

listeners to explore the roots of each region's sound through the music itself.

A number of additional features make this title a valuable reference tool for those seeking an in depth look at American hip-hop culture in a regional context. Each volume contains a "Timeline of American Regional Hip Hop" that begins with the birth of Grandmaster Flash in 1958 and chronicles important events and notable album releases through 2009. Sidebars appear throughout the books to highlight particular cultural icons, local landmarks, regional vocabulary, and more. For instance, the sidebar titled "Syrup" describes what was originally a Houston area "habit of drinking codeine cough syrup recreationally" (437), a practice currently referenced in a number of pop and hip-hop songs from a variety of regions.

Hip Hop in America: A Regional Guide presents a well written and readable overview of hip-hop history and culture through the lens of location. It highlights the birth and development of hip-hop culture and music throughout the United States while emphasizing the influence of specific regions on the growth and identity of the music. The thoroughly researched essays, extensive bibliographies and index, and deep discographies make this two-volume set a great addition to any academic or public library with an interest in expanding their music and pop culture collections.—*Rob Snyder, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio*

Mormonism: A Historical Encyclopedia. Ed. by W. Paul Reeve and Ardis E. Parshall. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 449 p. acid-free \$85 (ISBN 978-1-59884-107-7). E-book available (978-1-59884-108-4), call for pricing.

Mormonism: A Historical Encyclopedia (referred to as *MAHE*) combines brevity, depth, and scholarship in an area where few scholarly reference resources are available. *MAHE* is arranged into four categories: eras, events, people, and issues. Three of the four categories (events, people, and issues) are arranged alphabetically; the fourth category, eras, is arranged chronologically. This arrangement follows the natural investigation patterns of a patron. When using a historical encyclopedia, the patron is often looking for data about Mormonism, the people involved, the formative events that brought it about, and the chronological data that aligns it with history. The format of *MAHE* allows the patron to quickly attain the kind of information they need.

MAHE was written to "capture the contours, nuances, subtleties, complexities, and dynamic aspects of Mormonism, plot change and continuity over time, and provide the reader a strong sense of Mormonism's place in an ever-shifting historical context" (ix). This is quite a monumental task for a one-volume work. In spite of this, *MAHE* does a commendable job of presenting a historical depiction of Mormonism.

One example of this admirable portrayal is the article on polygamy. The article states that polygamy, while no longer sanctioned by Mormons, had three eras in the Mormon Church: the introduction of polygamy from 1833 to 1846; the period when it was openly practiced from 1847 to 1884;

and its demise from 1885 to 1910. This article provides the historical context, doctrinal influences, and social necessities that led to the development of polygamy. It then moves on to discuss the fall and eventual distaste toward polygamy in the Mormon Church. With an issue like polygamy, neutrality is incredibly challenging. In spite of that, the two contributors, Kathryn M. Daynes and Lowell C. Bennion, present the data objectively. A major factor against polygamy was the federal government and the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1887. Daynes and Bennion lay this out well, discussing the purpose of the act and its accomplishments.

The contributors show that on one hand, Mormonism was greatly benefited by polygamy. The doctrine of polygamy produced enormous families, which multiplied the numeric size and strength of the Mormon Church almost overnight. On the other hand, the legal challenges brought on by the federal government regarding polygamy almost destroyed the Mormon Church. The objectivity of this article is a reflection on the remainder of the content in the *MAHE*. The strength of the article does not end with its strive toward neutrality. This article has a "see also" section. This portion allows the reader to view other articles in the encyclopedia that will add some insight to the topic.

MAHE has fifty-three contributors. While the articles they wrote are commendable, it is unfortunate that for some contributors, eleven to be precise, no credentials are given. There is no explanation for this in the introduction or the preface. While one cannot doubt Reeve and Parshall's choice of contributors, a comment about the apparent lack of qualifications would be helpful.

MAHE is a great resource for a public library that has occasional questions about Mormonism, or an academic library with an intermittent inquiry about the Latter-Day Saints. For an institute desiring more depth on Mormonism, one should look at acquiring the four-volume work entitled *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* (Macmillan, 1992). This work goes into more depth, covers more topics, and is intended to be used for scholarly inquiries. Its only weakness is that it was written almost twenty years ago. With its freshness, *MAHE* may enlighten the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* somewhat, but *MAHE* does not provide the depth and breadth that the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* does.—*Garrett B. Trott, Reference/Instruction Librarian, Corban University, Salem, Oregon*

Muslim World: Islamic Beliefs, Practices, and Cultures; Modern Muslim Societies; Illustrated Dictionary of the Muslim World. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2010. 3 vols. \$159.85 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7926-0; 978-0-7614-7927-7; 978-0-7614-7929-1). E-book available, call for pricing.

Each part of the three-volume *Muslim World* series can be purchased individually or as a set. The stated purpose of the works is to present the reader with an overview of the Islamic religion across time and the continents, with particular emphasis on the modern world. The set is relatively unique in approach; the only other recent work that is similar in using