

*Fifties in America* (Super, 2005), *The Sixties in America* (Singleton, 1999), and *The Seventies in America* (Super, 2006) are all good alternatives. These are multivolume sets and, as such, have more scope and depth. The ten-volume set *American Decades*, edited by Vince Tomkins (Gale, 1994–) is another good choice for information for researchers looking for information on those “middle aged persons” and the baby boom generation. Recommended as a supplemental purchase for most libraries or only for private collections.—Carla Wilson Buss, *Curriculum Materials & Education Librarian, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia.*

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***Black America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia.***

Edited by Jr. Alton Hornsby. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN: 978-0-313-34112-0). E-book available (978-1-5735-6976-7), call for pricing.

The editor of this two-volume set adopts a novel approach to a subject well covered by reference publishers. The state-by-state structure allows for the study of African American history from a more local context. The work presents countless facts, events, and personalities forgotten or otherwise drowned out by the broader tides of American history. Readers come away with a better understanding that black America is not a monolithic culture, and much of African American history has played out in far-flung corners of the country.

The illustrated encyclopedia covers all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each state has sections for “Chronology,” “Notable African Americans,” “Cultural Contributions,” and a bibliography. The essay portions are well-written and researched overall, and the chronologies and bibliographies are helpful for historical context and further exploration. The cumulative index is indispensable, and thankfully well constructed, for finding topics dispersed across many states.

The chief weakness of the work is the uneven treatment of the biographies. It is difficult to discern how California only has nine biographies to Oregon and New Mexico’s eleven, Idaho’s thirteen, and Utah’s robust thirty-one, to name a few. As well, there seems to be no criteria to fully explain how notables were selected, or why some have been associated with one state or another or in multiple states in some cases. George Washington Carver has three entries in different states, but President Obama is placed only in Illinois, not Hawaii where he was born and raised. Langston Hughes is placed in Missouri where he was born, but he was raised elsewhere and made his mark in Harlem, as did Malcolm X, who was placed in Nebraska, his state of birth, although raised in Michigan from a small child. Furthermore, there are anomalies such as relatively minor rapper, Nelly, being the only hip hop artist with a biography. It can be argued that in the past two decades, major rap artists and producers such as Dr. Dre, Sean Combs, or Russell Simmons have had more influence over a generation of Americans than all but a few other contemporary African Americans, yet none of them or

their peers made the cut. It seems a generation gap has been exposed. The major jazz and R&B musicians of the twentieth century are well represented, but hip hop received very short shrift. All of the above issues may be a function of having so many authors writing the state profiles, however tighter editing should have smoothed over such glaring inconsistencies.

Despite its shortcomings, the work’s interesting approach and otherwise informative entries are of value to collections focused on high school or lower division college researchers.—Brent D. Singleton, *Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino.*

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***Complete Crime & Punishment Series.*** Edited by William J. Chambliss. Key Issues in Crime and Punishment Series. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2011. 5 vols. \$400 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-9903-8). E-books available, \$500.

This collection explores current, significant issues in the field of criminal justice. The five volumes edited by William J. Chambliss comprise the Key Issues in Crime and Punishment series—*Crime and Criminal Behavior; Police and Law Enforcement; Courts, Law, and Justice; Corrections; and Juvenile Crime and Justice.*

In addition to being available as a five-volume set, each volume is available for separate purchase. Each title features its own focused introduction by Chambliss and a separate index to its content. With the changing scope and need for print reference materials, this offers libraries the advantage of purchasing all or selected series titles, depending on their students’ or patrons’ research needs.

The volumes are highly readable, well-organized, and filled with interesting content. Each chapter includes background information on a topic, as well as brief pro-con essays about the topic. Bibliographic references for further reading are included, as well as “see also” references to pages within the volume. Some examples of topics covered include undocumented immigrants, guns, and terrorism within *Crime and Criminal Behavior*; vigilantes, Miranda warnings, and zero-tolerance policing within *Police and Law Enforcement*; insanity laws, DNA evidence, and victims’ rights within *Courts, Law, and Justice*; gangs and prison violence, capital punishment, and prison privatization within *Corrections*; and school violence, violent juvenile offenders, and age of responsibility within *Juvenile Crime and Justice*. The e-book version is easy to use, with clearly visible and accessible table of contents, subject index, advanced search capabilities, and sidebar navigation to related items.

Depending on the needs of your students/patrons, specific volumes within the Complete Crime and Punishment Series, or the entire five-volume set, would be an excellent addition to your collection. Note that Sage offers numerous reference works that provide focused analysis of key topics in the field of criminal justice, such as the *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (2002), the *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime* (2009), the *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention* (2010), the

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*Encyclopedia of White Collar & Corporate Crime* (2004), and the *Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence* (2008), available in print or as e-books via Sage Reference online.

At the top of my list of positives about this set is the ability to purchase separate volumes or the complete five-volume set, with the recommendation to shelve them within the circulating collection for greatest use. In addition, the pro-con essays are well written and would be very useful to readers. One drawback I found with this series is that I would've liked to know more about the authors of the individual chapters. Though each chapter includes author's name and institutional affiliation, I would like to know more about the scope of each author's work and research.—*Nancy Frazier, Instructional Services librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania*

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***Conflict and Conquest in the Islamic World: A Historical Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Alexander Mikaberidze. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$195 (ISBN: 978-1-5988-4336-1). E-book available (978-1-5988-4337-8).

This unique and concise encyclopedia provides over six hundred entries about the sweeping military and political history of Islam from the seventh century to present day. Edited by Alexander Mikaberidze, a professor at Louisiana State University, *Conflict and Conquest in the Islamic World: A Historical Encyclopedia* is a focused, two-volume set presenting the collective expertise of over 100 military and political scholars, including the support of the esteemed Bernard Lewis whom the editor describes as the “doyen of Islamic studies.”

Entries cover conflicts, wars, rebellions, battles, weapons, leaders, and other military facets. Most entries are a page to a page and a half in length with some broader topics, such as “Saljuks” or “Algerian War (1954–1962),” running several pages in length. Many of the entries are accompanied by photographs or maps and provide introductory information in basic terminology geared to high school and college students who have little or no knowledge of Islam. A glossary of commonly used Islamic military terms is within easy reach in volume 2. Every entry has a bibliography of further readings that includes mostly book citations which one could use for further research or as a collection development tool. Also included are cross-references that direct the reader to related topics.

The encyclopedia is extensive in its scope, covering Islamic military history spanning several centuries. Geographically, it includes the customary Middle Eastern regions but also Islamic countries in North Africa, Central Asia, Southwestern Asia, and Oceania. In the preface, Mikaberidze describes the encyclopedia as “selective by nature” and explains that its purpose is to feature Muslim military and political leaders and omit Western personalities that are already covered in existing reference materials (xxx). The selections made by the editor offer an extensive overview of Islamic military and political history that is truly unique. It is the only encyclopedia whose sole focus is Islamic history from the military and

political perspective. Included in volume 1 is a convenient chronological list of major conflicts and battles fought by or in Islamic nations.

This reference work is unique and topical. Highly recommended for academic, public, and high school libraries. Available electronically.—*Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***Encyclopedia of Geography.*** Edited by Barney Warf. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2010. 6 vols. acid free \$895 (ISBN: 978-1-4139-3959-1). E-book available (978-1-4129-3959-1), \$1,120.

These volumes cover the expanse of human and physical geography and include biographical as well as topical entries cross referenced with “see also” directives and “further readings” for each listing. Each entry is arranged alphabetically by topic (or last name) and supplemented with full color illustrations liberally used throughout. A full list of entries is included at the beginning of each volume and a reader's guide is listed in volume 1 with subtopics hierarchically organized under Physical or Human Geography.

The *Encyclopedia* covers the vast and varied topic of geography from Remote Sensing to Aristotle and Neoliberalism to Stewart Fotheringham. The coverage is broad, and most topics are well represented in several entries as appropriate. For instance, the history of mapping and cartography techniques are discussed at length individually as well as within the GIS related articles. The articles are descriptive, including historical context, but they also identify the key questions in the study of geography, where they are relevant, and their contributions to the field. This is especially true of the entries for individuals who may be associated with other subjects such as Emmanuel Kant. These are great assets in a reference work for beginning researchers or as a reference tools for researchers. A similar title, *Companion Encyclopedia of Geography* (Routledge, 2007), uses a thematic direction with essays describing various problems or issues on a large scale and then delving into the directions of research. The encyclopedia is a catalog and description of terms, ideas and people making it a preferred title for reference shelves rather than the edited book/ text book format of the companion.

Some of the weaknesses of this title are exactly its expansive scope. For undergraduates used to the instant linking of topics in a web environment, they may not have the patience to track down all the related articles within their area of interest through six volumes. As a librarian, I consider the extensive “see also” references a strength, but in print form, they could be cumbersome to a user. In its electronic form, this title might appeal to students who prefer the hyperlink. I also found the “further readings” a little misleading. This was more of a reference list for the article and not a list of recommended readings for more information, and should be labeled as such. Or, it might have been supplemented with additional readings.

I recommend the *Encyclopedia of Geography*. It is likely