which organizes entries under umbrella terms. This is particularly useful in a work that spans so many disciplines and seemingly unrelated issues. As an example, the topical term “Dreams and Therapy” joins entries for “Cancer Patients and Dreamwork” and “Neurofeedback for Sleep Problems.” While this organization is helpful, it also reveals ESD’s professional focus. Some topical terms could use clarifying definitions to assist the non-specialist (for example, Parasomnias). Most entries include “see also” references. Illustrations, tables, and photos permeate and enrich the work.

While some of the content in ESD can be found in existing, subject-specific reference resources such as Facts on File’s Encyclopedia of Sleep and Sleep Disorders (2010, 3rd ed.), no current work so comprehensively covers both sleep science and dream studies. One title with similar scope is Mary A. Carskadon’s Encyclopedia of Sleep and Dreaming (Macmillan, 1993). This single-volume work achieves a more consistent, accessible tone and does a better job providing narrative overviews of broad topics that contextualize other entries; it continues to hold value for newcomers to this area of study. However, this work was published almost twenty years ago and there is no revised edition.

ESD should prove a valuable supplement to academic library collections, particularly at universities with programs in psychology or sociology, but its unevenness make it less suitable to public library or high school collections.—Korey Brunetti, Reference and Instruction Librarian/Collections Coordinator, California State University, East Bay, Hayward


At first glance, Joseph M. Siracusa’s Encyclopedia of the Kennedys: The People and Events That Shaped America appears full of promise. In the preface, Siracusa explains that he wrote this book to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of John F. Kennedy’s presidency, and his goal is to “capture the essence” of the legend of John F. Kennedy and the Camelot years. The scope of Siracusa’s reference set is admirable, covering the Kennedys themselves, significant events of the 1960s, political figures and their policies, and social issues, with a heavy emphasis on civil rights. The majority of the entries, however, focus on political figures that served as John F. Kennedy’s contemporaries. With coverage spanning approximately 100 years, the breadth of Encyclopedia of the Kennedys is clearly its greatest strength.

Given the subject headings assigned to Encyclopedia of the Kennedys, it can be challenging to pinpoint comparable reference titles. Certainly there are reference works that are broader in scope in discussing the 1960s and offer some overlap; some noteworthy titles include the following: Carl Singleton’s The Sixties in America (Salem, 1999), David Farber’s and Beth Bailey’s The Columbia Guide to America in the 1960s (Columbia University Press, 2001), David Farber’s The Sixties Chronicle (Legacy, 2004), and James S. Baugess’ and Abbe Allen Debolt’s Encyclopedia of the Sixties: A Decade of Culture and Counterculture (Greenwood, 2012). Both Singleton’s three volume set The Sixties in America and Farber’s The Sixties Chronicle are rich with photos, graphs, and charts; the same cannot be said of Encyclopedia of the Kennedys: The People and Events That Shaped America. In contrast, The Columbia Guide to America in the 1960s offers a more scholarly tone and is arranged both thematically and alphabetically, giving it a clear advantage over the Encyclopedia of the Kennedys, which is arranged alphabetically only.

The greatness of this reference set is an illusion. Siracusa does a commendable job representing politicians on both sides of the aisle, with the length of the entry “Republican Party” (661–662) nearly matching the length of the entry “Democratic Party” (180–81). However, readers may wonder if Siracusa is trying to not only protect President Kennedy’s reputation, but that of his family and approaches a hagiography of the Kennedys. For example, the entry on Marilyn Monroe (561) seems vague, merely mentioning a “connection” with President Kennedy and his brother, Robert, but not elaborating on the affair between Monroe and the president.

Encyclopedia of the Kennedys contains several surprises. This reference set includes numerous entries on media personalities, such as the journalist Walter Lippmann (472–73) and CBS broadcaster Walter Cronkite (157–59). Ironically, there is no entry for Maria Shriver, a broadcast journalist who is the daughter of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, a sister of John F. Kennedy.

Readers of the Encyclopedia of the Kennedys will notice another glaring omission: there is no entry for John F. Kennedy Jr. Yet there is an entry for his sister, Caroline Bouvier Kennedy (401–3), as well as his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy (403–4).

Like politicians, this reference set fails to uphold all of its promises. While Encyclopedia of the Kennedys is fairly comprehensive, its tone, omissions, and grammatical errors tarnish its reputation. Unfortunately this title adds little to a widely covered field; an objective biography of the Kennedys might be a better investment. Therefore, Encyclopedia of the Kennedys stands as an optional title for school, public, and academic libraries.—Elizabeth A. Young, Head of Readers’ Services, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania


In the introduction to this single-volume reference work, editor Margaret E. Beare (York University, Toronto) quotes the 2010 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, The Globalization of Crime, which states, “Organized crime has diversified, gone global and reached macro-economic proportions” (xix). While acknowledging that not all “transnational crime” is technically “organized crime,” this
quote does get at the essence of what this book aims to cover, that is, crimes that involve “border crossings as an integral part of the criminal activity,” or “crimes that take place in one country with consequences that significantly affect other countries” (xix).

The 183 headwords are listed first alphabetically and then again in a thematic reader’s guide where they are grouped together under broad headings such as “Crimes and Criminal Markets,” “Geography of Transnational Crimes,” “Policing and Intelligence Organizations,” and “Terrorism.” This is followed by a chronology highlighting pertinent events spanning from the 1856 Declaration of Paris to the viral Internet short film, Kony 2012.

Most entries are quite substantial, spanning several pages, and many are broken down into sub-sections. For example, the four-page entry “Cocaine” is divided into “History, Uses, and Effects,” “Size and Scope of the International Cocaine Trade,” “Policing the International Cocaine Trade,” and “Human Rights Issues in Policing the International Cocaine Trade.” All entries are cross-referenced, signed with author names and affiliations, and include suggestions for further readings. Back matter includes a short glossary, a resource guide (listing books, journals, and Internet sources), and an appendix providing editorial commentary on five of the most relevant websites. These types of reference books often include a selection of primary sources, often in the back matter, but sometimes embedded in the entries themselves; unfortunately this is not the case here.

For the most part, this book looks at the broad scope of topics and issues pertaining to transnational crime around the world. Beare explains, “We have tried to cover the essential issues that are priority topics in the widest number of regions in the globe” (xxi). Headwords do not include names of individual people or specific events, but rather types of crime, how and where they take place, and the organizations/groups committing or policing them. For a slightly more granular reference on topics akin to what you would find in this book, one might look to The Encyclopedia of International Organized Crime (Facts on File, 2005), which according to WorldCat, is the only other item catalogued with the LCSH “Transnational Crime—Encyclopedias.”—Todd J. Wiebe, Head of Research and Instruction, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan


Though we have seen books discussing women’s lives affected by the institution of slavery, this particular encyclopedia makes a wider range of information accessible to those interested in learning more about the everyday lives of enslaved women in the United States “in the period beginning with the first slave ships in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries until the end of slavery in 1865” (xiii). This encyclopedia provides an important perspective regarding the institution of enslavement by purposefully focusing on the varied experiences of enslaved women. The editor and contributors acknowledge there is no one single experience of an enslaved person and especially not for bondwomen. This viewpoint is a welcome addition to the current field of historical gender studies which has only in recent decades started to work on moving away from defining the experiences of many with the description of only one.

Topics within the encyclopedia range from broad and large-scale entries, such as “Abolition,” “Civil War,” and “Motherhood,” to entries on specific women. The women included are both the well-known figures like Harriet Tubman and also those that the reader may not be familiar with by name, but their voices are an important part of the stories of enslaved women’s varied experiences. The editor’s comments in the introduction expand on this idea of inclusion and necessary expansion as a critique of past historians, stating, “a gendered analysis is not the only aspect of enslaved life that historians overlooked, as the variations between locations and crops were equally blurred so that the ‘typical slave’ lived on a large plantation in the Deep South” (xxi). The encyclopedia successfully meets the expectations the editor sets in the introduction that “in order to understand the complexities and nuances of daily life for enslaved women, one must delve into the diversity of their experiences” (xix). Additionally, the editor has taken great care to ensure that the language used throughout the encyclopedia does not reify stereotypes and objectification of the enslaved women; for example, using “enslaved women” rather than “slave” to show that the women were enslaved, an action forced upon them, rather than slave, a noun “that describes a social position these individuals presumably accepted” (xxi).

Entries throughout the volume are enhanced with quotes and black-and-white photographs from primary sources ranging from Library of Congress and historical archive collections of photographs and engravings to excerpts from various narratives, journals, and biographies. The excerpts are well-chosen quotes, poetry, and records that truly give the readers a vivid picture of the related entry. For example, included within the entry for “Slave Quarters, Life in” is a quote from a former bondwoman describing how a family lived in a one-room house and also a photograph of actual slave quarters. In addition to the inclusion of primary source material, the encyclopedia also includes an appendix with tables showing the population of enslaved women from 1750 to 1860, a selected bibliography, a complete alphabetical index, and a timeline chronicling enslaved women in America from 1526 to 1865. The encyclopedia is largely accessible to audiences ranging from secondary education to the university. In fact, the encyclopedia would be an excellent addition to any reference collection. For education institutions with programs in American History, American Ethnic Studies, or Women’s Studies, this encyclopedia should be a mandatory addition.—Mela Fritch, Multicultural Librarian, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, Kansas