a range of uses the EPSS can be recommended as support for those who teach and pursue study on topics in philosophy and the social sciences, for all college and university settings, and possibly for large public libraries.—Paul Fechner, Subject Librarian for Philosophy and Social Sciences, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio


This set is more valuable, and more balanced, than the title suggests. Perhaps it can be argued that pretty much all US initiatives in Latin America have had at least the specter of US military strength in the background, but, fortunately, this encyclopedia covers economic and diplomatic initiatives in Latin America as well as actual uses of force. The Alliance for Progress, the Peace Corps and other nonviolent US efforts in the region have chapters. So, of course, do the violent episodes committed by local actors with US assistance. A previously naive reader may come away with a darkened understanding of US actions in Latin America, but it’s not all about bullets and blood.

Besides nearly 350 entries, the encyclopedia includes several research aids. There is both a standard alphabetical table of contents as well as listings of entries grouped by related broad topics, such as “Cultural Issues.” At the end of the second volume, there are thirteen original documents, a glossary, and an index. There is also an overall bibliography, and each entry includes a list of references. Black and white illustrations—mostly portraits of key players—are frequent. The writer of each entry is identified at the end of it.

A ballpark comparison among reference resources can be made with Barbara A. Tenenbaum’s Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture ( Scribner's, 1995) and Thomas M. Leonard’s Encyclopedia of Latin America ( Facts of File, 2010). Tenenbaum’s project is almost twenty years older, so is out of date on a few subjects. The main difference, other than the obvious greater scope and size of Tenenbaum’s set, is that McPherson’s is focused on US leaders and actions. For example, both sets have sizable entries about the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, but McPherson’s then has a separate entry about the effects of Trujillo’s assassination on US policy.

The Leonard encyclopedia has four volumes that each cover a different era, the last being 1900 to the present, with entries in each volume organized alphabetically. That format feels awkward, and US interventions are certainly not the sets focus; the Contras do not even have their own entry but are included in one about Central American wars of the 1980s. Nevertheless, the set offers several interesting research aids and is still current.

Benjamin R. Beede’s one-volume The War of 1898 and U.S. Interventions 1898–1934: An Encyclopedia (Garland, 1994) covers a bit of the same ground as McPherson but is more about US military history than US–Latin American relations. Michael Grow’s U.S. Presidents and Latin American Interventions: Pursuing Regime Change in the Cold War (University Press of Kansas, 2008) is a monograph with full-scale chapters on each intervention it addresses but is limited to modern times.

The new set should be quite helpful to high school and college students new to this subject and could be of general interest in communities with strong Latin American cultural consciousness, but it would be supplementary to a broader set such as Leonard’s.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana


This two-volume set is the second edition of Sage’s highly regarded 2004 Encyclopedia of White-Collar and Corporate Crime. As before, the work is aimed at college, public, and high school libraries. The introduction states that, during the first two decades of the 2000s, “white collar crime has become a topic of almost daily news” with, for example, “massive violations of laws pertaining to improper investments in mutual funds and large banking firms” (xxvii).

This edition comes nine years later and includes not only approximately eighty new articles but major revisions to the articles from the former edition. All the articles have been newly assigned in an effort to include the most up-to-date information. As in the previous edition, Lawrence M. Salinger, an expert in organized crime and professor of criminology and sociology at the Arkansas State University, is the editor. He introduces the work and explains the major revisions that this edition represents.

Articles in the work “focus on the introductory knowledge that students can utilize” (xxx). New material includes the bankruptcy of General Motors, new sets of regulations, the Bernard Madoff Ponzi scheme, the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street & Consumer Protection Act. This last is also included in the law summaries in a twenty-three-page summary of this very complicated act. Upgrades to former articles cover recent judicial and congressional actions as well as new criminal activities in areas such as age discrimination, campaign finance, identity theft, industrial espionage, gender discrimination, and health care fraud. The latter mentions provisions of the Affordable Care Act that are intended to fight fraud.

As before, the format is conducive to easy access to information: a list of the articles, an extensive reader’s guide, alphabetical entries with see also references and a brief bibliography, eight law summaries, and a very thorough index. This is a fine reference work and one well worth the price if there is need.—Carol Krismann, Retired Business Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado