Sources
Reference Books
Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Editor

Alcohol and Drugs in North America: A Historical Encyclopedia
American Sports: A History of Icons, Idols, and Ideas
Atrocities, Massacres, and War Crimes: An Encyclopedia
Capital Cities around the World: An Encyclopedia of Geography, History and Culture
Conflict in the Early Americas: An Encyclopedia of the Spanish Empire’s Aztec, Incan, and Mayan Conquests
Economic Thinkers: A Biographical Encyclopedia
Encyclopedia of Crisis Management
Encyclopedia of Fairies in World Folklore and Mythology
Encyclopedia of Japanese American Internment
Encyclopedia of Crisis Management
Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music
Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences
Encyclopedia of U.S. Military Intervention in Latin America
Encyclopedia of White-Collar and Corporate Crime, 2nd ed.
International Education: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Issues and Systems
The Iraq War Encyclopedia
Street Food around the World: An Encyclopedia of Food and Culture

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Alcohol and Drugs in North America: A Historical Encyclopedia is an updated version of the 2003 ABC-CLIO encyclopedia, Alcohol and Temperance in Modern History: An International Encyclopedia, edited by Jack S. Blocker Jr., David M. Fahey, and Ian R. Tyrrell. Several entries from the previous work have been revised and some have been omitted. Of the 256 total entries, 85 are completely new to this edition.

Alcohol and Drugs in North America: A Historical Encyclopedia provides a overview of the history of drugs and alcohol, primarily in the United States and Canada, including illegal drugs such as crystal meth and LSD, regulated legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco, and unregulated legal drugs such as chocolate and energy drinks. It provides an alphabetical listing of entries as well as a “Guide to Related Topics” that arranges the entries by general topics such as “Government and National Groups,” “Laws and Law Enforcement,” “Treatment and Rehabilitation,” and more. There is also a Chronology listed starting from 1765 with “Bakers chocolate company begins in Dorchester, Massachusetts” to 2013 with “National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism scheduled for merger with the larger National Institute on Drug Abuse in October.”

Similar works include the Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol, & Addictive Behavior published in 2008 and edited by Pamela Korsmeyer and Henry R. Kranzler, which boasts 545 entries including a deeper focus on foreign cultures and societies. What sets Alcohol and Drugs in North America: A Historical Encyclopedia apart is its geographic focus on North America.

The encyclopedia has several weaknesses. For example, while it does have an entry on beer and whiskies, it does not have a separate entry for bourbon, however bourbon can be found by looking in the Whiskies entry. It also does not include a separate entry on the history of the Kentucky Bourbon industry which is a glaring oversight for a work on the history of alcohol in North America. However, in the Whiskies entry there is one sentence that acknowledges that “Bourbon” is named after the original Bourbon County, Kentucky (743).

Recommended for public and academic library collections.—Rachael Elrod, Reference/Instruction Librarian, The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina


There is no shortage of reference resources devoted to various aspects of the sporting world. Works covering issues like the Olympics, sports management, sports marketing, women in sports, and ethnicity in sports, to name a few
examples, are all over the publishing marketplace. The particular sports niche this set attempts to fill is the exploration of the intertwining of sports and American culture.

There are nearly 500 entries here chosen for their relevance to contemporary American culture. Not presuming a vast prior knowledge of the sports world, the entries are well written and easy to follow, but still maintain an academic focus. Each entry contains “see also” references and a list of suggested resources. The final volume contains a five-page selected bibliography. To further assist users, there is a “Guide to Related Topics,” categorizing the subject matter by Events, Groups and Organizations, Ideas and Movements, Individuals, Objects and Artifacts, and Places.

The nearly 150 contributors include historians, anthropologists, artists, musicians, sociologists, sports scientists, as well as students, teachers, and coaches. The intersection of the arts and sports is a recurring theme in the set. For example, the ubiquitous ballpark song, “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” is profiled, as is the work of artists like Norman Rockwell and Leroy Neiman. Sports in literature pops up frequently, with entries on well-known fiction and non-fiction alike. Bernard Malamud’s *The Natural* is covered, as is the more recent *Friday Night Lights* by Buzz Bissinger. Even consumer goods associated with sports garner entries, such as Gatorade, Wheaties, and hot dogs, as well as prominent companies whose names are associated with sports—Nike and Adidas, for example. There are numerous biographical entries also, covering the expected giants of sport (Babe Ruth), famous commentators (Bob Costas and Howard Cosell), and powerful commissioners (David Stern and Kanesaw Mountain Landis). Other examples of notable entries include the XFL, EA Sports, March Madness, and “Who’s On First?”

Frequent sidebars pad the information contained in the entries. For example, a sidebar to the entry on the movie, *Field of Dreams*, explains how the baseball field site from the movie became a tourist attraction tussled over by the two families owning the properties on which it stood. Other sidebars explain the decision to play baseball during World War II and the origins of “Sweet Georgia Brown,” the whistling tune identified with the Harlem Globetrotters from the 1940s until today. The general layout of the volumes is attractive, with even listed in the “Categorical Index—Places” or the general “Subject Index.” There is an entry for “Croatia,” which includes information from World War II as well as atrocities occurring during the breakup of Yugoslavia; To find Bosnia, the reader would have to have the forethought to look under “Yugoslavian Civil Wars (1991–1995, 1998–2001),” a tall task for the novice researcher. Kosovo was rightly given its own article entry, but one might wonder if the editor was going for simplicity instead comprehensiveness, why was Kosovo not lumped in the broader “Yugoslavian Civil Wars” entry, too? To be fair, there are works listed in the “General Bibliography” and article entries for some massacres in Bosnia, but how is the uninitiated reader supposed to find them without index or article entries for the country in which they occurred? The reader is left wondering about other possible oversights in this set. There is still value in the work, but selectors should beware of its possible limitations and omissions when considering its purchase.—*Mike Tosko, Information Literacy Coordinator, The University of Akron, Ohio*


Since the 1990s, the rise of conflicts involving mass killings and war crimes in places such as Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and Darfur have unfortunately been all too common. With renewed concern and interest in these brutal conflicts, many reference works on the subject of genocide and war crimes have been published in the past fifteen years. Titles such as Israel W. Charny’s *Encyclopedia of Genocide* (ABC-Clio, 1999), Dinah Shelton’s *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes against Humanity* (Macmillan, 2005), Leslie Alan Horvitz and Christopher Catherwood’s *Encyclopedia of War Crimes and Genocide*, Revised edition (Facts on File, 2011) as well as other works detailing specific events have proliferated.

This work contains over 400 entries across all eras of history but is focused on the twentieth century. The editor’s purpose was to present entries on selected events written in an accessible language devoid of jargon and overly sophisticated explanations but still scholarly in approach. In this regard, the editor was successful in crafting a work suitable for the novice researcher, in particular for undergraduates and below.

However, this set has at least one troubling and inexplicable omission in the article entries as well as in access points. Despite it being the site of some of the most horrific events in Europe since the Holocaust, Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have its own article entry. In fact, it is not even listed in the “Categorical Index—Places” or the general “Subject Index.” There is an entry for “Croatia,” which includes information from World War II as well as atrocities occurring during the breakup of Yugoslavia; To find Bosnia, the reader would have to have the forethought to look under “Yugoslavian Civil Wars (1991–1995, 1998–2001),” a tall task for the novice researcher. Kosovo was rightly given its own article entry, but one might wonder if the editor was going for simplicity instead comprehensiveness, why was Kosovo not lumped in the broader “Yugoslavian Civil Wars” entry, too? To be fair, there are works listed in the “General Bibliography” and article entries for some massacres in Bosnia, but how is the uninitiated reader supposed to find them without index or article entries for the country in which they occurred? The reader is left wondering about other possible oversights in this set. There is still value in the work, but selectors should beware of its possible limitations and omissions when considering its purchase.—*Brent D. Singleton, Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino, California*