

SOURCES

are available for individual sale to reflect local geographic interests.—Paul MacLennan, *Reference Assistant, CSU-East Bay Library, Hayward, California*

Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Huping Ling and Allan Austin. Armonk, NY: Sharpe Reference, 2010. 2 vols. alkaline \$229 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8077-8).

Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia is a two-volume set that presents immigration histories and cultural essays on twenty-one Asian American groups. The source begins with a ninety-page section about “The Asian American Experience,” addressing a myriad of topics from adoption to important historical events like the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. The encyclopedia is then organized alphabetically by group, starting with the Bangladeshi Americans and concluding with Vietnamese Americans in volume 2.

In the preface, the editors explain that “for larger groups, or those with longer histories in the United States, sections include a narrative history followed by alphabetically arranged thematic essays” (xxi). These thematic essays include information about education, politics, religion, women, and other specialized topics. The Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Japanese Americans, and the Indian Americans are some of the twelve groups that are addressed in more detail through these thematic essays.

The entries are written by 135 scholars from across the globe, and the names and institutional affiliations of these contributors can be found in volume 1. Each entry concludes with a list of further reading along with a comprehensive bibliography in volume 2. Although several entries include black and white photographs, the addition of a map of origin would have been a useful feature to incorporate with the introduction of each Asian American group. An index is provided in volume 2, and the topic finder in volume 1 may serve as an aid for those readers who are unsure of the information they may be seeking.

Franklin Ng and John D. Wilson’s six-volume set *The Asian American Encyclopedia* (Marshall Cavendish, 1995) is much larger in scope, yet the arrangement of *Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* is more user-friendly. *Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* also provides updated information on some subjects such as contemporary artists Ang Lee and Yo-Yo Ma.

Considering that the subject of Asian Americans is diverse and complex, the *Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* does an excellent job of informing the user about the issues Asian Americans have endured and continue to face. This reference work is recommended for high school, public, and undergraduate libraries, and especially for those that do not own Franklin Ng and John D. Wilson’s *The Asian American Encyclopedia* (Marshall Cavendish, 1995).—Megan Coder, *Senior Assistant Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

Culture Wars: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Viewpoints, and Violence. Ed. by Roger Chapman. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe, 2010. 2 vols. alkaline \$249 (ISBN 978-0-7656-1761-3).

By many accounts, there exist today a great number of divisions within American society. The fractures receive considerable coverage in the media, but the background details and context are frequently missing from press coverage. *Culture Wars*, a two-volume encyclopedia recently published by Sharpe, presents most, if not all, of the contentious topics that exist in present-day America and highlights why these topics are so controversial.

Editor Roger Chapman’s introduction to the encyclopedia provides the reader with the history of culture wars, and how the culture wars have played out in the United States since World War II. While the inclusion of this history is admirable, and while the two-volume set contains an exhaustive list of entries on almost any conceivable topic that one might find relevant to the concept of culture wars, it is unclear why the introduction omits any information as to how specific topics were selected for inclusion within the encyclopedia. Reviewing the contents and reading through the entries suggest that the encyclopedia is concerned with how the culture wars are playing out in the present-day United States. While many entries cover issues of contemporary interest (such as abortion rights, the election of 2008, and Barack Obama), some figures and events of the past (such as Harry Truman, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the Chicago Seven) are also covered. The time period covered appears to be from the end of WWII to the present, while the geographic focus is on American events and international events that have greatly influenced the United States.

The entries are organized in alphabetical order. Each entry presents an individual topic and is signed by its author. At the conclusion of each entry, the reader is provided with a list of other relevant topics covered in the encyclopedia and further reading that may be of interest. Entries are evenhanded, succinct, and concise. The alphabetical structure makes it easy to locate information on each topic when the specific topic is known. A topic finder at the start of volume 1 assists in finding entries when only a broad category is known and allows the reader to browse by category. Volume 2 concludes with a bibliography and index.

Culture Wars may be useful as a supplement to Gale/Greenhaven Press’ *Opposing Viewpoints* series (1975–ongoing). Unlike *Opposing Viewpoints*, which covers specific issues exhaustively, *Culture Wars* offers concise introductions to the same or similar controversial topics. Purchasing the two-volume *Culture Wars* has the advantage of being an affordable alternative to purchasing each entry in the *Opposing Viewpoints* series. *Culture Wars* is recommended for high school libraries and larger public libraries.—Sharon Reidt, *Periodicals Clerk, Brooks Memorial Library, Brattleboro, Vermont*