The statistical information in Consumer Americas 2011 is broken down into five sections: introduction, “Socio-Economic Parameters,” “Consumer Markets,” “Market Growth Rankings,” and “Country Snapshots.” The “Socio-Economic Parameters” section provides regional, socioeconomic data comparing fourteen countries for the 2004–9 period. The socioeconomic parameters include such statistical categories as economic indicators, foreign trade, population, health, household characteristics, etc.

The “Consumer Markets” section presents consumer market data in U.S. dollar terms, per capita figures, or volume units over the period 2004–9 and forecasts from 2009–14. Examples of the nineteen consumer markets presented include beauty and personal care, clothing and footwear, and soft drinks. The tables displayed in the “Market Growth Rankings” section quickly illustrate the historical real growth rates across the nineteen consumer markets covered. For example, the “Pet Care Ranked by Fastest Real Growth 2004–2009” table shows that Argentina has had the fastest percentage real growth as valued by national currencies in this consumer market.

In the “Country Snapshots” section, each country’s socioeconomic parameters and consumer market data are dissected and presented in greater detail in a series of standardized tables. Figures are shown in the national currency when available, and the historical and forecast data are presented next to each other.

Retail Trade International contains extensive data on the global retailing industry. The book covers statistical data and analysis from fifty-two countries across the world. A typical chapter for a country is fifteen to twenty pages in length and provides a “key trends and developments” overview for the varying retail industry and environments within each country and historical and forecast market data for each retail environment. Retail environments range from supermarkets and discounters to vending and internet retailing. The time period for the historical data is 2004–9 while the forecast trends are calculated to 2014. A handy feature is the “Glossary of Terms and Definitions” included in the introduction section which standardizes and defines each retail environment that is subsequently analyzed.

These two books are useful, in-depth, and authoritative resources for the business student or company. The industry and consumer market analysis in these books is not unique. There are a number of databases and print sources that offer comparable data. However, the Euromonitor books offer an affordable alternative to the more expensive electronic sources but without the 24/7 access. For libraries with bigger budgets, Euromonitor offers this information in electronic format in one of its industry and consumer research databases. Recommended for academic and public libraries with business programs.—Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz


Crime and Punishment Around the World provides a comprehensive overview of criminal data and policies that the editors rightly acknowledge can be challenging to find and accurately interpret. This is because this type of information invariably opens a country up to criticism. Crime data may be massaged to show the country in a more favorable light
or simply not provided at all. Readers are advised to resist the temptation of directly comparing one country to another because of the different types of legal systems, for example, secular state law versus Islamic law. Nonetheless, most of us will not be so strong as to resist this temptation. Therefore, the content is organized so as to provide key background and contextual information on each country's legal system so that the reader may better evaluate the differences in the criminal data each country reports.

This set is organized into four volumes with each volume covering a major region of the world. Volume 1 covers Africa and the Middle East; volume 2, the Americas; volume 3, Asia and Pacific; and volume 4, Europe. In total, the four volumes provide entries to 227 countries. Although entries vary slightly for each country, most include background information: demographics, political history, and an overview of the legal system; a section on crime: how a country classifies its crime and a synopsis of key criminal statistics; and an introduction to the criminal justice system: the key players, how investigations are conducted, the role of the prosecution, the rights of the accused, judges and the courts, and juvenile justice. Each entry ends with what punishments are meted out for particular crimes, including an overview of the prison system. Finally, the further reading section leads one to key monographs or online statistical websites. If a country contains with particular types of crimes as Aruba does with drug and human trafficking, these crimes are addressed.

In general, no other reference work examines individual countries’ criminal systems and situations as precisely or comprehensively as this set does. The same publisher of this work, ABC-CLIO, publishes a Contemporary World Issues series that includes reference handbooks on particular types of crimes, such as Cybercrime (ABC-CLIO, 2004), Hate Crimes (ABC-CLIO, 2005), Corporate Crime (ABC-CLIO, 2008), Sexual Crime (ABC-CLIO, 2010), Globalized Organized Crime (ABC-CLIO, 2010), and more. Nonetheless these works focus mainly on criminal issues related to the United States and only touch upon the impact of these crimes in a global context. Likewise, other reference works, such as the Encyclopaedia of Crime and Justice (Macmillan Reference USA, 2002), the Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment (Sage, 2002), or the Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior (Brunner-Routledge, 2001), take a U.S.-centric look at crime and entries discuss broader criminal justice concepts and topics, such as burden of proof, cross-examination, or domestic violence. Other reference works that examine crime in an international context include the Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice (Sage, 2005), which researches specific types of crimes, such as human trafficking, war crimes, or terrorism, and the International Handbook of White-collar and Corporate Crime (Springer, 2007).

Key international organizations such as Interpol, the world’s largest police organization, www.interpol.int, and the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network, www.uncjin.org, provide statistics, reports, background, and current events surrounding major international crime issues but do not examine the justice systems themselves in their cultural, political or historical context as this work does.

Overall, considering the valuable information these volumes contain, their accessibility to a wide audience, and the limitations of previous reference works and online resources, Crime and Punishment Around the World makes a valuable addition to the reference collections of both academic and public libraries.—Rick Robison, Head of Reference and Access Services, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California


This book was written to give historical and social context for the current interest in vegetarianism, particularly in the United States. The editor’s intent is to connect vegetarianism today with its historical, philosophical, and religious roots. To that end, the work is successful. It provides helpful introductory text, a chronology spanning 599 BCE to 2007 CE with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and around one hundred entries, most ranging from one to four pages. The coverage of the encyclopedia is reflected in the broad categories used to organize the topical list of entries: agriculture; concepts, beliefs, and philosophies; environment, health, and science; industry; people; places; popular culture; practices; religion and spirituality; and societies, organizations, and institutions.

Although the editor says that the book is not intended to “advocate for or against vegetarianism” (viii) and the writing is even-handed, it is clear that the editor and most or all of the contributors are proponents of vegetarianism. The bias is neither unexpected nor polemical but is something to be aware of. The entries are consistently easy to read and informative. For example, the entry on activism and protests, one of the longest in the book at seven pages, touches on the long history of relevant vegetarian-related activism, from Siddhartha Gautama (ca. 563–483 BC) to Johnny Appleseed to the modern animal rights movement launched with the 1981 Action for Life Conference. The entry describes activism strategies such as boycotts, protests, and litigation, and identifies prominent activists. Like every other entry, this one concludes with references to related entries and a list of further reading choices. A handful of entries are supplemented with sidebars or illustrations.

It is always possible to find shortcomings in a publication and this book is no exception. I expected to find an entry on fruitarian diets but did not. The first part of the entry on Peter Singer sounds like a short version of his vita and is not consistent with other entries on people. The entry for community supported agriculture can be found in the A section under “agriculture, community supported” with no index entry to lead there from community supported agriculture or CSA. But these are minor and rare concerns. Overall, the book is well organized with good content and a pleasure to use.