

and white images, while sparse, are illustrative and sometimes quite clarifying and useful.

Comparable works include Atkinson's *Handbook of Sustainable Development* (Edward Elgar, 2007), composed of more academic and densely written topical essays, and Jenkins's *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability* (Berkshire, 2009–11), whose first volume, the *Spirit of Sustainability*, focuses on moral and religious aspects. It is presumed that the Berkshire work, planned for ten volumes, will be more expansive and thorough in its coverage; however volumes two through ten still remain to be published. While much of the information can also be found in a variety of environment-oriented reference sources, such as Paul Robbin's *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society* (Sage, 2007), the *Encyclopedia of Sustainability* is the first title to bring together a variety of topics under the unifying theme of sustainability, and it would make a good addition to all undergraduate academic libraries and larger public libraries with strong collections in this area.—Lori Townsend, *Electronic Collections Librarian, California State University, East Bay, Hayward, California*

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***Encyclopedia of Urban Studies.*** Ed. by Ray Hutchison. Los Angeles: Sage, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$295 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1432-1). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-4129-7197-3), \$405.

The field of urban studies, which encompasses a wide range of disciplines and perspectives, has often defied attempts to treat its all-inclusive analysis of the urban experience in a systematic way. The two-volume *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*, edited by urban sociologist Ray Hutchison of the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, succeeds in capturing the breadth and complexity of these multiple strands within an accessible, well-indexed, and amply referenced format.

The work is composed of nearly 350 entries, with content ranging from essays on broad urban issues such as crime, gentrification, and homelessness, to examinations of urban spaces, individual cities, major theories such as urban ecology, and key scholars, including Henri Lefebvre and Edward W. Soja. Entries run from three to five dual-column pages, and include descriptive headings and subheadings when appropriate. One of the true strengths of this work is in the many features that facilitate the exploration of a vast and sometimes daunting interdisciplinary terrain. Every entry concludes with a series of extremely useful “see also” entries, as well as a brief, but highly relevant bibliography of further readings. In addition to an alphabetical listing of entries, the first volume includes a five-page reader's guide, which accomplishes the extraordinary feat of organizing key entries according to both specific urban disciplines and interdisciplinary urban topics. At a glance, readers wishing to consider a particular discipline or professional field, including urban economics, geography, history, politics, and sociology, will find a grouping of between ten to twenty suggested entries to explore. Interdisciplinary topics include “Urban Issues,” “Urban Theory,” “Urban Culture,” as well as “Persons,” “Places,” and “Historical Overviews.” Lastly, the entire work includes a strong index to aid accessibility. In

sum, these features all work together to make the connections between the disparate urban disciplines more apparent, and to provide a sense of the cross-pollination and ongoing dialogue always at play within urban studies.

Few reference works have attempted an encyclopedic treatment of urban studies. The closest analog, the single volume *Encyclopedia of the City* (Routledge, 2005) also embraces multiple urban disciplines, with entries focusing on urban issues, theories, and people but due to length restrictions, is simply unable to offer the same level of detail or scope. *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* has the space not only to ground readers in essential topics but to offer up many pleasant surprises, particularly in the form of significant cultural entries, such as “Skateboarding,” “Hip-Hop,” “SimCity,” and “Creative Class.” A further strength of *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* is Hutchison's stated goal of creating a work that is truly international in scope. This goal is met by the inclusion of individual entries on the urban experience in dozens of cities, including Damascus, Hong Kong, Lagos, Mumbai, and São Paulo. Even more significantly, entries on major urban phenomena often include some discussion of the issue in a global context or consider the international scholarship. For example, the entry on “Gentrification” considers the cases of Australia, Canada, and England, as well as the urban United States.

Other works have served as useful starting places for undergraduates, but have typically focused on brief selections of essays intended to frame broader issues. The most recent of these works, M. Gottdiener and Leslie Budd's slim volume, *Key Concepts in Urban Studies* (Sage, 2005), remains a highly accessible and fairly current selection of forty essays centered on urban issues and theories. This work serves a different purpose, however, and might be more suitable as a course supplement, a role encouraged by Gottdiener and Budd in their introduction (v).

*Encyclopedia of Urban Studies* is the first truly comprehensive encyclopedic treatment of urban studies from an international and interdisciplinary perspective. It is highly recommended for academic libraries and large public libraries.—David W. Wilson, *Information Literacy Librarian, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas*

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***Encyclopedia of U.S. Political History.*** Ed. by Andrew W. Robertson, Michael A. Morrison, William G. Shade, Robert D. Zieger, Thomas S. Langston, and Richard M. Valelly. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010. 7 vols. alkaline \$995 (ISBN 978-0-87289-320-7).

This encyclopedia is a comprehensive and in-depth reference source on American political history covering the period from 1500 to 2009. It offers clearly written, analytical essays that focus on major institutions, themes, issues, movements, elections, presidents, and other key political players. Each volume contains 100 to 110 alphabetically arranged topical essays relevant to volumes defined by major events, issues, or eras in American history. There are essay themes that appear in more than one volume, such as slavery, Congress, religion, American