

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 Another similar title is *Capitols of the World* by Walter Lewis Zorn (Munro, 1955) and obviously out of date.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*

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*

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

source on economic thinkers. Dieterle states in the preface that that the encyclopedia spans the centuries from before Christ with Qin Shi Haung and progresses to the current era with the latest Nobel Laureates. There are only 200 entries in this source and picking those to be included was a challenge. The intent of the book was to “include a broad base of economic philosophies, economic disciplines such as history, development economics, and econometrics, along with thought leaders and policy implementers from the influential economic institutions” (xxxiv).

The encyclopedia begins with a few reference pages that include an alphabetical list of the entries, a chronological guide to related topics, a geographical guide where the entries are listed by region and country, and a guide to the economic philosophies and concepts with the thinkers associated with those topics. The introduction provides a “Family Tree of Economics” with a brief explanation of the various parts of the family such as Early Philosophers, Classical Economists, New Political Economy, Quantitative Revolution, and the New Branches of the Tree.

The first entry is George Akerlof who is known for his work in growth theory, and the last entry is Robert Zoellick, the current president of the World Bank. In between are profiles of thinkers such as Thomas Mun, a 16th century mercantilist who believed in the importance of balance of trade; Jeremy Bentham, an 18th century English philosopher who advocated that consumer satisfaction has an impact on markets; and Beatrice Webb, a cofounder of the London School of Economics. Each entry is at least a page and sometimes longer. After each entry there is a list of both Selected Works by the Economic Thinker and Selected Works about the Economic Thinker. Women make up only 10 percent of the entries in this source. The end of the volume includes a list of Nobel Laureates, an extensive glossary, a selected bibliography, and an index. There is also a list of contributors.

This reference source is an excellent introduction to the thinkers of the discipline of economics. The entries are accessible and easy to read and provide the general reader with a starting point to explore more about the people and the topic of economics. Recommended for all libraries.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

Encyclopedia of Crisis Management. Ed. by K. Bradley Penuel, Matt Statler, and Ryan Hagen. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2013. 2 vols. \$350 (ISBN: 978-1-5422-2612-5).

I will admit that I wasn't quite sure what all was meant by the term “crisis management,” or how broadly it could be applied as a field of study, before working on this current review. Thankfully, as one would expect from any decent reference work, the “Introduction” section was able to provide me with a solid overview of the topic. Here, it explains quite simply that “‘crisis management’ involves planning for, coping with, and recovering from the impacts of unexpected events” (xxv). Considering that “unexpected events” could conceivably emerge from just about any situation, I soon

began wondering how the editors were able to limit this reference work to a mere two volumes. Further along, however, it notes that crisis management, as a field of practice and academic study, is still relatively young, emerging only in the late 1980's. So, in light of the fact that crisis management, as an actual “thing,” is really quite new, it would be unfair to expect much more than what the editors have amassed here. The editors acknowledge, too, that they are dealing with a field that is very “complex and dynamic,” and state that their encyclopedia seeks to “provide an overview of the how the practices and the concepts associated with crisis management are currently evolving” (xxvii).

As per the norm, entries are arranged alphabetically. Without the “Reader's Guide,” however, the casual inquirer would have a difficult time understanding how this incredibly diverse and multifaceted field is organized. Here, the 350+ entries are filed under 15 topic areas, or “Categories of Crisis” (i.e., “Financial and Business,” “Natural Disasters,” “Political, International Relations, and Civil Violence,” etc.). Many of the entries include a “Case Study” to highlight exemplary, corresponding situations or historical events. Also included are an abundance of relevant tables, images, and other figures. Back matter includes a glossary, resource guide, and appendix, which is essentially a collection of what I would consider more in-depth case studies.

To my knowledge, this encyclopedia is the first of its kind—that is, it brings together the vast range of topics comprising the broader scope of the field into a single reference work. Many of the topics, or “crises,” included here *have*, however, been addressed in greater detail in encyclopedias of their own, such as *The Encyclopedia of Natural Hazards* (Springer, 2013) and *Encyclopedia of Disaster Management* (Himalaya Publishing House, 2009). I could imagine this being a useful research starting point for high school or undergraduate students as many of the entries have potential to stimulate ideas for interesting papers or other projects, although I'm not so sure they would think to go looking for them in a crisis management encyclopedia.—*Todd J. Wiebe, Head of Research & Instruction, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

Encyclopedia of Fairies in World Folklore and Mythology. By Theresa Bane. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013. 419 p. Acid Free \$75 (ISBN: 978-0-7864-7111-9). E-book available (978-1-4766-1242-3), call for pricing.

Fairies are very popular right now—again. They were popular in the Victorian era and now have been discovered by a whole new generation. This expensive paperback book will help answer patron ready reference questions and point the way to answers in other sources. The simple, straightforward organization uses a single alphabetical arrangement for concise entries, which vary in length from two sentences to six paragraphs for more important or well-known fay folk like Morgan Le Fey (237). Each entry on the more than 2,000 fairy-like beings lists variant names, clearly identifies the