SOURCES


This densely detailed single volume encyclopedia provides both valuable and riveting firsthand accounts into the experiences of those detained while inside the camps, which are two of this book’s biggest strengths. Among the primary documents are selections of memoirs and letters written by detained Japanese Americans while inside the camps, which provide both valuable and riveting firsthand accounts into the experiences of those detained. Additionally, a plethora of citations for further research into Japanese American internment can be found in the selected bibliography. The inclusion of a lengthy bibliography makes this resource especially useful for history students in an academic setting, as it allows for easy exploration of sources in addition to the encyclopedia.

Wendy Ng’s Japanese American Internment During World War II: A History and Reference Guide (Greenwood Press, 2002) takes a more systematic approach to the subject when compared with the Encyclopedia of Japanese American Internment. The chronological, borderline narrative-based structure of Ng’s text is quite different from the more traditional, alphabetical topic entries of the Encyclopedia of Japanese American Internment. As a result, each volume compliments the other quite nicely, and both could easily coexist on the same bookshelf.

Well organized and covering a broad spectrum of topics germane to the subject, this reference work is easy to recommend. The inclusion of a collection of primary source documents and an extensive bibliography, perfect for further and more in-depth exploration, make this a near essential resource. Academic libraries would be hard pressed to find a better reference source on this often overlooked topic.—Matthew Laudicina, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Palz