

are only mentioned briefly). Useful added index entries would have been state names in some cases, so the reader can track where various groups may have settled for the most part. The e-book version of the encyclopedia (priced separately) would assist with finding terms in the text not included in the printed index. *Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans* could be used in conjunction with another recent title, the *Encyclopedia of American Immigration*, edited by Carl L. Bankston III (Salem Pr., 2010), which, along with profiling 70 ethnic and immigrant groups, has other theme-based essays, including entries on every U.S. state.

School, public, and academic libraries and readers across many disciplines will all benefit from this encyclopedia, a fascinating and welcome addition to the immigration literature for reference collections.—Christina E. Carter, Associate Professor, Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage.

The Settlement of America: Encyclopedia of Westward Expansion from Jamestown to the Closing of the Frontier.

Edited by James A. Crutchfield, Candy Moulton, and Terry A. Del Bene. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$249 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-1984-6). E-book available, call for pricing.

This is a non-traditional reference work in a familiar package. The slim two volumes (totaling just over 600 pages) contain the expected alphabetical arrangement of essays on major topics and individuals. What is different is the composition of the contributors. Instead of a lineup of academics, the majority of the essays are written by independent scholars and professional writers affiliated with the Western Writers of America, an organization devoted to “the preservation and propagation of Western history and literature” (xv). Since the introduction does not state the purpose or intended audience, this must be inferred from the content, which seems aimed at informing a general readership and promoting popular interest in Western history. The chronological coverage is more explicitly defined, extending from the Jamestown settlement in 1607 to the massacre at Wounded Knee and the “closing” of the frontier in 1890. Despite this broad conception of the West, the majority of the content concerns expansion west of the Mississippi river.

The contributors’ passion for history comes through in their dramatic accounts of colorful characters and historical conflicts. When in doubt the authors opt for the interesting anecdote over dry historical summations. Many readers will likely find this style more engaging than the cautious, measured tones typically employed in academic reference works. Occasionally the author’s enthusiasm crosses the line into triumphalism. While noting the negative connotations that the phrase “Manifest Destiny” holds today, the author still concludes that “its basic tenets of the greatness of freedom and democracy remain paramount in the American social and political system” (318). Another essay documents the rampant prejudice and economic segregation endured by Chinese immigrants, then optimistically asserts that “most

Chinese lived the American dream—they were independent business owners” (129).

Traditional political and military topics dominate, along with biographies of explorers, politicians and businessmen (almost exclusively male). This is not the reference work to consult for a discussion of everyday life in the American West or for multicultural perspectives. While Native American experiences are well documented, the voices of others who settled the west are largely absent. There are no entries in the index for “Immigrants,” “Japanese,” “Germans,” “Latino,” or “Hispanic.” There is no overview discussion of women’s contributions to American westward expansion and only a handful of women appear among the biographical entries. By contrast, there are over eighty entries for individual forts in the index. Libraries receiving questions on the diversity of westward expansion are advised to consult the *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West* (Sage, 2003), or the *Encyclopedia of Immigration and Migration in the American West* (Sage, 2006). Everyday life and popular culture are covered by Sara Quay’s *Westward Expansion* (Greenwood, 2002).

This work will be most suitable for libraries serving a general readership, although it will have limited value for readers interested in social and cultural topics. It does provide a readable complement to the more scholarly *Encyclopedia of the American West* (Simon and Schuster/Macmillan, 1996), which treats many of the same topics but is now somewhat dated.—Eric Novotny, Humanities Library, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

Sports in America from Colonial Times to the Twenty-First Century: An Encyclopedia.

Edited by Steven A. Reiss. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$349 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-1706-4). E-book available, call for pricing.

Sports has been part of the fabric of American life since the colonization of the continent and the amount of financial support given to sporting endeavors seems to increase without letup in both good times and bad in our consumer culture. This three-volume encyclopedia covers both spectator sports and participatory sports in American culture and society from the 1600s to current day. The work’s aim is not only to provide the history of American sport but also its context within American society, with emphasis placed on integration, sexual policy, class, and gender perspectives in the entries. The closest equivalent source is Levinson and Christensen’s *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport* (Berkshire, 2005). However, that four-volume work had a much broader focus than this one devoted solely to the United States.

The encyclopedia is organized into three sections. The first is a series of essays that provide a chronological history of sports in America. The second section is the bulk of the set and consists of the A–Z entries of significant people, teams, sports, and related topics. The entries themselves were written by an army of researchers and academics, edited by Steven A. Reiss who has published several works over the years on

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the intersection of sports and culture. Finally, the work also includes a chronology, a list of governing bodies and institutions, an overall bibliography, and an index.

The value in an encyclopedia like this one is primarily in its more unique material. The series of historical essays that open this work are very well done and useful. In a similar light, the A–Z entries on more obscure sports such as Hot Rodding, Air Racing, Pedestrianism, and Disability Sports are more likely to be consulted than overviews of major sports like baseball or football that are too abbreviated to be of much value. Likewise, odd topics like Saloons, Taverns and Bars or Central Park or Blue Laws or the *National Police Gazette* fill a distinctive informational need in a sports resource.

More problematic are some curious selectivity decisions. Why are there biographies on Sammy Baugh and Sid Luckman but not Johnny Unitas and Joe Montana? All were the best quarterbacks of their times. Why Marion Motley but not Bill Willis? Both were hall-of-famers who broke the football color line together in Cleveland. Why Oscar Robertson but not Jerry West? Why Bear Bryant but not Joe Paterno? Why Wayne Gretzky but not Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull, or Bobby Orr? Why Howard Cosell but not John Madden who was not only a landmark broadcaster but also a hall-of-fame coach and the namesake of the most popular sports video game of all time?

Moreover, entries are given for the 16 original major league baseball teams and the original six NHL teams, but for only six of the nine NFL teams that predate World War II. There's an entry on the Toronto Blue Jays but not the New York Mets, on the Calgary Flames but not the Philadelphia Flyers. Perhaps most inexplicably, there is an entry on the Super Bowl but not the World Series.

While these sorts of inclusion questions are always an issue in a reference work, it appears that there are an inordinate number of unclear choices in this set. To its credit, what is included is thoroughly researched and professionally written. As a reference source, this set will be most useful for its more atypical entries. Despite the unexplained exclusions, this set is recommended for most sports collections.—*John Maxymuk, Reference Librarian, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey.*

The Thirties in America. Edited by Thomas Tandy Lewis. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2011. 3 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN: 978-1-5876-5725-2). Online access included with print.

The latest in Salem's "Decades" series, this illustrated 3-volume set describes the key people and events of the 1930s in the United States and Canada. The approximately 675 entries are arranged in alphabetical order and cover a host of different topics that range from politics to pop culture. Each entry lists the name of its author; a complete list of authors and the institutions they are affiliated with (where applicable) can be found at the start of the first volume. The entries conclude with a list of further reading along with a "see also" list of other entries of potential interest. The close of the third volume contains appendixes that list notable plays,

films, radio programs, songs, books, and sports events of the decade. A timeline of key events is provided, along with a bibliography arranged by subject matter. A list of entries arranged by category, along with a photo index, personages index, and subject index enable users to retrieve information on specific topics.

As one might expect from a text devoted to the 1930s, much attention is given to the Great Depression. The volume contains a number of informative entries on the financial and political events that took place during this decade. The depth of coverage given to Canadian events is welcome. The "see also" references at the close of each entry and the comprehensive indexes, will allow readers to quickly find other entries of use. In entries that mention people or subjects that merit separate entries, it would have been useful to use bolded or italicized type to call readers' attention to the other entries. The coverage of entertainment figures from the decade is somewhat curious, and one wonders why neither film star (and elected Queen of Hollywood) Myrna Loy nor popular singer Rudy Vallee receives an entry. At least one entry ("Hair-styles") was not carefully proofread.

Libraries that have purchased other volumes in the series and libraries interested in adding resources relating to the Great Depression should find this a welcome addition to their collections. *The Thirties in America* will be of assistance to high school and undergraduate students beginning research on topics that took place in this decade.—*Sharon E. Reidt, Technical Services Specialist, Marlboro College, Marlboro, Vermont*

World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa, Australasia, and the Pacific. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2011. 11 vols. \$499.95 (ISBN: 978-0-7614-7912-3).

World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa, Australasia, and the Pacific bills itself as a "new kind of geography encyclopedia . . . it describes not only the land—with its geology, climate, flora, and fauna—but also the historical and ethnic dimensions underlying the modern nations that exist today" (5). This 11-volume set is part of a larger series of encyclopedias, comprising a total of 57 volumes that aspire to provide a comprehensive picture of our global landscape. An ambitious goal, but in this set at least, one that falls short.

The primary problem facing this encyclopedia is that it is too complex to serve as a basic introduction to either the geography or the peoples of the regions covered. For that, users would do better consulting Ember and Ember's *Countries and Their Cultures* (Macmillan, 2001) or the World Factbook (CIA, 2008). Yet it is simultaneously too simplistic in its discussion of complex issues to serve as a comprehensive overview of the subject: users in search of more in-depth research should consult encyclopedias such as John Middleton's seminal *Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara* (Scribners, 1997) or Susan Bambrick's *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Australia* (Cambridge, 1994).

Each volume of *World and Its Peoples: Sub-Saharan Africa, Australasia, and the Pacific* covers a specific region; examples