

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*

## SOURCES

*Viewpoints* (Greenhaven, 2002) relays arguments and research related to the impact of gambling on society but not elements of the games themselves. Likewise, Thompson's other book, *Legalized Gambling: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO, 1994) and Haugen's *Legalized Gambling* (Facts on File, 2006) provide excellent overviews and research to legal issues related to gambling in the United States but do not fully address international issues. Former stage magician John Scarne wrote numerous guides to gambling and gaming, including the recent reprint of *Scarne's New Complete Guide to Gambling* (Fireside, 2005), but these mostly inform on the games, strategies, and odds behind gambling. Sifakis's *Encyclopedia of Gambling* (Facts on File, 1990) comes closest to this work in scope and content but is now dated.

*The International Encyclopedia of Gambling* updates this gap in the literature and provides comprehensive coverage to all aspects related to gambling. Entries include general topics such as "Economic Impacts of Gambling," and "Religion and Gambling"; explanations of games such as "Baccara," "Jai Alai," and "Poker"; numerous biographies; overviews of gambling in more than eighty international regions and countries and all U.S. states; and summaries of major legal cases. Each of the entries is well written and accessible to novices on the subject and comes with a number of references. In general, this work serves as an excellent starting point for further research.

In sum, the scope and quality of *The International Encyclopedia of Gambling*, as well as the major gap in the literature that it fills on the subject, makes it a must for all academic libraries and highly recommend for all libraries.—Rick Robison, *Reference and Access Services Coordinator, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California*

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***Latino History and Culture: An Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by David J. Leonard and Carmen R. Lugo-Lugo. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2010. 2 vols. alkaline \$229 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8083-9).

*Latino History and Culture: An Encyclopedia*, edited by David J. Leonard and Carmen R. Lugo-Lugo (associate professors in the Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies at Washington State University), offers almost three hundred articles, most approximately two pages, on Latino life in the United States. The encyclopedia opens with three introductory essays that provide overviews of three historical eras: 1492–1900, 1900–1965, and 1965 present. The signed A–Z entries that follow provide information on the "notable events, people, groups and movements, ideas, issues, and cultural expressions of Latinos/as in America, giving voice to their histories and experiences" (xxii).

Entries for popular culture include, "Boxing," "Hip-Hop," "Lowriders," and "Professional Wrestling." Essays about institutions and organizations include the "American GI Forum," "Brothers to the Rescue," and the "Congressional Hispanic Caucus." Articles on social issues cover "Acculturation and Assimilation," the "Chicano Movement," and the "Family and Community." Less well known historical topics include

those on the "Foraker Act (1900)," which established U.S. civilian rule in Puerto Rico and the concept of "mulataje," a term used in colonial America to refer to the intermixing of blacks and whites. All essays include a further reading list and some include a black and white photo. The first volume of the encyclopedia includes a topic finder that allows users to see groupings of articles on a similar subject. The second volume provides a chronology, a bibliography, and a general index.

*Latino History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* shares many article topics with previously published encyclopedias on Latino life, including two four-volume works, Stavans's *The Encyclopedia Latina: History, Culture and Society in the United States* (Grolier, 2005) and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States* (Oxford, 2005), edited by Oboler and Gonzalez. Like these larger sets, *Latino History and Culture* provides scholarly yet accessible articles. While the articles in the *Encyclopedia Latina* and the *Oxford Encyclopedia* are generally more in-depth and cover a broader range of topics, *Latino History and Culture* is unique in that it includes articles for the many people who originate from places other than Mexico, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. The individual articles provided for Bolivians, Guatemalans, Paraguayans, and other Central and South American countries include a discussion of the varied historical, social, and economic impetuses that brought people from these countries to the United States.

*Latino History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* is appropriate for high school, public, and academic libraries. Large public and academic libraries who can afford to do so will also want to purchase either the *Encyclopedia Latina* or *The Oxford Encyclopedia*.—Eileen Oliver, *Reference Librarian, San Antonio College Library, San Antonio, Texas*

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***Pirates of the Americas.*** By David F. Marley. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN 978-1-59884-201-2). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-59884-202-9), call for pricing.

David F. Marley's *Pirates of the Americas* emerges as the first encyclopedia that covers both the history of pirates in the Americas as well as the naval history for this region. Marley's credentials as a naval historian and author of *Pirates and Privateers of the Americas* (ABC-Clio, 1994) seem to engender knowledge of the subject. Other reference titles with similar subject headings include the following: Terry Breverton's *The Pirate Dictionary* (Pelican Pub. Co., 2004) and his *The Pirate Handbook: A Dictionary of Pirate Terms and Places* (Glyndwr Pub., 2004), and Jan Rogozinski's *The Wordsworth Dictionary of Pirates* (Wordsworth Reference, 1997) and *Pirates!: Brigands, Buccaneers, and Privateers in Fact, Fiction, and Legend* (Facts on File, 1995). In contrast to similar titles, Marley's *Pirates of the Americas*, with more than five hundred entries and numbering 868 pages, is more than double the length of both of Rogozinski's books.

Kris E. Lane's *Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas 1500–1750* (M.E. Sharpe, 1998), while not a reference title, covers many of the same topics found in *Pirates in the Americas*. Lane's work includes a well-written introduction,