

***Capital Cities around the World: An Encyclopedia of Geography, History and Culture.*** By Roman Adrian Cybriwsky. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 367 p. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-247-2). E-book available (978-1-61069-248-9), call for pricing.

This title is rather unique in its treatment of world capital cities. Many other encyclopedias and treatments of world cities exist, but the present volume provides a singular discussion of each world capital noting its historical overview, major landmarks, the basics of the culture and society, as well as further readings.

The strengths of the title include its alphabetical arrangement and the brief but thorough discussion of its cultural and physical geography. Along with the cultural situation within the country, region, and the world, this work gives the reader a clear picture of the geopolitical condition of the city. Photographs are interspersed throughout providing good contextual detail to the various landmarks and landscapes of the cities. Another strength is the inclusion of additional readings provided at the end of each entry. These are specifically chosen to be in English and most are from scholarly journals in geography and related disciplines.

A similar work, Kurian's *World Encyclopedia of Cities* (ABC-CLIO, 1994), provides more detail in terms of statistics and less of the culture is presented with context. Also, Kurian reviews all cities of the world, not specifically capitals, thus the need for two volumes. The additional readings listed for these entries present more historical and less geographical content than Cybriwsky. Another similar title is *Capitols of the World* by Walter Lewis Zorn (Munro, 1955) and obviously out of date.

This reference work is ideal for quickly comparing and contrasting capitals in similar areas or for quickly finding the history and the geography of an area. The coverage is even and consistent, whether a city or country is small or large, the length of the articles are very similar. In this way, each entry presents a balanced approach to the topic. Occasionally, long standing independent or autonomous groups within countries are also added to the capital entry for the more recognized country.—*Edith A. Scarletto, Subject Librarian for Geography & Geology, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

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***Conflict in the Early Americas: An Encyclopedia of the Spanish Empire's Aztec, Incan, and Mayan Conquests.*** Edited by Rebecca M. Seaman. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 485 p. Acid free \$100 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-776-5). E-book available (978-1-59884-777-2), call for pricing.

The Spanish conquest of the Aztec, Incan, and Mayan civilizations proved detrimental to these New World empires. While much has been written about the Spanish conquest of these North and South American civilizations, the use and analysis of new historical evidence and data has produced fresh insights which is helping to balance the once dominant Spanish/Western civilizing narrative. *Conflict in the Early*

*Americas: An Encyclopedia of the Spanish Empire's Aztec, Incan, and Mayan Conquests* edited by Rebecca M Seaman, Elizabeth City State University history professor, seeks to provide a less Eurocentric overview of the Aztec, Incan, and Mayan cultures before, during, and shortly after Spanish conquest. A single volume encyclopedia, *Conflict in the Early Americas* contains a brief preface, 426 entries, several maps, and detailed timelines for the Aztec, Incan, and Mayan conflicts.

Organized alphabetically, *Conflict in the Early Americas* provides concise, yet informative essays ranging from one to two pages in length, each including a list of resources. Seaman's volume largely stands alone among other reference works that address the Aztec, Incan, and Mayan civilizations. While works such as Jay Kinsbruner's *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture* (Gale, 2008), Thomas M Leonard's *Encyclopedia of Latin America* (Facts On File, 2010), and several older encyclopedias include entries about the Spanish Empire's involvement with the Aztec, Incan, and Mayan cultures, these works tend to lack entries on the social and cultural characteristics of these New World cultures. *Conflict in the Early Americas* is set apart from other reference works, not only because of its specific focus on the Aztec, Inca and Maya, but also because the volume delves into the social, political, and cultural state of these empires, before, during, and after the arrival of the Spanish. Entries such as "Government, Pre-Conquest Aztec," "Sciences and Arts of Pre-Conquest Inca," and "Women, Status of Mexica" are examples of how Seaman's volume incorporates recent research into the cultures of these societies.

*Conflict in the Early Americas* is an important reference work that breaks from the Eurocentric framework. The one drawback to this notable encyclopedia is the omission of an introduction essay that frames the historical treatment of the Spanish conquest. While the exceedingly short preface alludes to the once dominate Eurocentric scholarship and briefly mentions the importance of new research that challenges that notion, a more historiographical essay would have provided excellent context for the reader. That aside, *Conflict in the Early Americas* is an important work on 16th century North and South American civilization and is recommended for high schools, medium to large-size public libraries and academic libraries.—*Joseph A. Hurley, Data Services, Geosciences, Gov't Info, Maps and GIS Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

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***Economic Thinkers: A Biographical Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by David A. Dieterle. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2013. 552 p. Acid free \$100 (ISBN: 978-0-313-39746-2). E-book available, (978-0-313-39747-9), call for pricing.

Dieterle serves as Senior Program Consultant for the Michigan Council on Economic Education (MCEE) and is an adjunct professor of economics at Walsh College and a lecturer at University of Michigan-Flint. He has enlisted a host of contributors from middle and high schools as well as colleges and universities to create a nicely accessible biographical