SOURCES

appropriate considering the focus of the work on abolition and emancipation movements.

Considering the close relationship between all of these recent reference titles by Rodriguez, there is not a lot of duplication, at least in the sets that I was able to actually compare. The themes of the different sets complement each other; the same topic may appear in one or more of the different sets, but a quick comparison reveals different authors and emphases depending on the overall theme(s) of the respective works. The current work is larger, more comprehensive, and scholarly (and more expensive) than the recent Encyclopedia of Antislavery and Abolition (Greenwood, 2006) edited by Peter Hinks and John McKivigan. This set is part of Greenwoods “Milestones in African American History” series that also includes the Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion edited by Rodriguez. The inclusion of a separate volume of primary source documents in the history of abolition and emancipation distinguishes the current work and makes it a valuable addition to high school, public, and college libraries that might lack other primary sources on this topic.—Molly Molloy, Border and Latin American Studies Specialist, New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces, New Mexico


According to the Preface of this set, the world’s legal systems seem to be entering a period of convergence with legal research increasingly rigorous in methodology and global scope. Therefore Encyclopedia of Law and Society: American and Global Perspectives is a particularly appropriate and timely set because it is multidisciplinary, international, and founded on the fundamental principles of law and society scholarship. It fulfills its purpose as a comprehensive introduction to and comparative survey of the field of law and society from an interdisciplinary and denationalized viewpoint. Although arranged alphabetically, the entries in Encyclopedia of Law and Society cluster around eleven major themes, including psychology and the law, sociology of law, law and political science, and criminology. The set also includes biographies of 125 deceased writers, most of them non-Americans, who were influential in the field of law and society. The editor in chief is a named professor of law at Willamette University in Oregon, who has taught and conducted field research throughout the world, authored numerous books and journal articles, and advised various governments on legal system reform. The advisory board is comprised of scholars and teachers at some of the finest academic institutions here in the United States and abroad. The substantial list of contributors is equally impressive and reflects a truly international perspective. As indicated in the introduction, more than five hundred authors contributed to the content.

A search of OCLC’s WorldCat database indicates that several encyclopedias have been published in the past few years for the field of law, including West’s Encyclopedia of American Law (Thomson, 2005, 2d ed., 13 vols.), David A. Schultz’ The Encyclopedia of American Law (Facts On File, 2002), Brian K. Landsberg’s Major Acts of Congress (Macmillan Reference USA, 2004) and Hall and Scott’s Oxford Companion to American Law (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2002). These sources focus on U.S. law. There are also many choices for encyclopedias of comparative law, such as The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Law (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2006), Smits’ Elgar Encyclopedia of Comparative Law (Edward Elgar, 2006), and Robbers’ Encyclopedia of World Constitutions (Facts On File, 2007). Encyclopedia of Law and Society is different from these other resources because it considers law in the context of social issues, an intersection that could be captured by the field called socio-legal studies, and it includes both a U.S. and a global view.

A typical entry in Encyclopedia of Law and Society is between two to four pages in length. Entries include cross-references and suggestions for further reading. Entries are concise, matter-of-fact in tone, and written in language that non-specialists can understand. For example, the entry on AIDS and HIV is divided into sections on the nature of the disease, the background of the epidemic, balancing public health and concerns over individual rights, legal impact, and international implications. The entry for restorative justice considers its focus and principles, its roots in faith traditions, the stages of use, and countries involved and community and academic initiatives. Entries capture both the legal and the social aspects of the topic. There are also entries for countries, legislation, and national organizations.

An extensive index is provided in the third volume of Encyclopedia of Law and Society and includes cross-references to other entries. Each volume also features a list of entries and a reader’s guide, which arranges entries under the set’s eleven broad themes. The set is attractively presented, with clear typeface, crisp white paper, plenty of subheadings within entries, and a pleasing cover design. There are cross-references throughout the volume. One oddity is that there are almost no illustrations except for a few figures. To the extent that a larger percentage of the population is composed of visual learners, it seems prudent to include some charts, graphs, photographs, drawings, or other visual aids to supplement the text.

Encyclopedia of Law and Society: American and Global Perspectives would be an excellent addition to nearly any library. It would be a particularly good choice for undergraduate academic libraries and for public libraries. It may also be appropriate for libraries that serve nonprofit organizations or government agencies involved in legal aid, social justice, and other humanitarian causes. The price of $395 is quite reasonable for a three-volume set.—Sara Anne Hook, Professor and Associate Dean, Indiana University School of Informatics, Indianapolis, Indiana


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