In addition to the short reading lists for each entry, the encyclopedia includes a lengthy and up-to-date bibliography of books, articles, and websites. The index is easy to use. The fifty-two contributors are listed in a separate section along with a few words about their current position or employment. As a group, the contributors represent a wide range of academic disciplines and professions. For some, the information provided is not helpful (for example, “independent scholar in Ann Arbor Michigan”); “works in the Department of English as the University of Wisconsin-Madison” (278–80). Twelve of the contributors are doctoral or PhD candidates or masters students in fields ranging from journalism to food systems to history. It would have been helpful to include information for each contributor indicating relevant expertise, such as the one for Angus Taylor who “teaches philosophy at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. He is the author of Animal and Ethics: An Overview of the Philosophical Debate” (280).

I know of no other encyclopedia-type works on vegetarianism. There are many handbooks, cookbooks, guides for newcomers and for families, personal accounts, nutrition guides, and works on political, social, philosophical, and historical perspectives on vegetarianism and animal rights. Many of those are listed in the robust bibliography in the encyclopedia. Among the works that cover ground similar to the encyclopedia are Sins of the Flesh: A History of Ethical Vegetarian Thought by Rod Preece (UBC Pr., 2008) and Vegetarianism: A History by Colin Spencer (Four Walls Eight Windows, 2002). However, the scope of the encyclopedia is broader than either of these works. The encyclopedia offers a gateway into the cultural history and significance of the vegetarian world, with pointers to important movements, people, and philosophies.

I recommend this book for libraries that want to provide material on vegetarianism. It is accessible, informative, and even-handed.—Carolyn Radcliff, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

Coverage is organized into eight thematic volumes: (1) Fluid Dynamics and Aerothermodynamics; (2) Propulsion and Power; (3) Structural Technology; (4) Materials Technology; (5) Dynamics and Control; (6) Environmental Impact, Manufacturing, and Operations; (7) Vehicle Design; and (8) System Engineering.

These eight areas are then subdivided into forty-three topical parts, supervised by thirty-six subject editors. For example, volume 2, Propulsion and Power, is comprised of four parts: “Basic Concepts,” “Airbreathing Engines,” “Rocket Propulsion,” and “Alternative Propulsion.” Each part is then divided into two to eighteen chapters, with an average of ten chapters per part. For example, in volume 2 part 12, “Alternative Propulsion,” we have chapters on “Ion Thrusters,” “Laser Propulsion,” and “Magnetic Plasma Sails,” among others.

Entries range eight to thirty pages in length, with most about twelve pages long with twenty-five to thirty references. Chapters are profusely illustrated with photographs, diagrams, graphs, and mathematical formulas. Unlike its nearest competitor, the one-volume Aerospace Engineering Desk Reference (Butterworth-Heinemann, 2009), which is made-up of excerpts from other texts, articles in the Encyclopedia of Aerospace Engineering are mostly original entries written specifically by experts for this set.

The affiliations of contributors illustrate the expertise and quality of the content. This reviewer tallied 607 contributors: 392 from university faculties; 184 American and the remainder split between universities in England and those in other countries. Top American university aeronautical engineering programs are well-represented. Of the 147 contributors who are self-identified as working for a corporate employer, 90 work for American firms, 29 for British, and 28 for firms in other foreign countries; 41 contributors identified themselves as working for NASA and another 16 as working for the American military. Except for the thinly represented contingents of Chinese and Russian engineers, the list is a veritable who’s who of the best and brightest aerospace engineers in the world.

While student readers may find the numerous displays of mathematical equations intimidating, those who begin reading the clearly written text will be pleasantly surprised. The editors have done a marvelous job of blending mathematical equation–based explanations with interesting, well-written narrative. Indeed, the clear writing style and lucid presentations are effective and impressive. For example, in a chapter titled “Aerodynamic Benefit of Aircraft Formation Flight,” the contributor opens with a description of the experiment where the heart rates of eight trained pelicans are measured to determine their energy expenditure during flight. One of the findings, that the birds expend 14.5 percent less energy in formation flight than in solo flying, is then used to introduce mathematical computations and discussion of the principles of drag that affect both the trained pelicans and aircraft flying in formation, all to help readers better understand real-world possibilities for dramatic fuel savings by formation-flying aircraft.

A wide range of aerospace topics related to air and spacecraft design, construction, and flight is offered, including...
mechanics, propulsion, physics, guidance and control, electronics and instrumentation, communications, computer and systems engineering, material science, fabrication and manufacturing, environmental science, noise, and emissions.

While the content of this set will be challenging for students enrolled at universities whose aerospace programs focus only on training professional pilots and airport/air traffic managers, it will be a welcome and essential resource for those with aerospace-related engineering programs. Indeed, a comparison of the thematic areas covered with coursework in the undergraduate programs at two top American aeronautical engineering universities reveals that the content matches up very nicely. Of course, this is not surprising, given that two thirds of the contributors teach aeronautical engineering-related courses at the university level.

The Encyclopedia of Aerospace Engineering is an outstanding resource. It is highly recommended for libraries serving aeronautical engineering students and technical libraries serving practitioners.—R. Neil Scott, User Services Librarian, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee


Francis T. Cullen and Pamela Wilcox have delivered a subtly unique two-volume reference work to the field of criminology and its related studies. As its title implies, the Encyclopedia of Criminological Theory is focused on mapping out the ideological terrain of the academic discipline as it has evolved over the last two-hundred-plus years. Cullen currently holds the title of Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Cincinnati’s School of Criminal Justice and with over thirty years in the field and over 275 works published, he is undoubtably well equipped to oversee such a thorough collection. It is equally unsurprising that he is also listed as an entry in the encyclopedia for a subset of his work (as is Wilcox, his coeditor here and colleague at University of Cincinnati).

Browsing the list of entries at the beginning of each volume, one finds that a great majority of them are in fact the names of the individuals with whom various general schools of thought and particular theories are associated. This is a workable organization scheme for those who are already knowledgeable of the discipline’s parameters, but it also makes the extensive index at the back of volume 2 absolutely indispensible for those who are less familiar and might therefore be more likely to browse for theoretical work regarding a keyword like “gangs” rather than to search for the work of Martin Sanchez-Jankowski or Frederick M. Thrasher from the start. This stands in fairly stark contrast to the organization of the most nearly comparable recent work, Richard A. Wright’s and J. Mitchell Miller’s Encyclopedia of Criminology (Routledge, 2005), which is largely comprised of more traditional subject headings. The difference is not necessarily a fault of either work but is an important data point in the argument that Cullen and Wilcox have successfully filled a niche that was heretofore mostly empty. It also demonstrates that the work of Cullen and Wilcox may be more aptly suited for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students of criminal justice, sociology, and the like.

In an attempt to mitigate against any potential unfamiliarity with the principle theorists involved, Cullen and Wilcox have included a reader’s guide at the beginning of the first volume, which attempts to categorize the encyclopedia’s entries into twenty-one schools of thought with each school as a heading containing a list of the relevant name entries beneath. The introductory matter in volume 1 also includes detailed professional information about the individuals comprising the editorship of the work, a complete alphabetical list of all contributors with their affiliation, and an extended narrative essay authored by Cullen and Wilcox that expands on the framework of the reader’s guide. Finally, the editors also include a ninety-page selection of annotated further readings near the end of volume 2, coordinated under the same established twenty-one schools of thought headings.

The work is recommended for all academic collections with accommodating budgets but especially those with higher-level undergraduate and graduate collections in relevant disciplines.—Chris G. Hudson, Serials and Government Documents Librarian, MacMillan Law Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia


How should we live together collectively? What is the nature and purpose of human associations? Where does the government fit in? What is its purpose? What are the limits of its legitimate authority? What is the best form of government? These questions have fascinated scholars and students from antiquity to the rise of modern political theory in the seventeenth century to the debate over the proper role of government today. Interest in the theory of politics, moreover, is rapidly growing as citizens are continuously asked to consider and assess their proper relationship with modern governments. At the same time, electorates are becoming increasingly disenfranchised by politicians and political ideologists. Interest in political theory should continue to expand as public policy, foreign affairs, domestic politics, social and environmental issues, healthcare, immigration, demand for public services, and similar issues will require new and innovative ideas from our public officials.

Thus this new offering from Sage will be a welcome addition to any collection supporting political science and history curriculums. Edited by Mark Bevir, a professor of political science at the University of California, Berkeley, the Encyclopedia of Political Theory fills an important void in the reference literature: a current, comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and in-depth reference source summarizing the most significant topics in the field. Organized alphabetically in three volumes, the encyclopedia will serve many interested readers as an introduction and resource to the field. The 475 signed articles...