

rather than a reflection on editor or contributor bias. Entries are grouped into thematic clusters, which is especially helpful for those new to the field and those most interested in specific subsets of the field. The entries vary in length depending on importance of topic, but all use a very appropriate economy of words and are highly readable, with suggestions for further readings. Entries also include cross references that successfully tie the multidisciplinary scholarship together.

This work holds a strong position as a stepping stone in the evolution of literature on men and masculinities. Because of the overall quality of the work and the relative novelty of the field of study, *International Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinities* is recommended for most college and university libraries.—Emily Dill, Assistant Librarian, Indiana University-Purdue University, Columbus

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***International Encyclopedia of Social Policy.*** Ed. by Tony Fitzpatrick, Nick Manning, James Midgely, Huck-ju Kwon, and Gillian Pascall. New York: Routledge, 2007. 3 vols. \$595 (ISBN 978-0-415-25896-8).

Among the significant challenges in compiling a reference work about social policy is defining its scope. Social policy is a dynamic field that overlaps with numerous other disciplines and, depending upon the location, the concept may have different meanings. Much effort is expended to address this issue in the introduction to *International Encyclopedia of Social Policy*. The editors make a point of distinguishing social policy from public policy and social work, and the following definition is given: social policy is “systematic public interventions relating to social needs and problems” (x). With this definition as its guide, the encyclopedia sets ambitious goals: to be “as inclusive as possible without being indiscriminate” (xi), to “articulate the state of this protean field at the early years of the century without necessarily chasing each and every new development” (viii), and to cover a “far broader range of subjects than have thus far been addressed within a single work without sacrificing in-depth, thoughtful treatment” (viii). Finally, while it does not purport to “squeeze the entire globe into its confines” (viii), it attempts to be inclusive and as “cross-national” as possible.

The two-hundred- to three-thousand-word essays, written by an international team of scholars, fall into five categories: “concise definitions of core disciplinary categories” (xi), “in-depth, conceptual entries deal[ing] with theoretical and abstract issues, themes and perspectives” (xi), “a range of empirical entries—quantifiable social phenomena such as unemployment—based in concrete research” (xi), “biographies of prominent figures and organizations” (xi), and “geographical profiles of countries in which social policies are either most developed or distinct” (xi). All entries are signed and most entries have “see also” references at the end. Only “major” articles contain a list of further reading thereby limiting the usefulness of “non-major” entries for the researcher using the publication to launch a search.

There are reference materials covering subsets of the

broad topic of social policy, such as Noel and Rita Timms’ now-dated *Dictionary of Social Welfare* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1982); Jay Schafritz’s *International Encyclopedia of Public Policy and Administration* (Westview, 1998); Pete Alcock, Angus Erskine, and Margaret May’s *The Blackwell Dictionary of Social Policy* (Blackwell, 2002), which covers the United Kingdom; and Anand Sirohi’s *Encyclopedia of Social Welfare: Modern Perspective on Social Work* (Dominant, 2005), which covers India; but no other publication has the breadth of *International Encyclopedia of Social Policy*. Unlike any other work in this area, it is a solid and successful attempt to make sense of the complex and dynamic field of social policy. Generally, the entries present a cross-national perspective, although some, such as the “Social Welfare” entry, focus primarily on the United Kingdom. The individual entries are thoughtful and well-written. The index, which appears in every volume, is comprehensive and useful. If there is any weakness to this set it is that, despite all the effort to clarify the scope at the outset, more discussion about the criteria for inclusion, such as how prominent figures were identified, would have been helpful. Despite this minor defect, the set is a valuable tool for those wishing to understand social policy at this point in history. It is highly recommended for academic libraries with strong social science collections.—Joann E. Donatiello, Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

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***J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia: Scholarship and Critical Assessment.*** Ed. by Michael D. C. Drout. New York: Routledge, 2007. 808p. acid free \$199 (ISBN 978-0-415-96942-0).

The *J. R. R. Tolkien Encyclopedia* aims to cover Tolkien’s “life, scholarship, inspirations, cultural contexts, and social effects” (xxix). In other words, this is not the reference source for the budding *Lord of the Rings* fan. This is the reference source for the budding Tolkien scholar who desires to learn more about the two worlds of scholarship editor Drout mentions in the introduction: “‘Tolkien Studies’—scholarship about Tolkien the author and his works of literature—and ‘Middle-earth Studies’—analysis of Tolkien’s invented worlds, histories, languages, creatures” (xxix). While many other Tolkien sources focus on the intricacies of Middle-earth, the *Tolkien Encyclopedia* touches on major themes in his work, important aspects of his life, literary criticism, and how the work fits into the rest of the world. Although the reader may not find out who Ioreth is, to what month Rethe corresponds, or where Dunharrow is, he or she will discover how Jungian theory applies to Tolkien’s works, how World War I affected the author, the importance of the scholarship of Ida Gordon, and the details about Tolkien fan fiction.

This is not to say that fans of Middle-earth and its inhabitants cannot use the *Tolkien Encyclopedia* as a guide; there are plenty of entries devoted to major characters, places, and invented languages. But such fans would be better off consulting Robert Foster’s much acclaimed *A Complete Guide to Middle-earth: Tolkien’s World from A to Z* (Random House, 2001)