

while the later again touches just briefly on the topic in the course of other discussions. If you were dealing with nearly any aspect of plant nutrition and came across unfamiliar or unclear terms, you would definitely want to turn to the *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* for information on what they meant and how they related to crop nutrition.

The *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* fills a large gap in the literature of agriculture. It is essential for academic or special libraries dealing with agricultural matters and highly recommended for large public libraries.—*Cindy Stewart Kaag, PhD, MLS, Head of Research Services and Head of Science Libraries, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington*

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***A Global Chronology of Conflict: From the Ancient World to the Modern Middle East.*** Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 2781p. acid free \$395 (ISBN 978-1851096671).

It is difficult to contain my enthusiasm for this truly extraordinary, even magisterial work of scholarship, a veritable tour de force about which one can only speak in superlatives.

This extraordinary six-volume epic work is truly a monumental achievement. Sui generis, this is one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive military history chronologies ever compiled known to this author. It is a remarkable achievement, unique and distinctive and awe-inspiring, an incredible compilation and assimilation of material from disparate sources.

Comparable earlier works such as Brownstone and Franck's *Timelines of War: A Chronology of Warfare from 100,000 B.C. to the Present* (Little, Brown, 1994) pale in comparison. Perusing it (it is interesting to just leaf through), one is reminded of an analogous work, Clodfelter's *Warfare and Armed Conflicts: A Statistical Reference to Casualty and Other Figures, 1500–2000* (McFarland, 2001), which is similarly exacting in its detail and makes an excellent companion volume.

A distinguished military historian in his own right and prolific editor of numerous other books, including, most recently, *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008) and the *Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008), Tucker is eminently qualified to have put together this magnum opus comprised of contributions from academicians and independent scholars.

Meticulously researched, each of the volumes—which cover the periods 3000 BCE–1499CE, 1500–1774, 1775–1860, 1861–1918, 1919–1949, and 1950–2008—are contextualized by introductory historical overviews, “supplemented with material intended to heighten the reader’s awareness of important individuals and key technologies that have [had] significant impact on the course of military history” found in sections devoted to “Leaders” and “Weapons” at the end of each volume (xix). Although the focus is on the military, important political events with military consequences are also included. Occasional images and drawings punctuate the text, which is replete with maps. There is a thirty-two-page

index to the entire set in each of the volumes and a glossary. The one notable omission is a bibliography.

A typical entry contains the date and a brief synopsis of what major events occurred thereon. For example, the one for June 5, 1967, the beginning of the Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors, succinctly synthesizes the military events of the day and provides insightful commentary on their consequences. The four ensuing pages chronicle the unfolding developments until the war’s end, providing a detailed description of what actually occurred, for example, troop movements and battlefield positions.

Students of history and international affairs will relish this book, which academic libraries might want to consider purchasing in electronic format to encourage more widespread use and to conserve shelf space. This is not an indispensable purchase, but potentially a highly useful one. It is particularly recommended for libraries with extensive military history collections.—*David Ettinger, International Affairs and Political Science Librarian, Gelman Library, George Washington University*

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***The International Encyclopedia of Gambling.*** By William N. Thompson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN 978-1-59884-225-8). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-59884-226-5), call for pricing.

If one concurs with the assertion made in *The International Encyclopedia of Gambling’s* opening chronology that Adam and Eve kicked things off by gambling with the future of mankind, then one can see that gambling truly is a part of human nature. Nevertheless, for much of human history gambling has lurked at the fringes of society, maintaining an illegal or semi-legal status, especially in the U.S. Recently, though, gambling has emerged as a major force in U.S. and global societies. From the rising popularity of televised poker tournaments to U.S. states legalizing slot machines to offset taxes, gambling seems to be everywhere. Yet, society continues to struggle with the ethical, sociological, and psychological implications of gambling.

*The International Encyclopedia of Gambling* provides context and background for further investigation in these issues. In this work, the author updates and broadens the scope of his previous book, *Gambling in America: An Encyclopedia of History, Issues, and Society* (ABC-CLIO, 2001). To accommodate the increased content the work expanded to two volumes. To facilitate access, the organization of the encyclopedia changed from a simple A–Z entry list to entries grouped under eight major sections: general topics, games, biographies, venues and places, an annotated bibliography, leading law cases, a glossary, and selected essays.

This encyclopedia achieves its purpose of covering most aspects of the multifaceted world of gambling. Previous reference works usually only covered one major aspect. For example, Clark’s *The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming* (Lexik House, 1987) serves to adequately define the huge vocabulary related to gambling, but does not attempt to cover any of the sociological issues. Conversely, Torr’s *Gambling: Opposing*