

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 Kenesaw 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 numerous black and white photographs. Yet these photos are thoughtfully chosen with the overarching theme of sports and culture always in mind. For example, in the entry on football star Jim Brown, there is a photo of Muhammad Ali visiting Brown on the set of *The Dirty Dozen*, the movie for which Brown famously retired early from football. The entry on Ali will remind readers that not too long after this mid-1960s picture, Ali was imprisoned for refusing military induction via the draft. The information contained here lends poignancy to a simple black and white photograph of two prominent and culturally significant black athletes having a chat.

Overall, this is quite an accessible and interesting resource covering a wide gamut of sports and society topics, succeeding in its stated intention to “convey to students and

general readers how sports and popular culture intersect in the United States today” (xv). Recommended for public, high school and academic libraries.—Mike Tosko, *Information Literacy Coordinator, The University of Akron, Ohio*

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### ***Atrocities, Massacres, and War Crimes: An Encyclopedia.***

Edited by Alexander Mikaberidze. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-925-7). E-book available (978-1-59884-926-4), call for pricing.

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*