

## SOURCES

gy of the books of the Bible, highlighting the main themes and events as treated in the different books. The final chapter, “A Book-By-Book Summary of the Bible,” is especially valuable as a reference source, providing quick access to each book of the Bible and its place in the canonical literature. The main text is followed by a glossary of terms; a list of abbreviations; a bibliography of nearly one hundred sources for further reading, arranged by topics such as Biblical interpretation and translation, literary background, history and archaeology, anthropology and folklore, geography, theology and literature, and other reference works; and finally a comprehensive index and illustration credits.

Color illustrations appear on nearly every page of the book, including reproductions of art from Europe and the Middle East as well as photographs of artifacts and architectural and archeological sites featured in the Bible. Numerous maps orient the reader to the places where biblical events took place.

Many other illustrated Bible references exist but are often uncritical texts produced by religious publishers and written by and for religious believers and practitioners, for example, Kendall Easley's *An Illustrated Guide to Biblical History* (Holman Bible Publishers, 2003). *How to Read the Bible* by James Kugel (Free Press, 2007) is a critical theological text (with few illustrations) based on modern biblical scholarship, yet the author finds it necessary to warn some readers that “many of the things it discusses contradict the accepted teachings of Judaism and Christianity and may thus be disturbing to people of traditional faith” (xiv). Metzger Coogan's *Oxford Guide to People and Places of the Bible* (Oxford, 2001) is a standard dictionary reference with no illustrations, but it does feature an excellent appendix of Bible maps based upon the *Oxford Bible Atlas* by Herbert May (Oxford, 1985).

This new paperback edition of *The Illustrated Guide to the Bible* is an inexpensive and essential addition to any reference collection (public, school, or college library) that does not already own the earlier editions of Porter's work.—Molly Molloy, *Reference and Research Services, New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces, New Mexico*

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***Military Communications: From Ancient Times to the 21st Century.*** Ed. by Christopher H. Sterling. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 565p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-1-85109-732-6).

Horatio Nelson's voice couldn't be heard by most of his sailors when he uttered his famous general order, “England expects every man to do his duty,” off Cape Trafalgar on that decisive October day in 1805. It could be communicated, however, because Nelson used an alphabetical flag system recently designed by Sir Home Riggs Popham. The flags not only communicated inspiration from ship to ship, but also complex orders that divided the British fleet and allowed it to destroy a larger fleet of French and Spanish vessels and end Napoleon's dreams of conquering England.

The Trafalgar drama is one of the few juicier bits in a generally dry but ground-breaking encyclopedic project. Mastery of communication is essential in warfare, but it has not re-

ceived the attention of tactics, weapons, and other more glamorous aspects of military science. This new volume appears to be the only English-language reference book devoted to the subject. There are books that address certain places or eras or particular technologies, but *Military Communications* tries to cover the whole field. Editor Sterling acknowledges, however, that the contents are skewed to the Western experience, particularly to the modern English-speaking world. David L. Woods's *A History of Tactical Communication Techniques* (Arno, 1974) also attempts a global approach, but uses conventional chapters telling chronological histories of each form of communication. It is the livelier choice for general reading.

*Military Communications* employs a standard reference book alphabetical format and addresses countries, conflicts, inventors, and technologies. It does have nuggets of human interest, but much of the text addresses bureaucracies or complex signaling systems that only the military science student will appreciate. Some of the topics seem tangential, such as a page and a half devoted to Alexander Graham Bell with no indication that he did any military work. Nonetheless, the writing is clear, the articles are sourced and cross-referenced, and there are thoughtful extras, such as a listing of military communications museums. The book belongs in the collections of large libraries and of any that specialize in military affairs.—Evan Davis, *Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

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***The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief.*** Ed. by Tom Flynn. Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2008. 897p. alkaline \$199 (ISBN 978-1-59102-391-3).

*The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief* is a successor publication to Gordon Stein's *Encyclopedia of Unbelief* (Prometheus Books, 1985), a “comprehensive reference to unbelief in religion” (15). Unbelief is defined as “a foundational disbelief in any religious system or supernatural domain” (16).

With more than one hundred contributors, five hundred entries, and a foreword by evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, *The New Encyclopedia* covers the history, philosophy, tenets, and “beliefs” of freethinkers, humanists, agnostics, and atheists. Each article is signed and includes a short bibliography. In-text cross-references lead the reader to other related articles within the text. The volume contains several very useful indexes, including a general index, an index of both periodical and nonperiodical publications, and a list of organizations and institutions.

The editorial policies and “house stances” (17) are clearly articulated and laid out for the reader, and there is candid admission of inconsistencies of application among entries due to the diversity of the authors and their opinions, a quite refreshing attitude for a reference volume. The entries themselves range from concepts of unbelief in certain faiths and ethnic groups (such as “Unbelief within Islam” and “African-Americans and Unbelief”); famous freethinkers in history; unbelief in countries and disciplines (“Australia, Unbelief in,” “Cognitive Science and Unbelief”); and unbelief in movements, philosophies, and

ideas. The articles are informative and well-written, and, as promised, vary greatly in tone and point of view.

Overall, the encyclopedia is fascinating and benefits from a wide range of personal viewpoints and areas of expertise. However, this can also be detrimental to the volume's stated purpose as a "portal through which at least some believers can better come to understand how unbelievers see the universe" (20). While most authors give a rational, reasoned account of their subjects, a few use rhetoric that may alienate the very people they claim they are trying to convince. For example, in the introduction "Against the Seductions of Misbelief," editor Tom Flynn states that "if unbelief is true, countless misbelievers are stunting their only lives in tragic and eventually irremediable ways . . . there is no reclaiming a lifetime dissipated in service to a god that never was" (19). Everyone has the right to believe what they believe, or do not believe. Suggesting to people, however, that they are "stunting their only lives" is unlikely to be an effective way to convert them to a different point of view. Another troubling statement occurs in the entry on "African Americans and Unbelief," where it is argued that "despite African-Americans' intense religiosity—or because of it—they have been historically at or near the bottom of every quality of life indicator" (27). Blaming religion for a very complex political and socioeconomic situation is disingenuous, at best. Arrogance toward other points of view occurs occasionally throughout the volume, weakening an otherwise excellent resource.

Even with these caveats, however, this is a unique volume that is highly recommended for academic, public, and secondary school libraries.—*Amanda Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri*

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***Treaties with American Indians: An Encyclopedia of Rights, Conflicts, and Sovereignty.*** Ed. by Donald Fixico. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$285 (ISBN 978-1-57607-880-8).

The first treaty between English Colonists and Native Americans was concluded with the Delaware (Lenape) in 1778 during the Revolutionary War, even before the United States became a sovereign nation. In the years that followed, the United States government fought more than sixteen hundred battles, skirmishes, and wars against Indian tribes, and signed nearly four hundred treaties and agreements. Today, these settlements continue to profoundly impact the legal status of Native Americans, and the long, continuous, and complicated history between Indians and the American government remains as relevant and important as ever. The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs continue to oversee this relationship. And while broken treaties are a vivid and powerful symbol of the mistrust that characterizes the nature of the historical relationship between Indians and the United States, current issues involving territorial rights and environmental policies; gaming; hunting, fishing, and plant-gathering rights; sovereignty and self-government; economic and financial matters; religion; health care and

education; and countless others; are covered by treaties, and many of these agreements are still being honored. Thus the continuing importance of the subject is well established.

A welcome addition to the reference literature, therefore, is this unique and comprehensive new offering from ABC-CLIO that will serve as a timely and important reference source for serious students and researchers of Native American studies and American history. Edited by Donald L. Fixico, distinguished foundation professor at Arizona State University, the encyclopedia is notable in that it describes not merely the terms and conditions of treaties, but examines in-depth the historical, political, legal, and geographical contexts in which the agreements were made.

The encyclopedia is organized in three parts: The first volume consists of thematic essays written about U.S.–Indian treaties; the second describes individual treaties and includes primary documents; and the third contains treaty-related issues, biographies of important individuals, and a historical chronology. The set's three hundred signed articles are written by an impressive list of more than one hundred academic contributors and subject experts, are scholarly in their approach, and are often accompanied by high-quality illustrations and archival photographs. Refreshingly, Fixico refuses to waffle with estimates, avoids the inconsistencies of the past in identifying ratified documents, and is confident and assertive of his facts. The quality and depth of the encyclopedia's research, moreover, and its attention to providing balanced coverage are noteworthy. Articles conclude, for example, with thorough bibliographies, including legal citations, and the set overall furnishes a massive fifty-six page selected bibliography. In addition, authors are conscious of ensuring that they cover a particular issue from the perspective of both the Indian tribe and the government. Thus the reader is given a comprehensive, objective, and informative reference source, covering treaty diplomacy and a wide range of issues relative to treaties, all in one place.

As one of the more popular and interesting subjects in American historiography, there are a number of excellent reference encyclopedias devoted to North American Indians, but fewer with a focus on treaties. Nonetheless, several works will serve as valuable companion volumes for libraries interested in upgrading their collections in this subject specialty. Francis P. Prucha's *American Indian Treaties: The History of Political Anomaly* (Univ. of California Pr., 1994) is an intriguing study from the perspective that treaties between the United States and Indian tribes are "anomalies," as the term "treaty" implies equality between sovereign nations, a condition rare for Native Americans that were treated as inferiors in lopsided negotiations and were almost always forced to deal from an inequitable position. The Smithsonian's *Handbook of North American Indians* (U.S. GPO, 1988) provides a brief but useful examination of Indian treaties, particularly Volume 4: "History of Indian-White Relations." Kappler's *Indian Treaties* (U.S. GPO, 1904, 1972) and Deloria and DeMallie's supplement to Kappler's work, *Documents of American Indian Diplomacy: Treaties, Agreements, and Conventions, 1775–1979* (Univ. of