

SOURCES

Khartoum, and Mogadishu have joined other well-known cities such as Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jerusalem, Baghdad, and Tehran in becoming commonplace in news stories. Upon hearing such names, many individuals realize they are uninformed about the location, significance, and history of these important cities. This new reference work seeks to fill that information void. The editors have produced a one-volume encyclopedia that provides entries on one hundred cities, both historical and contemporary, located in the Middle East and North Africa. Thus historically significant cities that are now only archaeological sites, such as Babylon, Byblos, Ephesus, Nineveh, Ugarit, and Ur, as well as thriving metropolises that are not well known in the western world, such as Baku, Bursa, Esfahan, Fez, Nouakchott, and Zanzibar, are included. Some cities are smaller, while others have populations in the millions. Each is unique in some fashion. As Bruce Stanley says in his introduction, “one of the realizations that emerges from reading all these entries is that each city has a fascinating story to tell, and its trajectory is just as interesting as that of its neighbor” (xxv).

Each individually authored entry provides the most recent estimate of population; a very brief summary of the article; a longer (often several pages in length) discussion of the city that focuses on the history of the city and its cultural and economic importance; and a short bibliography. Nineteen contributors have written the entries, but little information is given about their expertise. Most are affiliated with universities in the United Kingdom, while others hail from France, the United States, and the Middle East. The entries are well written and informative. A glossary defines a variety of terms, predominantly from Arabic. Four timelines of dynastic and imperial ages help provide contextual information on the region. The index, while serviceable, would have been more effective with additional cross references. For example, there is no “see” reference from the English spelling “Mecca” to the entry for “Makkah.”

Other reference works, such as *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa* (Macmillan, 2004) or *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1995) have entries for major cities, but the work under review provides greater depth and includes far more individual cities. For academic libraries that support programs on the Islamic world and especially on the Middle East and Africa, this will be a welcome addition to their reference collections.—Gregory A. Crawford, Director, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania

Encyclopedia of American Indian History. Ed. by Bruce Johansen and Barry Pritzker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007. 4 vols. acid-free \$395 (ISBN 978-1-85109-817-0).

On reading the title of this work, one immediately asks, “What is the geographical definition of ‘American?’” The introductory material does little to satisfy this curiosity; it is only with a perusal of the cumulative index that one concludes Native American refers to Canadian, U.S. (including

Alaska), and some Mexican affiliated native peoples. Although major South American native groups such as Aztecs, Incas, and Mayans are mentioned, they are included only in relation to North American native tribes and nations. Similarly, the encyclopedia’s covered time-period is inferred (20,000 B.C.–2006) from the titles in the “Chronological Essays” section, but is not specifically stated.

Encyclopedia of American Indian History’s introduction contextualizes the work in a historiographical framework. The editors’ stated goal of “redress[ing] assumptions that any single culture is superior to any other” (xiv) through the selection of both Native and non-Native authors lends this work a noble purpose. But the overly complex organization is a serious drawback. Indeed, the editors comment on the difficulty of selecting an organization scheme that works for all audiences. The four-volume work is arranged in a three-tiered hierarchical structure. It is not until the third level that users encounter what is typically expected in an encyclopedia, an alphabetical list of topical entries. This organizational method may have been an attempt to present readers with topics in a manner resembling the current historiographical themes in Native American research, including hot topics in many university-level ethnography and anthropology courses. Typical users will instead find themselves moderately confused.

On the plus side, the cumulative index of all volumes is present in every volume rather than just the last. This arrangement allows multiple users to begin researching topics simultaneously, enhancing this work’s potential usefulness in the college classroom. An especially useful and time-saving feature of the index is bolded page numbers indicating a primary entry for the referenced topic. There are a generous number of black-and-white images throughout and the “Resources” section includes a directory of U. S. and Canadian tribal organizations and statistical data, such as population by tribe and poverty level.

Another weakness is the lack of consistency among topical entries and essays. The “Primary Resources” section lacks cross references, leaving the connection of primary resources to scholarly commentary up to the user.

Reference works on Native American topics abound. One of the editors of the reviewed work, Barry M. Pritzker, authored *A Native American Encyclopedia* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2000). In fact, the section “Indian Nation Histories” in the reviewed work is essentially an edited reprint of that work. Editor Fredrick E. Hoxie’s *Encyclopedia of North American Indians* (Houghton Mifflin, 1996), though a bit outdated, provides similar information in a far more user-friendly manner. Those looking for tribe-specific histories, including easy comparison of one tribe to another, are better served by *UXL Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes*, edited by Sharon Malinowski, Anna Sheets, and Linda Schmittroth (UXL, 1999). *American Indian History*, edited by Carole A. Barrett (Salem, 2003), while also better organized than the reviewed work, is geared towards a beginning level researcher.

If an academic, public, or special library’s Native American reference sources are lacking or if the library has a focused

collection on Native American history, this source is highly recommended. For those libraries that already have access to fairly recent reference works on Native Americans, there is little need to purchase this \$395 set. Ultimately, the convoluted organizational method may cause the more impatient researcher to abandon the work for one of the multitude of similar and equally scholarly reference titles on the subject.—Kristi L. Palmer, Assistant Librarian, Liaison to the Departments of History, Women's Studies and American Studies, IUPUI University Library, Indianapolis, Indiana

Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature. By Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie. Facts On File Library of American Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2007. \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5656-9).

In 1772, *A Sermon Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian* by Samson Occom became the first publication in English of a literary work by an American Indian. Starting with an article on Occom, *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* offers nearly four hundred essays, signed by academics. The editors, both of whom are professors of English, cover authors commonly read by high school and college students as well as by general readers. Their geography is the forty-eight contiguous states and Alaska, and their criterion for including authors is those “whose works have made a mark on the tradition of Native literature, whether that mark is positive or not” (xi).

Most of the entries in *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* are about individual works and writers. But there are also thematic entries covering pivotal events, ideas, and movements, such as “Ghost Dance,” “gender,” “government agencies,” “mixed-blood,” and “removal.” These articles contain brief discussions of major titles in which these themes emerge. The titles discussed are drawn from a variety of literary genres, including film. Helpful for exploring ways different authors see similar topics, this guided thematic approach gives to the encyclopedia a distinct feature that differentiates it from other dictionary-type reference titles, surveyed below, on native literature.

Kathy J. Whitson's *Native American Literatures: An Encyclopedia of Works, Characters, Authors, and Themes* (ABC-CLIO, 1999) is a single-authored volume, emphasizing plots, characters, and authors. Although the volume contains a detailed index and cross references, there are no entries about themes that compare titles. Kenneth M. Roemer's *Native American Writers of the United States* (Gale, 1997) offers illustrated essays on native authors selected as characteristic of this literature, while Janet Witalec's *Native North American Literature* (Gale, 1994) reprints criticism. Andrew Wiget's *Dictionary of Native American Literature* (Garland, 1994) emphasizes oral traditions, but its in-depth essays resemble chapters in a monograph, making it more of a handbook, much like Joy Porter's *The Cambridge Companion to Native American Literature* (Cambridge, 2005). Beginning with the 1960s, Kay Juricek's *Contemporary Native American Authors:*

A Biographical Dictionary (Fulcrum, 1997) collects available facts gleaned from many sources. Finally, numerous bibliographies also assist thematic searching, such as Joan Beam's *The Native American in Long Fiction: An Annotated Bibliography* (Scarecrow, 1996) and its *Supplement, 1995–2002* (Scarecrow, 2003), but these bibliographies don't always offer the convenient arrangement of bibliographic essays for singling out and differentiating titles, as does the *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature*.

As with almost any short encyclopedia, there are topics that would be easier to find if they were made main entries. For instance, to be assured of discovering the names of authors influenced by World War II or the rise of a Native American middle class, one needs to consult both the index and the introduction. Articles for all important topics and comprehensive indexing would help make *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature* handier as a basic guide.

High school, undergraduate, and public libraries serving readers of this evolving literature will want to consider purchasing this work. The brief bibliographies of primary and secondary sources, including some Web sites, contain materials current to 2006. There are also a number of entries discussing authors by genres and regional tribal affiliations. Its currency and effort in providing comparative articles help make this volume useful.—Nevin J. Mayer, Coordinator of Instruction, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

Encyclopedia of American Jewish History. Ed. by Stephen H. Norwood and Eunice G Pollack. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007. 2 vols. acid-free \$195 (ISBN 978-1-85109-638-1).

The editors have done a masterful job in compiling this encyclopedia, chronicling the Jewish experience in America from the mid-seventeenth century, when the first Jews arrived in New Amsterdam, into the twenty-first century. Divided into twenty-six chapters, each containing up to twenty-four separate articles, the volumes present information on Jews as both a religious and ethnic group, and on the continuity and change that Judaism experienced in America. Articles deal with what is generally unique about American Jewish life in tandem with such specific areas as voting behavior, politics, and involvement in public affairs. Small settlements are covered alongside urban ones.

Articles are narrative and analytic and address, among other topics, how Jews helped shape and influence American culture, academics, labor movements, social movements on the left and right, the military, the life of women, and journalism. The editors note that the encyclopedia was written for a wide audience, including scholars, students in high school and college, and the general public. “The Encyclopedia brings together in one place multiple perspectives on the American Jewish experience, presented by eminent scholars in a wide range of fields, from the United States, Israel, England, and Canada” (vol. 1, xv).

Each section begins with a general essay on the named topic, “American Jews in Business and Philanthropy,” for