more than reasonable, and it is also available as an electronic
book.—Sara Anne Hook, Professor, Indiana University, Indiana-
apolis, Indiana

Encyclopedia of Motherhood. Edited by Andrea O’Reilly. Los

The Encyclopedia of Motherhood is the first reference work
dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of motherhood.
While other reference works, such as Charles A. Smith’s
Encyclopedia of Parenting Theory and Research (Greenwood,
1999) or Barbara Katz Rothman’s Encyclopedia of Childbearing:
Critical Perspectives (Oryx, 1993) might share some common
entries, the current work uses the unique lens of motherhood
studies to examine in a new light what might have previously
been covered elsewhere.

The editor, Andrea O’Reilly, has a long record of moth-
erhood scholarship and activism and is thus exceptionally
well qualified to edit this work. She is “founder and director of
the Association for Research on Mothering, founder and
editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Association for Research
on Mothering, and founder and editor of Demeter Press, the
first feminist press on motherhood. She is co-founder of the
Museum of Motherhood . . . and is cofounder of the Interna-
tional Mothers Network, the first international consortium
of motherhood organizations” (vi). She is also the editor or
coeditor of fourteen books on motherhood and author of two
books on motherhood thus far.

The purpose of the encyclopedia, which it clearly satis-
fies, is “to introduce readers to and provide information on
the central terms, concepts, topics, issues, themes, debates,
trees, and texts of this new discipline of motherhood stud-
ies as well as to examine the topic of motherhood in various
contexts such as history and geography by academic
discipline” (viii). The encyclopedia in its coverage also pays
special attention to “geographical, cultural and ethnic diver-
sity” (ix).

The entries are written by appropriately credentialed aca-
demics, as well as experts outside of academia, such as Diana
Lynn Barnes of the Center for Postpartum Health, who wrote
“Infanticide.” The entries are filled with useful statistics and
references, yet are very readable.

Special features of the work include a reader’s guide,
which is helpful in tying concepts gathered from a wide va-
riety of disciplines together. The work also includes a cho-
nology of motherhood, a glossary, a resource guide, and an
appendix of motherhood statistics around the world. All of
these sections serve to further contextualize and explicate
the standard entries. While many of the topics covered in The
Encyclopedia of Motherhood are also covered in other refer-
ce sources, the distinct perspective of motherhood stud-
ies makes these entries unique. Even topics familiar to most
readers will have something new to offer, which makes this
a fascinating and highly browsable work.

This encyclopedia is recommended for larger public
libraries and most academic libraries.—Emily Dill, Associate
Librarian, University Library of Columbus, Columbus, Indiana

Milestone Documents in World History: Exploring the Primary
Sources That Shaped the World. Edited by Brian Bonhomme.
77586-4). Online access included with purchase of print.

Covering the entire span of humanity’s written history,
the four volumes in this set include primary documents ar-
anged in chronological order beginning with the Reform
Edict of Urukagina (ca. 2350 BCE) and ending with the
Constitutive Act of the African Union, which was signed at
Lomé, Togo, on July 11, 2000. From this span of over 4,000
years, the editors and the advisory board selected 125 major
documents that represent all inhabited geographical regions
of the earth, although the selection excludes primary sources
from the United States that are covered in three other titles in
the series. This set does include a few documents drawn from
world religions, but many more religious primary sources are
covered in Milestone Documents of World Religions (Schlager,
November 2010). One main weakness of the set, however, is
the lack of clarity on the selection process. For example, why
is Plato’s allegory of the cave included, but not his Apology of
Socrates or a selection from his Republic, which have also had
enormous impact on Western civilization?

The seventy-five contributors, primarily historians from
the United States, although almost twenty are based at for-
eign universities, follow a standard format for the article on
each document. Coverage includes an overview of the docu-
ment and its importance in history, the context of the docu-
ment, a time line of key events surrounding the document,
a biographical profile of the author or authors, an explana-
tion and analysis of the document, the intended audience,
the historical impact of the document, questions for further
study, essential quotes from and about the document, further
readings, the actual text of the document in English transla-
tion, and a glossary of important terms in the text. Thus a
student who uses this resource will be able to both read the
document and immediately have access to information that
will help in understanding its importance to world history.
Almost 250 photographs and illustrations accompany the
articles. Although most of the illustrations are superfluous,
several, such as the photograph of the stele of Hammurabi,
are helpful in that they visibly illustrate the actual document.
Other features of the set include activity guides for teachers,
list of documents by category (such as laws and legal codes
or treaties and agreements), a list of documents by region,
and a subject index.

For teachers and students in world history survey courses,
especially those in high school and lower division college
classes, this will be a useful resource. Not only does it pro-
vide access to the text of important documents, it also pro-
vides a wealth of contextual information that will assist in
understanding the documents themselves. Other titles cover
similar grounds, but there is little overlap between them. For