

SOURCES

After a detailed table of contents that lists each statistical table, the 185 tables are organized into eight chapters. These cover demographics and social characteristics; vital statistics and health; education; government and elections; crime, law enforcement and corrections; labor employment and unemployment; earnings, income, poverty and wealth; and special topics such as Asian-owned firms, consumer expenditures, and mobility. Each table concludes with the name of the source, including the URL if applicable, table number in the source, and unit of measure. The introduction notes that the user should pay particular attention to these notes and unit measures. Most of the data are from 2006 and before, although the table counting prisoners under sentence of death is a 2007 number. There are also population projections to 2010, projected fertility rates to 2010, and projections of labor force participation to 2012. Most of the tables compare numbers of white Americans with those of the Asian populations. Some of the tables count each ethnic group within the Asian American population but these are rare.

A fourteen page glossary and a seven page index conclude the book. The glossary offers lengthy and precise definitions of the specialized terms used by the government when taking statistics. There are also many “see” references, which help the user find explanations of precise pieces of data. The index points to table numbers rather than page numbers and tends to use general words such as “children” or “cancer” with several subheadings following.

This volume should be very useful as a ready reference source. Although every statistic in here can be found through a search in census and agency online databases, this would be handy for libraries that often need statistics on Asian Americans. The glossary itself is very helpful because of its precise definitions of exactly what is being counted. The price (\$79), is reasonable enough, although those librarians adept at searching government publications online will probably not wish to buy it. A search of WorldCat did not find other books like this one.—*Carol Krismann, Head, William M. White Business Library, University of Colorado, Boulder*

Black American Military Leaders: A Biographical Dictionary. By Walter L. Hawkins. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2007. 559p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-0-7864-2486-3).

From Salem Poor, who distinguished himself at the Battle of Bunker Hill, to Colin Powell, no less distinguished as a Vietnam War veteran and the nation's first black man to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, African Americans have played an important role in the history of the U.S. armed forces, both in war and peace. That their contributions have generally not been recognized is an oversight that the present volume aims to rectify. Indeed, the author states forthrightly that, “The purpose of this book is to inform the public of the significant impact these black individuals have had on the United States military” (1).

Although the title suggests a focus on the officer corps, coverage is almost evenly divided between the “brass hats”

and enlisted personnel. This is therefore a survey of black American military figures, with soldiers and sailors on an even playing field with generals and admirals. The 1,105 entries follow a standard format of listing the individual's name, rank, and branch of service, which together act as a heading. The heading is followed by a rundown of military training courses attended, duty stations assigned, promotions awarded, and other highlights of each career profiled. This approach reveals a major weakness, for little to no analysis accompanies the unvarnished facts. The entries tell the reader the “what” but neglect to include the “why” and “how.” For that reason, the “significant impact” that the author professes to show the reader is all too often missing in action. A case in point is the following entry: “Bayless, Harvey. Major—Air Force. Harvey Bayless was inducted into the armed services in May 1943. Serving in the 96th Service Group in support of the 332nd Fighter Group in Italy in 1944, he received a field promotion to Second Lieutenant and served as a Communications Maintenance Officer. He was honorably discharged in 1946” (30). Properly, this is more a catalog of experiences than a biographical sketch. The reader is left to ask, who are these people and why are they in this book?

Other aspects of this work are also problematic. The black and white photographs, while numerous, are generally poorly reproduced. In fact, many appear to be downloads from Web sites and are so blurry as to be useless. Although some historical figures are included, the majority of entries concern twentieth-century personalities, especially those still on active duty. This results in page after page of obscure contemporary commanders and non-coms while deserving individuals of the past are left out. Lastly, no account is given of where Sergeant Major Hawkins (yes, the author and career army man is included in the book) obtained his information, as there are no sources cited. Therefore the veracity of the material is open to question and the reader is left to infer that the author relied heavily on “the many people in the Department of Defense who performed valuable services in the preparation of this book” (vii).

Collection development librarians would better serve their patrons by selecting *African Americans at War: An Encyclopedia* by Jonathan D. Sutherland (ABC-CLIO, 2004). This two-volume set provides not only the “significant impact” lacking in the work under review here, but contains entries on themes and concepts germane to African Americans' battles with prejudice at home even as they battled the enemy abroad. While there are fewer total biographies presented, the ones that appear represent true trailblazers, as opposed to a seemingly indiscriminate roster of men and women in uniform.—*Michael F. Bemis, Assistant Librarian, Washington County Library, Woodbury, Minnesota*

Black Americans: A Statistical Sourcebook. 2007 ed. American Profiles Series. Woodside, Calif.: Information Publications, 2007. 390p. \$79 (ISBN 978-0-929960-44-9).

Even in this time of electronic information storage and