

Sources

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The African American Electorate: A Statistical History. Ed. by Hanes Walton Jr., Sherman C. Puckett, and Donald R. Deskins Jr. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2012. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN: 9780872895089). Online access available, call for pricing.

There are several scholarly nonreference studies on African American voting; most tend to focus on particular regions and/or historically significant periods. As well, there are reference works concerning the general US electorate that may or may not include sections on African Americans. This reference set is unique in that it focuses solely on the African American electorate from a broad geographical perspective, covering both enfranchisement and disenfranchisement efforts during all eras of American history.

The book is arranged into well-written and detailed chapters by topic, each bolstered by an impressive collection of statistics, totaling more than 500 maps, diagrams, tables, and figures often down to the county level. Furthermore, an additional 170 pages of appendixes of longer, more detailed tables extend the chapter data. The topical chapter arrangement is a departure from most studies on the subject, which are usually in strict chronological order or by region. The topical nature of the work leads to interesting chapters such as "Felon and Ex-Felon Disenfranchisement" or "The National Equal Rights League," which further contextualizes the mass of data.

One missing element that would have been useful was a chronology for those new to researching the subject. Additionally, one might get the impression from this book that there are no and never have been any African Americans in the western United States. In the index, California has no entries, instead readers are directed to "See *Far West States*," and then there are only three page entries. For the purposes of this study, states such as Arizona, Washington, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho apparently do not exist. The authors contend that data can often be "spotty, fragmentary, piecemeal, as well as elusive and fugitive" (4). This notion seems appropriate for nineteenth-century and possibly early twentieth-century statistics, however, not for post-World War II data that was also omitted for western states. It appears that the laudable topical approach, eschewing regionalism as much as possible, may have left a void in this work as states west of Texas are roundly ignored.

Nonetheless, overall this is a tremendous set that would benefit any college collection.—Brent D. Singleton, *Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino*

Applied Science. Ed. by Donald R. Franceschetti. Ipswich, MA: Salem, 2012. 5 vols. acid free \$595 (ISBN: 9781587657818). Online access included with purchase of print.

Applied Science is filling a gap in encyclopedic sets dealing with science and technology in everyday life. Previously, McGill's Survey of Science, Applied Science Series (Salem Press, 1993–98) served this role, but it needs replacement due to advances in the fields it covers, as well as newly emerged

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fields of the applied sciences.

The encyclopedic articles are arranged alphabetically in 5 volumes, totaling 2,144 pages. There are 313 articles, and each is about 5 to 7 pages long. Most of the articles include photos, charts, graphs, or illustrations. The articles are standardized to include sections such as fields of study, key terms and concepts, background and history, “how it works,” applications and products, impact on industry, and careers and coursework.

Applied Science contains articles addressing general topics across applied sciences from traditional subjects to emerging topics, including Acoustics, Artificial Intelligence, Bioengineering, DNA Analysis, Ecological Engineering, Game Theory, Hybrid Vehicle Technologies, Nutrition and Dietetics, Military Sciences and Combat Engineering, Probability and Statistics, Speech Therapy and Phoniatics, Telemedicine, Space Stations, Vehicular Accident Reconstruction, and Zymology and Zymurgy. Each article effectively lays out a foundation of understanding and supplies suggestions for further reading both in print and online. Articles also address the careers that use the science discussed and future prospects in the fields.

There are a number of convenient features that make this resource very easy to use, especially for a high school student or lower-level undergraduate. First, a table of common units of measurement is featured at the beginning of each volume, making it easy to for the reader to consult regardless of volume in use. Second, a complete list of contents is also included in each volume, connecting each volume to the greater whole. Third, there is a timeline of all major advances in applied science, which gives the reader historical perspective that can get lost when researching topics a la carte. In addition to these, Salem Press gives complimentary online access to content at www.science.salempress.com. Full text of the articles can be accessed, and tools such as article citation, printing, emailing and saving are available to the user. However, *Applied Science* misses the mark on the provision of engaging color images and charts to accompany its articles. Instead, it makes sparing use of black-and-white images.

I recommend this title for high school or lower-level undergraduate use.—*Abigail Creitz, Technical Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

A Biographical Encyclopedia of Contemporary Genocide: Portraits of Evil and Good. By Paul R. Bartrop. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 403 p. acid free \$89 (ISBN: 9780313386787). E-book available (ISBN: 9780313386794), call for pricing.

The author's purpose is to provide biographies of key figures, whether perpetrators, victims, bystanders, witnesses, or protectors, involved with acts of genocide in the post-holocaust era. The author briefly grapples with the philosophical and theological notions of “evil” and “good” when applied to these actors but retreats from this by declaring that this work “does not attempt to judge or assess their behavior” (xviii). The author wishes for readers to make their own assessment of each individual.

Each entry is listed alphabetically by surname and has a descriptor of context assigned, such as places like “Darfur/Sudan” or “Cambodia” or themes like “Humanitarianism” or “Journalism,” to allow the reader to quickly group related individuals. Some strengths of this book are the extensive section on “Resources: Print and Non-Print,” an accessible “Glossary of Important Terms in Genocide Studies,” and the “Chronology of Contemporary Genocide.” These sections will be particularly useful to high school and undergraduate students.

As the author notes, this volume grew from his work as a co-author of the two-volume *Dictionary of Genocide* (Greenwood, 2007). This current work allows for more in-depth biographies than the previous dictionary format. Of the 173 total biographies, 70 are expanded upon from the previous dictionary with 103 being new. Although the biographies are much more in-depth, they do assume some prior knowledge of the genocidal event that the individual was involved with, such as of the Rwandan Genocide when discussing Patrick De Saint-Exupéry. Using the *Dictionary of Genocide* or one of the works listed below with this work would be a good strategy to help readers supplement this possible lack of background knowledge.

A couple weaknesses of this work are its relative low number of illustrations or maps and the fact that each biographical entry is not directly followed by references. Excellent resources are included in the back of the book but are grouped only under broad thematic areas making it more difficult for researchers to find additional research on each individual.

Nonetheless, the combination of this work's currency and its well-written biographies, many of lesser known figures, provides a valuable contribution to the literature. Readers seeking information on earlier events, such as the Armenian genocide, or a broader understanding of related issues and organizations will have to turn to other reference works. Some of these works include, editor Israel W. Charney's two-volume *Encyclopedia of Genocide* (ABC-CLIO, 1999) whose 200-plus entries attempt to cover all aspects of genocide from perpetrators to victims, from the eradication of indigenous peoples to twentieth-century events, and from the psychological to the ideological aspects of genocide. The recently revised two-volume *Encyclopedia of War Crimes and Genocide* (Infobase, 2011) expands its earlier scope to include crimes against humanity and human rights violation. It has more than 400 entries that include individuals, historical events, human rights violations by country, treaties, organizations, and more. Finally, the award-winning and comprehensive three-volume *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity* (Gale, 2005) includes extensive entries that include major individual figures, key events, such as the “Trail of Tears” and “Srebrenica,” and related aspects, such as “Advertising” and “Peacekeeping.”

Overall, the narrow focus and in-depth biographies of this encyclopedia provide a valuable supplement to the larger multivolume sets. This work is highly recommended for all public, high school, and college libraries.—*Rick Robison, Dean of the Library, California Maritime Academy, California State University, Vallejo*