

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

## SOURCES

Oklahoma Pr., 1979) are still important and useful sources for obtaining the recognized text of primary documents. Deloria's *Behind the Trail of Broken Treaties: An Indian Declaration of Independence* (Delacorte, 1974) analyzes the history of Indian treaty relations and argues that Indian tribes should be accorded status as members of the United Nations. The author also suggests that tribes with smaller land-holdings should organize confederations to strengthen their claim for nationhood. Readers interested in an extensive overview of the history of treaty-making should consider Grosek's *The Secret Treaties of History* (XLibris, 2004), a fascinating look at the details of more than one thousand secret treaties spanning fifteen hundred years, including indexes and bibliographies intended to guide researchers in analyzing treaties and agreements made by specific countries. Grosek's work will serve as a valuable reference tool for students and scholars conducting treaty research in general and for readers interested in the broad history of treaty-making and diplomacy.

Fixico's new encyclopedia is, however, without equal in the depth of its coverage and in its approach. It will fill an important gap in American history and Native American studies and will undoubtedly supplant the current historiographical reference literature as the definitive one-stop reference work on the subject. Made from high-grade materials and attractive and sturdy bindings, it should last as a collection's authoritative encyclopedia in this area for years to come. It is therefore highly recommended for all undergraduate and school libraries, and public libraries serving interested readers and researchers. —*Vincent P. Tinerella, Public Services Librarian, Ross Pendergraft Library, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas*

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***The Underground Railroad: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Operations.*** By Mary Ellen Snodgrass. Armonk, New York: Sharpe Reference, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$199 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8093-8).

The past decade has brought an exponential growth in research and publication of reference works concerning all aspects of slavery. Virtually every major reference book publisher has added several works on the topic during the period. This encyclopedia comes hard on the heels of the *Encyclopedia of the Underground Railroad* (McFarland, 2006), yet at over 750 pages the Sharpe encyclopedia is more than double the size of the former. This book focuses on the major families, individuals, and institutions as well as wayfarers on the Underground Railroad and their efforts during more than a century of the liberation network's operation.

The encyclopedia contains more than fifteen hundred easy-to-read and well-researched entries. An alphabetical contents list is provided at front of each volume; its value could have been extended had it been presented thematically to help readers unfamiliar with the subject. As well, the meager two-page introduction leaves the reader with very little context with which to begin their research. There are several nice features of the book, including maps of routes and regions of escape, dozens of photos and other illustrations, a

brief chronology, genealogies of seventy-two integral abolitionist families, a list of escapees, railroad operatives listed by location, an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources, and a well-formed cumulative index. One other problem with the work is that there are no entries for states or major cities involved with the Underground Railroad. The index will guide the reader to mentions of a geographic place within articles but it requires persistence to piece together a comprehensive picture of a locality's role this way.

Despite a few shortcomings, this book is a valuable contribution to the subject matter and is recommended for academic libraries that have strong collections or programs in African-American studies or those libraries that have not already purchased the McFarland work. —*Brent D. Singleton, Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino*

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***Women Adventurers, 1750–1900.*** By Mary F. McVicker. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2008. 224p. alkaline \$55 (ISBN 978-0-7864-3205-9).

Author Mary McVicker has produced a work in two parts, neither of which is entirely satisfactory. Part 1, "Women Adventurers," is a bio-bibliography of 128 or so women selected from among the 250 whose works McVicker examined "when available" (1). Each woman McVicker chose to include in part 1 was selected according to an "admittedly subjective" (Ibid.) criterion of, adventurous either by virtue of the date of the undertaking, the difficulty of the journey, or the reason itself. Entries for most women in part 1 include her dates, nationality, a short biographical sketch giving pertinent life facts, and a summary of her travel and travel writing. Excerpts from her travel writing accompany some women's entries and all entries conclude with a listing of an edition of the woman's published travel book or books.

McVicker leans heavily on the standard national biographical dictionaries, such as *American National Biography* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1999) and *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2004), the ongoing *Dictionary of Literary Biography* (Gale Research, 1978–), and a number of monographs and anthologies of women travelers and women's travel writing which she lists in her bibliography of source material. In at least one instance, "Lucy Seaman Bainbridge," McVicker cites a blog and in another, "Lady Hester Stanhope," a *Wikipedia* article.

Part II, "Additional Women Travelers of Interest," lists approximately 93 women concerning whom McVicker found a "dearth of information" (2). Entries for these women are "scanty. . . . For some women there is no information, except the fact that the woman traveled and wrote a book about it" (Ibid.). An edition of that book or books, as the case may be, is cited with each entry in part 2. For many of the women in this section, that is the only information given, causing this reviewer to wonder how these ladies met McVicker's criterion of "adventurous." This reviewer was also puzzled as to why some women for whom McVicker does provide a biographical sketch are in part 2 rather than in part 1.