

## SOURCES

are written by an impressive list of scholars with expertise from a variety of subject areas. Each entry contains “see” and “see also” cross references and a bibliography for further reading. The writing is scholarly in its approach and its articles are overwhelmingly informative, engaging, and balanced. Like all encyclopedias of this nature, space limitations dictate that some readers might be disappointed by the exclusion of some topics, but Bevir’s work is unrivaled in this format, and its selections are extremely comprehensive and diverse. Both undergraduates and advanced students will find this to be an exceptional resource that covers political theory, biographies, ethics, and political thought from antiquity to modernity.

Produced on high-quality paper with durable and attractive bindings, the encyclopedia provides a number of user-friendly features, including a list of entries, a reader’s guide, a list of contributors, and two appendixes providing a chronology and a bibliography of web resources. In addition, the set contains an excellent general index, subdivided by topic; although it does not provide a general bibliography or illustrations. Nonetheless, this is a first-rate production that will appeal to a wide variety of political science and history students, scholars and researchers, and the interested general reader. It is highly recommended for any library that serves these patrons.

This crowded field has many excellent reference sources that may serve as valuable companion volumes. Sage’s major handbook on the subject, *The Handbook of Political Theory*, by Gerald F. Gaus and Chandran Kukathas (Sage, 2004), is comprehensive and authoritative, and focuses on a thematic, conceptual, and historical approach to political philosophy. Michael Curtis’s *Great Political Theories* (Harper, 2008) is a two-volume set and an expansion of his earlier work that includes excerpts from the great political thinkers from the fifth century. This book will serve as a superb introduction to the field. Miller et al.’s *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Thought* (Blackwell Reference, 1991) is a one-volume reference that encompasses political theory from Socrates to Rawls in 350 scholarly entries. While less in-depth and current than the *Encyclopedia of Political Theory*, it is a good introduction to the field, especially for undergraduate libraries. At less than sixty dollars, the paperback version is a bargain. Two additional works worth mentioning are Strauss and Cropsey’s *History of Political Philosophy* (University of Chicago Press, 1987), an authoritative and engaging collection of essays, and Dryzek, Honing, and Phillips’s *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2008), another good source for introductory students.—*Vincent P. Tinerella, Public Services Librarian, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas*

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***Encyclopedia of Religion in America***. Ed. By Charles H. Lippy and Peter W. Williams. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010. 4 vols. alk. \$600 (ISBN 978-0-87289-5). E-book available, call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*, edited by Charles H. Lippy and Peter W. Williams, stands out as the first comprehensive encyclopedia dedicated to religion in North America. Reference titles with similar subject headings include the

following: J. Gordon Melton’s sixth edition of *Encyclopedia of American Religions* (Gale Research, 1999), Edward L. Queen II, Stephen R. Prothero, and Gardiner H. Shattuck Jr.’s *Encyclopedia of American Religious History* (Facts on File, 1996), and Charles H. Lippy and Peter W. Williams’s *Encyclopedia of the American Experience: Studies of Traditions and Movements* (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1988). Focusing on the history of religious groups, Melt’s *Encyclopedia of American Religions* spans 1,243 pages and is similar in length to *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. However, the 2,100 entries in *Encyclopedia of American Religions* are very short, ranging from a single paragraph to, in rare instances, a few pages, placing the entries in sharp contrast to the in-depth multi-page entries found in the title under review. Queen, Prothero, and Shattuck’s two volume *Encyclopedia of American Religious History* also contains shorter entries but more illustrations than other comparable reference titles. Yet Queen, Prothero, and Shattuck place less emphasis on social and popular culture issues. For example, *Encyclopedia of American Religious History* contains one entry on education, and *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* contains eleven articles on this topic.

Certainly Lippy and Williams’s reference titles offer some overlap, as evidenced by the bibliographies and alternate thematic table of contents in *Encyclopedia of Religion in America*. However, Lippy and Williams’s most recent reference title is arranged alphabetically and clearly provides more detailed coverage. For example, *Encyclopedia of the American Religious Experience: Studies of Traditions and Movements* contains a two-sentence honorable mention of John Witherspoon, the only clergy member to sign the Declaration of Independence (501), whereas *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* contains a substantial paragraph (1757–58).

The breadth and depth of coverage seen in *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* is unsurpassed and quickly emerges as the title’s greatest asset. Lippy and Williams intentionally cast a broad net, covering the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, beginning in the colonial period and continuing to the present. Both prolific writers, Lippy and Williams decided to embark on this publishing adventure due to the drastic changes in the North American “religious landscape” (xvii), and the entries “The Electronic Church” and “Unaffiliated” indicate this shift. Entries explore the relationship between religion and the following topics: politics and social issues, popular culture, geography and ethnicity, art and literature, and science and the environment. Authors do an amazing job connecting religion to various subjects, such as explaining in the “Abolitionism and Antislavery” article that certain denominations took a definitive stand and forbade members to own slaves (1).

Overall, the articles are objective and inclusive. For example, the entry “Education: Parochial and Private Religious Day Schools” has many diverse subheadings including the following: “Seventh-day Adventist Schools,” “Old Order Amish and Mennonite Schools,” “Academies of the Latter-day Saints (Mormans),” and “Muslim Schools.” Contributors also explain terms, making it easy for the novice to understand.

Even though *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* has numerous strengths, there is always room for improvement. This reference source could be enhanced with more space dedicated to countries outside of the United States, especially islands in the Caribbean. Timelines within some entries would be an added bonus and help readers see the bigger picture.

In conclusion, the strengths of the *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* far outweigh its minor shortcomings; without a doubt it meets the goals outlined in the preface. *Encyclopedia of Religion in America* provides a wealth of knowledge and would be a wonderful addition to all public and academic libraries.—Elizabeth A. Young, *Head of Readers' Services, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania*

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***Encyclopedia of Research Design.*** Ed. by Neil J. Salkind. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage, 2010. 3 vols. acid-free \$425 (ISBN 978-1-4129-6127-1). E-book available (978-1-4129-6128-8), \$530.

Sage's *Encyclopedia of Research Design* is an impressively comprehensive resource for students and new researchers in the social sciences. It is most noteworthy for at least introductory coverage of most aspects of the current research environment in the social sciences. In addition to expected topics such as research study designs, statistical procedures, sampling, and measurement, the set includes entries on major research publications in the social sciences, tips on publishing, and professional organizations for social science researchers. The only topic that is not explicitly covered is funding, which is obviously a book-length topic in its own right.

This comprehensive approach is not surprising considering the editor whom Sage chose for the project, Neil J. Salkind. Professor Salkind is familiar to any social scientist who struggled in his or her research methods or statistics courses as an undergraduate. His *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics* is a common resource on course bibliographies, selected for those students who are dragged into those courses by their advisors, kicking and screaming at curriculum planners. Professor Salkind has built a reputation for effectively explaining statistical and research concepts to nonexperts and beginners, and this approach is evident in the *Encyclopedia of Research Design*.

Each entry is clearly written and takes a beginner-friendly approach to the topic at hand without dumbing it down too much to be a referral resource for established researchers. For example, the entry on "Item Response Theory" includes a general overview that serves a beginner well but does not avoid more advanced aspects of the topic, such as the goodness of fit of each item in a scale. Like most entries in the set, the "Item Response Theory" entry covered the major software packages used by researchers, common applications of the theory, and major literature for further reading on the topic.

The set is highly recommended for university and college libraries supporting a curriculum in the social sciences. Although graduate students may benefit most due to the research emphasis of their programs, the increased emphasis on undergraduate research at many institutions makes this an

invaluable tool for students learning social science research methods at all levels.

Although this review focused on the print volume, this topic is perfect for electronic book content. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods in the social sciences are increasingly supported by software tools. Emerging social science researchers are using mobile devices and laptops for everything from designing their research studies, reviewing the literature, taking field notes, recording interviews, and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data. It is appealing, to say the least, to provide their reference tools in the same format.—Joseph A. Salem, Jr., *Head, Reference and Government Information Services, Kent State University Libraries, Kent, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of the Vampire: The Living Dead in Myth, Legend, and Popular Culture.*** Ed. by S.T. Joshi. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2010. 453 p. acid-free \$85 (ISBN 978-0-313-37833-1). E-book available (978-0-313-37834-8), call for pricing.

***Encyclopedia of Vampire Mythology.*** By Theresa Bane. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2010. 199 p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-0-7864-4452-6). E-book available (978-0-7864-5581-2), call for pricing.

Judging by these two new volumes, the undead are very much alive in the world of reference. The more general of the two, *Encyclopedia of the Vampire*, is composed of 217 comprehensive, signed, alphabetically arranged entries varying in length from a single paragraph to several pages. Its subtitle is somewhat misleading, however, as it is stronger on literature and popular culture than myth and legend. Important authors and literary works receive separate entries, as do specific films and television series. There are also twenty-one topical essays of broader scope. Most entries include bibliographical references, and there is a four-page general bibliography. A useful guide to related topics lists entries by category, and while there is an index, there are no cross-references.

Although the entry "Vampires in World Folklore" in *Encyclopedia of the Vampire* runs to a little more than nine pages, Theresa Bane has produced an entire volume on the subject in her fascinating *Encyclopedia of Vampire Mythology*. As she explains in the book's preface, "every culture of man has had an incarnation of the vampire, a being responsible for causing plagues and death" (1). Applying this definition, Bane devotes some six hundred alphabetically arranged entries to vampires from around the world, along with a few associated terms and concepts. In each case she provides a pronunciation for the term and identifies the earliest printed sources that she has been able to find. She also includes cross-references, a twenty-seven-page bibliography presenting more complete information for the sources named in the entries, and an exhaustive index.

How do these two works stack up to the competition? *Encyclopedia of the Vampire* covers approximately the same ground as the third edition of *The Vampire Book: The Encyclopedia of the Undead*, by J. Gordon Melton (Visible Ink, 2010). Like Joshi's work, Melton's encyclopedia deals with literature, film, and popular culture but devotes considerably more attention to