, and Canada. The essays are followed by more than four hundred clearly written entries, arranged alphabetically. Essays and articles, written by academics from around the world, are signed. Each includes a bibliography and cross references. The text is enhanced with useful supplementary features, including a topic finder, chronology of historical events, and an index. The set is complemented by a strong collection of black-and-white illustrations, including historical maps, photographs, and reproduced art work.

The encyclopedia illustrates the wide-ranging connections between Iberia and the Americas in a variety of ways, although it primarily highlights the colonial period of the Americas. The work covers eighteen diverse subject areas, including arts and culture, economy and economic development, government and law, science and technology, religion, and sports. It covers an extensive span of topics, although biographical articles are deliberately excluded. Specific entries range from the arrival of the Europeans and their contact with the indigenous peoples (for example, “Conquest I—Andes,” “Explorers,” “Native Americans I—Amazon”); to independence (“Independence I—Argentina,” “Independence II—Brazil”); to more recent times (“North American Free Trade Agreement,” “North Atlantic Treaty Organization”). Articles comprehensively show that the Americas were not merely passive recipients of Iberian influence but profoundly affected the imperial nations as well. For example, the article entitled “Sugar” documents how sugar production in the New World resulted in the commodity shifting from “an exotic luxury” to “a mass-consumed food” in Europe (990).

Other works that examine the New World include Jacob Ernest Cooke’s *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies* (Scribner, 1993) and James Ciment’s *Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History* (Sharpe, 2006) (see review on p. 84). *Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia* differs significantly from the other encyclopedias because it examines a broader time period and geographical area. In addition, while the intention of *Iberia and the Americas* is to emphasize an ongoing relationship between Iberia and the Americas, *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies*

Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia. Ed. by J. Michael Francis. Transatlantic Relation Series. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$270 (ISBN 1-85109-421-0)

accentuates the colonial development of Canada and the United States, and *Colonial America* highlights current historical thought on the colonial period in the United States. Furthermore, *Iberia and the Americas* deals exclusively with the imperial powers of Spain and Portugal. One final notable difference is that *Colonial America* and *Encyclopedia of the North American Colonies* both devote individual articles to blacks as well as offer entries on slavery and related topics. In contrast, *Iberia and the Americas* discusses African people only within the context of articles on slavery, slave trade, slave rebellions, and race.

Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia is an informative and highly readable work that effectively illustrates a historic and modern day connection between Spain and Portugal and the Americas. It is recommended for undergraduate and public libraries.—Michelle Hendley, *Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*

Introduction to the World's Major Religions. By Emily Taitz, Randall L. Nadeau, John M. Thompson, Lee W. Bailey, Zayn R. Kassam, and Steven J. Rosen. Ed. by Lee W. Bailey. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 6 vols. acid free \$325 (ISBN 0-313-33634-2).

Religious practices and beliefs have continuously played pivotal roles in the political and social history of the world. Events of the last twenty years have drawn attention to how religious differences affect political, economic, and social affairs. Recognizing the value of having an awareness of religious differences to better understand world events, Greenwood Press has published this six-volume introduction to the largest world religions: Judaism, Confucianism and Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism. The general editor is an associate professor of philosophy and religion at Ithaca College. Each volume is written by a different scholar with experience in the academic understanding of religion.

The intent of the set is to provide an introduction to each movement that can be read without having a significant background in that religion or region of the world. Each volume is structured in a similar pattern, with chapters on history, texts and major tenets, branches, practices worldwide, rituals and holidays, and major figures. Also included is a chronology, a glossary, a bibliography listing essential books as well as Internet sites, and a complete set index in the back of each volume. The written text for each volume is around two hundred pages.

Because the purpose of the set is to provide basic and introductory material, there will be components left out that may be considered important by some scholars, but that is the nature of this type of reference item. The editors wanted a volume that could be understood by those with a high school education; consequently the information is general and at times simplistic. The requirements of uniformity between the volumes occasionally results in fragmentation of the information presented. This is particularly true with regard to

the volume on Christianity, whose history is characterized by a variety of religions and approaches, but is less of a problem in the volume on Confucianism and Taoism, for example.

Similar reference works include: *Human Rights and the World's Major Religions* (Praeger, 2005), which is a comparative five-volume set with a similar structure; and the three-volume *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices* (Thomson Gale, 2006), which is more academic and not as comprehensive. Because of its focus on the six major religious movements, *Introduction to the World's Major Religions* will be of interest particularly to high school, public, junior college, and undergraduate libraries.—Mark L. Grover, *Latin American Studies Bibliographer, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah*

Islamic Civilization, History, Contributions, and Influence: A Compendium of Literature. By S. M. Ghazanfar. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2006. 547p. acid free \$95 (ISBN 0-8108-5264-0).

According to the preface, the purpose of this work is “to provide a readily accessible compendium of literature on Islamic civilization, with a particular focus on . . . the literature pertaining to Islamic history, contributions to knowledge, and the influence of that reservoir once it was assimilated in medieval Europe” (vii). This work does, indeed, succeed admirably in its “modest mission.” Covering more than six hundred different books and articles, it is a wonderful, compact, and affordable annotated bibliography for anyone interested in Islamic civilization and its influence on the development of Western thought.

The book is thoughtfully organized. Annotated references to books and to articles are separated, and each section is divided into the broad topics of sciences and humanities, Islam and Western linkages, and general areas of study. Each record appears in alphabetical order by author or editor and is accorded an entry number. A complete bibliographical reference is followed by a concise description of the resource, its subject area, and its relative strengths and weaknesses. Many entries for books and longer articles also include chapter or section headings. Notations on bibliographies and their extent, notes or footnotes, and indexes are also included. For ease of citation location, the back matter of the book contains a complete, non-annotated bibliography of all resources; a topical bibliography that further divides the broad areas of inquiry (such as sciences and humanities) into smaller topical subgroups; and two indexes, one for authors, editors, and translators, and one for titles. Each of these citations is easily located by its numerical entry in the main work.

It is, however, the annotations that make this work both a unique and lively read. It is clear that Ghazanfar, an emeritus professor of economics whose areas of interest include medieval Islamic thought, has an expert's knowledge of his subject area and an intimate familiarity with the sources he has chosen to include in his bibliography. Each entry distills the essence of the resource down to its major themes and central ideas in plain, straightforward language that is absent of jargon. The frequent use of quotations and paraphrases from