

SOURCES

related to green topics in a particular subfield. At least 10 other "Green" titles have been published, from *Green Business* to *Green Technology*; all sold separately or in electronic format. Every book in the series has its own editor, while Paul Robbins (University of Arizona) serves as the general editor for the set. These volumes follow identical arrangements and offer similar features, such as both a classified subject list and an alphabetical list of all topics as well as a chronology of important events in the field. Lengthy essays, from 2 to 10 pages each, give excellent summaries, employing advanced vocabulary. Jargon cannot be avoided but appears extensively in some articles, making them harder to follow. References include books, journal and magazine articles, and websites. The references to journal and magazine articles in both reviewed volumes appear incomplete, as none have page numbers for any article. A glossary, bibliography, annotated list of important websites and a thorough index complete each volume. Neither of the books delivered many illustrations, those appearing were black and white. Contributors hailed from both American and foreign educational institutions, as well as a goodly number of "Independent Scholars." Even coverage of subjects prevails, with many pieces summarizing both sides of a topic; for example the lengthy article on "Green Jobs" in *Green Culture* has sections on both "Appeals" and "Dangers" of these jobs.

Green Health discusses consumer products, disease (both chronic and infectious) prevention and control, legal issues, even personal care products as well as providing information on various health problems of our environment. Most make relevant and sensible suggestions of green practices which individuals can follow to reduce their carbon footprint or use products more wisely. A sampling of the articles include "Light Bulbs," "Radon and Basements," "Bottled Water," and "Fast Food." Of the two titles, *Green Health* contains more practical material and specific ideas on how to be more "green."

Green Culture focuses on practices of activists and countries around the world, consumption, the media, and important people who advocate green practices, as well as places and events. Much of the volume delivers overviews, histories, important green groups and background information. Typical compilations cover "Hurricane Katrina," "Ecopopulism," "Love Canal and Lois Gibbs," "Greenwashing," and "Grass-roots Organizations."

Both volumes yield much good information; it is a shame that Sage chose to do individual titles instead of a multivolume encyclopedia set, with one alphabetical sequence. Online purchase of these titles may be the better way to access them. For example, several mentions of locavores appeared in different places in the *Green Health* volume but neither index nor glossary entry existed; one would only find them serendipitously. The detailed discussion of locavores occurred in the *Green Culture* volume.

Titles in this series should help many who wish to learn more about being green, as well as providing good background information on the development of the green

movement. Tight budgets may preclude buying all of the Sage series in paper format, but if considering some of the titles, the *Green Health* volume has more popular appeal and would be an excellent purchase for any library. *Green Culture* would be of interest in a college or university library.—Marion S. Muskiewicz, *Science Librarian, University of Massachusetts Lowell*.

Guide to Interest Groups and Lobbying in the United States. Edited by Burdett A. Loomis. Washington, D.C.: CQ Pr., 2011. 490p. acid free \$185 (ISBN: 978-1-60426-457-9). E-book available (978-1-60871-756-9), call for pricing.

There are probably very few Americans who have not encountered an interest group or lobbying organization in one guise or the other, either via a phone call, a direct mailing, a TV or radio commercial, or a one-on-one conversation. That contact may be ongoing or a one-time occurrence, but conceptualizing the history, method, and actions behind those encounters reveals an extensive, complex system that has been a part of the U.S. government since its constitutional founding. Editor Burdett Loomis has put together a fine resource that begins to examine these issues and presents not only practical information, but a theoretical framework for students, researchers, and others who have more than a layman's interest in the subject.

The work is divided into seven main topical areas, including a history of interest groups in the United States from the constitutional framing to the twentieth century, the relationship between interest groups and the growth of government, tactics and techniques, campaigns and money, and interest groups beyond Washington (that is, local, state, and global). Black and white photographs and illustrations appear throughout, and an extensive index is included.

This is a broad resource that examines the nature of these organized interests and especially their behavior. More than 40 contributors, primarily scholars, provide their expertise on a range of topics that seek to give the reader or researcher a strong foundation in the fundamentals of lobbying, lobbyists, and organized interests, as well as the important historical context from which they have emerged.

In a time of continually growing and evolving influences on American politics, hastened by the advent of social networking and the continued growth of influential bloggers, citizen journalists, and grass roots organizing, Loomis cautions that while this gives us vibrant politics, it also provides frequent gridlock (6). Given the overwhelmingly negative connotations the lobbying profession and special interest groups carry, it is interesting to note that while spending by interest groups can be substantial, "more systematic examinations find only the most modest effects" (2). Contrary to common perceptions, the editors argue, the act of providing information is the more influential activity of the lobbyist.

The writing can be a bit dense at times, and the approach is purely academic and research-oriented. Other reference sources that examine the same topic are more practical in

content (for example, *Lobbying and Advocacy: Winning Strategies, Recommendations, Resources, Ethics and Ongoing Compliance for Lobbyists and Washington Advocates* [TheCapitol.Net, 2008]) or do not have the same depth (for example, *Lobbying in America: A Reference Handbook* [ABC-CLIO, 2009]), but each fills a necessary, and complementary, niche.

The price is not out of range for reference works of this quality, depth, and breadth. It is highly appropriate for college and university collections and larger public library systems.—*Christopher Lee Cochran, Business and Industry Librarian, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Washington, D.C.*

Jewish Americans. Edited by Rafael Medoff. *Great Lives from History*. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2011. 4 vols. alkaline \$495 (ISBN: 978-1-5876-5741-2). Online access included with print.

Jewish Americans is both the latest entry in Salem's *Great Lives from History* series and the inaugural title in the publisher's *Great Lives from History* heritage series. The 529 men and 124 women included in *Jewish Americans* represent a wide and diverse group. Besides men and women of recognized stature such as Benjamin Cardozo, Hannah Arendt, and Albert Einstein, who would be expected in a *Great Lives from History* title, there are entrants such as Al Capp, Winona Ryder, and Herb Alpert whose contributions speak more to inclusion on the basis of heritage. Nor have the infamous (Bernie Madoff excepted) been overlooked. Nestled in alphabetical order between Paul Berg, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, and Rabbi Henry Berkowitz, founder of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, interested readers will find the biography of David Berkowitz, the notorious "Son of Sam" serial killer.

As is the case with biographical dictionaries that strive for popular appeal editorial decisions may be puzzling. Why include conductor André Previn but not James Levine? Why a joint entry for the Warner Brothers, with biographical details for Henry, Albert, Sam, and Jack, but no joint entry for the Marx Brothers, just a separate essay for Groucho, the more famous sibling? In popular advice columnist Abigail Van Buren's entry, Dear Abby's twin sister and rival columnist Ann Landers receives more press, though not her own entry, than do either Harpo, Chico, or Zeppo.

Biographical essays in *Jewish Americans* conform to a standardized pattern. Sketches are arranged in alphabetical order according to the name by which each person is familiarly known (Jerry Lewis; Mike Nichols; Golda Meir) with a notation as to their field of endeavor (entertainer; theater and film director; politician) and a sentence, two at the most, summarizing the individual's career followed by when and where the individual was born, alternative versions of the individual's name, and primary area of achievement. The body of each signed biographical sketch is divided into clearly defined sections: the subject's early life, his or her life's work, the subject's significance, a short listing of further readings, and see also references to sketches for similarly engaged individuals. Black

and white photographs and sidebars with additional information are included in some but not all of the biographies. Each biographical essay offers specific information about the subject's Jewish connections and provides a guide to the pronunciation of the name by which the subject is known.

Jewish Americans is further enhanced by a series of indexes that list subjects according to their occupational categories, country of origin for those who were foreign-born, an A–Z listing of names with page references to other sketches in which that person is mentioned, and a subject index. Additional enhancements include a mediagraphy listing television shows and feature films portraying the Jewish experience; a listing of novels, plays, poetry collections, and short story collections written by Jewish Americans that speak to the Jewish experience; a listing of American Jewish libraries and research centers with contact information and specific collection focus; Jewish-American organizations and societies with their contact information; and a directory of Jewish American related websites.

The American National Biography Online (Oxford Univ. Pr. under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, 2000–2008) remains unchallenged by *Jewish Americans* as the gold standard for authoritative, scholarly biographical essays though, unlike *Jewish Americans*, all subjects must be deceased to qualify for inclusion. Although the ANB includes many people of Jewish heritage or Jewish religion, some covered in *Jewish Americans* (Bugsy Siegel, Rebecca Gratz, Weegee) and some not (Maurice Bloomfield, Joey Adams, Joseph Choynski), these people are not singled out as Jewish Americans. The same is true of the Jewish American women whose biographies appear in the three-volume *Notable American Women, 1607–1950* (Belknap Pr. of Harvard Univ. Pr., 1971) and *Notable American Women: A Biographical Dictionary Completing the Twentieth Century* (Belknap Pr., 2004).

Jewish Women in America: A Historical Encyclopedia 2 vols. (Routledge, 1997) includes a great many more biographies of Jewish American women than the 124 covered in *Jewish Americans*. Whereas *Jewish Americans* is strictly a biographical dictionary, *Jewish Women in America* includes not only biographies but also articles. Like *Jewish Americans*, *Jewish Women in America* follows an alphabetical arrangement. All entries are signed, some are enhanced with black and white photographs, and each concludes with a bibliography of varying length.

A limited number of signed biographical essays are also to be found scattered throughout many of the topical chapters in the *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History* 2 vols. (ABC-CLIO, 2008), most fully in the chapter addressing American Jews and labor. References for further reading are included and black and white photographs accompany some of these sketches as well.

By far the largest biographical undertaking of its kind already on reference shelves is the two-volume *The Concise Dictionary of American Jewish Biography* (Carlson Publishing, 1994) with its notations for nearly 24,000 American Jews. Like the ANB but not *Jewish Americans*, subjects in *The Concise*