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*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*

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*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