

SOURCES

Encyclopedia of Global Warming. Ed. by Steven I. Dutch. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2010. 3 vols. alkaline \$398 (ISBN 978-1-58765-563-0). Online access available free until 12/31/2011 in Salem Science.

Salem's *Encyclopedia of Global Warming* pulls together data and information from many disciplines to provide high school and undergraduate students a great resource for learning about climate change. Articles cover climate, weather, energy production, energy use, and alternative energy models. Policy issues, treaties, and organizations are treated in depth. Each region and many countries have articles describing their carbon use and production, policies, treaty status, and unique climate challenges.

The usual subject index and glossary are provided. Volume 1 includes two useful lists: "Abbreviations and Acronyms" and "Common Units of Measure." Volume 3 has several appendixes. These include a timeline, a biographical dictionary, a general bibliography (to supplement the readings listed in each entry), and a list of popular culture fictional books and movies about global warming. Online access accompanies purchase of the print volumes. The Salem Science database includes the *Encyclopedia of Global Warming*.

With global warming and climate change joining the list of popular paper topics, several reference works on the topic have appeared. The title I consider most similar in scope and audience is Sage's *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* (Philander, 2008). Both are good encyclopedias; the Sage title won a Best Reference nod from *Library Journal* in 2008.

Encyclopedia of Global Warming is a good starting point for students because it pulls together all the different facets of the issue. If your print reference collection is still being used, then you should purchase this work. If currency is important to your students you should consider purchasing this even if you own *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change*. They are two years apart.

Please be aware that both print and online versions of *Encyclopedia of Global Warming* have a five year revision cycle (http://salempress.com/store/pages/salem_science.htm, retrieved 4/26/2010). I consider that a point against the online version. Its ability to provide information about all aspects of global warming still makes it an excellent place to start a research paper.—Robin N Sinn, *Librarian for Science and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of Modern China. Ed. by David Pong. Detroit: Gale, 2010. 4 vols. alkaline \$520 (ISBN 978-0-684-31566-9). E-book available (ISBN 978-0-684-31571-3), call for pricing.

David Pong, professor of history and past director of the East Asian Studies Program at the University of Delaware and 2009 Fulbright Scholar, outlines the scope for the twenty-five hundred page, 936 entry *Encyclopedia of Modern China* as "a collection of entries on topics that span the spectrum of China's history, culture, and society from 1800 to the present"

(XVIII). An ambitious undertaking that brings together an impressive international field of nearly five hundred scholars, emphasis is placed on a wide range of topical ("Cultural Revolution," "Domestic Trade," "Interpreters of Things Chinese to the West") and thematic studies ("Education," "Family," "Labor"), with only the most prominent individuals afforded biographical entries ("Pearl S. Buck," "Mao Zedong"). Arranged alphabetically, the individually authored entries range from several paragraphs to forty-plus pages and are often accompanied by tables and expository sidebars, color images, maps, bibliographies, and cross-references. Other user aids include the first volume's "Thematic Outline" section, a listing of "Major Chronological Periods," and a timeline that parallels Chinese and world historical events from 1800 to 2009. Volume four contains an impressive compilation of more than 120 pages of primary source documents, a glossary of Chinese characters, an annotated bibliography, and concluding index.

Reading level varies with author, but most users beginning at the secondary level will find utility here. Student research projects involving almost any aspect of post-1800 Chinese history or culture will be supported, as will those readers seeking general overviews of broader social topics or more basic understanding of China's current economic or political situation and challenges. Controversial topics are well covered, including entries titled "Poverty," "Dissidents," "Sex Ratio," "Minority Nationalities," and "Taiwan, Republic of China." External diplomatic and economic relations with world regions ("Southeast Asian States, Relations With") and specific countries ("United States- Relations With") are included.

Comparable works are scarce. Comprehensive, historical (pre-1800) reference coverage of China may be satisfied by the excellent *Berkshire Encyclopedia of China* (Berkshire, 2009) and to a lesser degree by *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of China* (Cambridge, 1991) or *Brill's Encyclopedia of China* (Brill, 2009). Less expensive options for modern coverage after 1840 include *Modern China: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Nationalism* (Taylor and Francis, 1997), post-1949 by *The Cambridge Handbook of Contemporary China* (Cambridge, 1991), or *China Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the People's Republic* (Greenwood, 2005). The reference work with perhaps the most narrow contemporary temporal emphasis is the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture* (Routledge, 2005), which focuses upon post-1979 events and includes Hong Kong and Taiwan in its examination of cultural topics. The most cost-conscious public institutions may want to attempt to locate Graham Hutchings's out-of-print, but still available, *Modern China: A Guide to a Century of Change* (Harvard, 2001) for a more interpretive resource. In comparison to all of these, however, this new work really does stand alone and apart.

David Pong's editorial leadership has produced a work that reaches beyond the boundary of many reference endeavors that merely summarize or compile and notes "that new research was being introduced in the entries" due to the generosity of contributors with their unpublished works