

Guns in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law. 2nd ed. Ed. by Gregg Lee Carter. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 3 vols. Acid free. \$294 (ISBN: 9780313386701). E-book available (ISBN: 9780313386718), call for pricing.

Well received by reviewers as a two-volume set at its initial appearance in 2002, this examination of American gun culture has now been expanded to three volumes, with an additional 300 or so pages or so of new and/or updated material. The subtitle gives the researcher a good idea of its contents; among the approximately 500 articles may be found such topics as Congressional legislation (“Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act [Brady Bill]”); United States Supreme Court decisions (“*District of Columbia v. Heller* [2008]”); various aspects of gun-related crimes (“Drive-by Shootings,” “Crime and Gun Use”); interest groups, both pro and anti-gun (“Stop Handgun Violence,” “National Rifle Association”); and a plethora of other subjects. Not surprisingly, firearms themselves are featured prominently, not only in the guise of the products per se, such as the AK-47 assault rifle, but biographical sketches of those who brought these into existence, such as Samuel Colt, Eliphalet Remington, and Oliver Winchester. Each article is signed by the writer responsible for its creation and concludes with a list of further reading resources. The entire set is well illustrated with crisp black and white photographs, charts, tables, and other graphic material.

Additionally, a number of special features make this set particularly valuable from a research standpoint. An introductory essay sets the stage for the entries that follow, in an attempt to put the debate surrounding gun ownership and use in its historical and sociological context. A detailed chronology “presents the long and broad range of watershed events that have shaped the contemporary gun debate in American society” (“Chronology,” xxiii). Three appendixes list key federal gun laws, key state gun laws, and major gun-related organizations, listing full contact information. Lastly, an extensive bibliography of scholarly literature lists important books, journal articles, and websites representative of this field of study.

Gregg Lee Carter holds a doctoral degree from Columbia University. He is currently a Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of History and Social Sciences at Bryant University, located in Smithfield, Rhode Island. He has published widely in the field of firearms studies; among the twenty-two works he has either authored or edited are *The Gun Control Movement* (1997) and *Gun Control in the United States: A Reference Handbook* (2006), in addition to the first edition of the current title. Carter and five other academics comprise the editorial board that oversaw the creation of this set. The 102 listed contributors include college professors, lawyers, and members of various think tanks and public policy organizations.

This is an excellent introduction to the contentious debate revolving around the ownership, use, and misuse of firearms within the United States. The articles are objective

and evenhanded in their examination of the myriad issues involving guns, gunpowder, and bullets. In his preface, Carter states that the goal of this set is to “help the reader navigate the research and become educated enough on any particular aspect of the gun issue to make an informed decision” (xv). In this reviewer’s opinion, his objective has been well met, and this second edition surpasses in quality the already solid initial attempt. Therefore, this title is highly recommended for purchase by all public and academic libraries.—*Michael F. Bemis, independent reference book reviewer*

The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Wilbur R. Miller. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2012. 5 vols. \$560 (ISBN: 9781412988766).

This five-volume encyclopedia explores the social history of criminal justice from colonial times through the present. The editors aim to reach a wide audience, from general readers interested in gaining understanding about topics related to crime and criminal justice to teachers developing courses and students working on assignments and projects. The volumes are well-organized and highly readable, filled with interesting content on topics, such as history of the American criminal justice system (including history of crime and punishment by state), juvenile crime and justice, courts, corrections, police, and law enforcement.

The e-book version of *The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia* features clearly accessible links to the subject index, an alphabetical list of entries, a “search within” feature, and the readers guide with links to historical documents. Sage publishes numerous reference works that provide focused analysis of key topics in criminal justice, such as the *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (2002), the *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime* (2009), the *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention* (2010), and the *Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence* (2008).

In comparison to Sage’s five-volume *Complete Crime and Punishment Series* (2011), it should be noted that the earlier reference work includes brief pro/con essays about topics within volumes specifically focused on particular topics (such as juvenile crime or police and law enforcement) while Sage’s *The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia* (2012) is a more traditional encyclopedia. *The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia* includes primary source documents not found within Gale’s two-volume *World of Criminal Justice* (2002) or Sage’s *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment* (2002).

Worth highlighting about this reference set is the collection of primary documents arranged by period (for example, 1600–1776) within volume 5. Each period features an overview (approximately fifteen pages per period) of important topics relating to the corresponding period, with brief explanatory notes prefacing individual primary documents. Another advantage to this five-volume set is the reader’s guide in volume 1, which includes a useful list of state and federal court cases as well as a chronology dating from 1275

to the present. Recommended for large public libraries and academic libraries at institutions with criminal justice programs.—Nancy Frazier, *Instructional Services librarian, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania*

Sports Around the World: History, Culture, and Practice.

Ed. by John Nauright and Charles Parrish. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 4 vols. acid free \$415 (ISBN: 9781598843002). E-book available (ISBN: 9781598843019), call for pricing.

ABC-CLIO first published a reference work on world sports in 1996 with Levinson and Christensen's *Encyclopedia of World Sport: From Ancient Times to the Present*, a three-volume set that featured entries on hundreds of individual sports. That work was reimagined under the same editors by Berkshire Publishing in 2005 as the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World Sport*, with additional entries on the social and cultural aspects of world sports. That set is about to go into a third edition in 2013. Meanwhile, ABC-CLIO returns to world sport with this Nauright and Parrish four-volume work.

Following an introductory section of general articles in volume 1 on such topics as Imperialism and Sport, Sexuality and Sports, and Sports Medicine, this set is organized geographically: volume 1 covers Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania; volume 2 covers Britain and Europe; and volume 3 covers Latin America and North America; while volume 4 is a series of appendixes that list all Olympic medalists as well as winners and champions in other international competitions and both college and professional leagues across the globe.

The sections for each geographical area feature alphabetically arranged articles pertaining to the region. For example, the section on the British Isles includes pieces on sports (Cricket, Darts, Tug-of-War), organizations (Gaelic Athletic Association, Imperial Cricket Council, Marylebone Cricket Club), teams and leagues (The Old Firm, Premier League, Rugby League), places (Murrayfield Stadium, Wembley, Wimbledon), events (Doggett's Coat and Badge, Hampden Park Riot of 1909, Olympic Games of 1908, 1948 and 2012), people (Sir Stanley Matthews, Harry Vardon, David Beckham), cultural artifacts (*Chariots of Fire*, *Footballers' Wives*, *This Sporting Life*), and topics (Gender and Sport, Hooliganism, Muscular Christianity). In this unusual arrangement, the sport of baseball, for example, has fourteen region-specific entries spread across three volumes.

As always with this type of work, selectivity decisions can be puzzling at times. It seems that entries are selected for their cultural significance. So we get Wilt Chamberlin, Michael Jordan, and LeBron James but not Bill Russell, Larry Bird, or Magic Johnson; Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron, but not Barry Bonds; Johnny Unitas and Joe Namath but not Joe Montana or Tom Brady; the Green Bay Packers but not the Chicago Bears; and Vince Lombardi, but not George Halas or Paul Brown.

Perhaps the greatest weight is given to international competitions, especially the Olympic Games. In addition to

entries on each summer and winter Olympics, we also get items on the Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan Scandal and the Ben Johnson Scandal as well as on several Olympic athletes and administrators. The 850 entries were written by an army of researchers and academics, and each contains a list of further readings. Nauright and Parrish have done a yeoman's job of maintaining the quality and stylistic consistency throughout this massive set. The work also includes an overall bibliography and an index.

The academic approach to sport with its emphasis on social and cultural prisms is not for everyone, but this multivolume work is thoroughly researched and professionally written. As a reference source, this set will be most useful in a university setting and is recommended for scholarly sports collections.—John Maxymuk John Maxymuk, *Head of Public Services, Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey*

The War of 1812: A Complete Chronology with Biographies of 63 General Officers.

By Bud Hannings. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2012. 393 p. acid free. \$145 (ISBN: 9780786463855). E-book available (ISBN: 9780786490288), call for pricing.

By the same author and publisher who produced chronologies of the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the American Civil War, and the Korean War, this timely reference work includes an additional biographical section on every significant high-ranking officer who served on the American side. Author Hannings has proved adept at such military profiles before in his *American Revolutionary War Leaders* (McFarland 2009), but this is the first War of 1812 volume to combine biographical sketches with a detailed chronology. Such a combination makes this resource unique among the plethora of works appearing this year, the 200th anniversary of the start of the war.

The somewhat complex long- and short-term reasons that the United States and Great Britain came to war so soon after American independence are covered in a well-written and concise eight-page introduction. Historically, this introduction begins as soon as the American Revolution ends and points out some of the unsettled issues between the two nations. The chronology portion of the volume begins in 1803 and extends to 1816, covering much of the build-up to the conflict, and some of the repercussions. Yet Hannings, a military historian by trade, does not emphasize the political aspects of the war, before, during, or after the hostilities. Rather, the strength of this book lies in such aspects as a comprehensive coverage of the crucial naval theater of this war. Ship battles, blockades, fleet sizes, and the back-and-forth capture of enemy watercraft and weapons are also a large part of the narrative presented here. Also, troop movements, skirmishes with Native American tribes, and the transitions from one military campaign to another are highlighted. Period tactical maps show army locations and shifting battlefronts.

Because of the de-emphasis of the political, as mentioned earlier, one should not look to this volume for detailed