

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*

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*

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

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Indians, Republican Party, civil rights, urbanization, African Americans, and the presidency. Users may trace the development of themes from one era to another in separately written essays. The volume arrangement by defined periods may be inconvenient for some users seeking a general overview of a topic for all years, but the authors and editors offer a consistent, scholarly style in essays ranging from one to seven pages. More than five hundred authors, mainly academic historians and political scientists, contributed signed essays to the encyclopedia.

As an aid to users unsure of which volume to consult, each volume has a complete, detailed subject index to the entire set, and also a thematically arranged reader's guide that lists related essays in each volume. For example, among the headings in the guide are "Corruption and Scandal," "Domestic Policy and Policy Issues," "Economy, Business, Trade, and Labor," "Elections and Electoral Politics," "Government Systems, the Constitution, and Constitutional Development," and the largest category "Intergovernmental Relations and Sectionalism." Users will find that the intergovernmental category shows that volume 2 (1784–1840) has essays on sectionalism, state-federal relations, and states' rights; and the domestic policy section shows essays in volume 7 (1946–present) on health care, HIV/AIDS, drug policy, and tobacco settlement among other issues of the period. Further guidance to readers is provided by introductory articles from each volume editor analyzing the major political developments and themes of the period. Also, there are lists of books, articles, and websites for additional research following each essay and cross-references to related essays that appear in the same volume and in others.

This encyclopedia, covering 2800 pages not including the recurring 123 page index, is much larger and differently organized compared with Edwards's and Rothman's *The Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History* (Princeton University Press, 2010) in two volumes (unavailable to this reviewer) and the earlier *The Encyclopedia of American Political History* (CQ Press, 2001) edited by Finkelman and Wallenstein in one volume. Nash's *The Encyclopedia of American History* (Facts on File, 2003) in eleven volumes is organized by periods but it is much broader in scope, less current, and directed to a broader audience. Although many of the topics in the new CQ Press work can be researched in other reference books, the in-depth essays and the conceptual, political perspective make this work highly recommended either in print or online editions. It will appeal to undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and the general public seeking an excellent review of American political history.—David Lincove, *Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus, Ohio*

The Fertilizer Encyclopedia. By Vasant Gowariker, V.N. Krishnamurthy, Sudha Gowariker, Manik Dhanorkar, and Kalyani Paranjape. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley, 2010. 861p. \$350 (ISBN 978-0-470-41034-9). E-book available (ISBN 978-0-470-43176-4), \$350.

In his introduction, Dr. Norman Borlaug, often called the Father of the Green Revolution, talks about the importance

of fertilizers in producing enough food to feed the world, emphasizing the hundreds of millions going hungry in the developing world. His focus of course is on chemical fertilizers, but the *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* itself also gives fair coverage to the pros and cons of more organic materials and practices. Its purpose is to provide information on the maintenance of soil health and fertility as part of an "ever-green revolution" (pages unnumbered). It covers topics of importance to the entire world, from zinc deficiencies in wetland rice to water hyacinth as a potential fertilizer to Baule units for determining fertilizer requirements.

The organization is alphabetical, with frequent helpful cross-references between variant terms used around the world to describe the same issue. In the print edition, the typeface is very readable and the paper is of decent quality, but apparently not acid free. Appendixes cover organizations and acronyms, abbreviations, information on chemicals and compounds, and units of measurement. The bibliography is international in coverage but has few references newer than 2000 and fails to include URLs for up-to-date versions of entries such as the U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Commodity Summaries or the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Illustrations are black and white; the photographs are not uniformly helpful, but the graphs, tables, and formulae are quite clear and useful. Importantly, the text is well written, authoritative, and comprehensible to a wide range of readers from academics to professionals to interested nonspecialists. As with any reference work, the availability of an electronic edition is a plus.

It is true, as World Food Prize Laureate M.S. Swaminathan says in his foreword, that there is "nothing even remotely similar" to this work (page unnumbered). Naturally the topic is included in more general agricultural and agricultural chemical reference works, but probably the most comparable titles are Jack Plimmer's three-volume *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals* (Wiley-Interscience, 2003) and *Ullmann's Agrochemicals* (Wiley-VCH, 2007). I use "comparable" loosely—Plimmer's work is more a compendium of essays on broad topics related to all types of agricultural chemicals, mainly pesti/herbi/fungicides with lesser attention paid to fertilizers, and the *Ullmann's* describes itself as a ready reference survey of the fundamentals, industrial processes, effectiveness, toxicology, and applications of agrochemicals; again, it mainly deals with chemicals for control of pests and diseases instead of fertilizing agents, as does W.T. Thomson's four-volume set *Agricultural Chemicals* (Simmons, 1997-2000). J. Benton Jones Jr.'s *Agronomic Handbook: Management of Crops, Soils and their Fertility* (CRC, 2003) does talk about fertility in the context of soil and plant analysis and treatment but is broader in coverage and therefore pays less attention to fertilizers in particular and is not encyclopedic in form. In contrast, the *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* focuses on short explanations of particular terms relevant to crop nutrition; an example would be its two columns related to copper as a nutrient, as compared to the *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals's* scattered references to copper throughout. The former devotes four pages to rice,