

Libraries considering purchasing this work should be aware that the content closely mirrors that of the *King Encyclopedia*, developed by the King Institute and available online at www.stanford.edu/group/King/about_king/encyclopedia. Not every entry was compared for this review, but several of those that were examined were identical in both the print and online versions. Some essays were revised for the print publication, in some cases including citations of additional sources. Comparing the two, the print encyclopedia offers an introductory overview of King's career and a brief chronology while the online encyclopedia provides links to related content, including scanned images of selected source documents from the King Papers project. For libraries seeking the relative stability of print, this inexpensive volume is a welcome addition to reference collections on African American history and the civil rights movement.—Eric Novotny, *Humanities Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

Nations and Nationalism: A Global Historical Overview. Ed. by Guntram H. Herb and David H. Kaplan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 4 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 978-1-85109-907-8).

Geographers Guntram Herb (Middlebury College) and David Kaplan (Kent State) have made a valuable contribution with this distinctive work that admirably fulfills its objective of identifying “major historical eras in the development of nations and nationalism” and examining “characteristic themes and representative cases” thereof (xi). Admittedly selective and eschewing any pretense toward comprehensiveness, the book contains more than one hundred in-depth articles, chronologically arranged in four volumes, proffered as “accessible introductions” and “concise information” targeted at students and nonspecialists (xi). Drawing on examples from every part of the world, its eclecticism underlies its attempt to promote greater understanding of its subject, billed as “perhaps the most influential set of identities and ideologies in the world today” (xiii).

Short historical essays introduce the volumes, all of which contain a detailed index covering the entire set. The volumes span the years 1770 to 1880, 1880 to 1945, 1945 to 1989, and 1989 to the present, segments that correspond with important historical periods in the evolution of nationalism. Each of the four-thousand-word country- or region-specific entries within the volumes is similarly structured, comprising a chronology followed by an essay with five sections: “Situating the Nation,” providing overall context; “Instituting the Nation,” identifying key actors and institutions; “Defining the Nation,” explaining the sources of national identity; “Narrating the Nation,” discussing the basis for a sense of national community; and “Mobilizing and Building the Nation,” focusing on undertakings to legitimize the national idea. The uniformity of the essays ensures that all major aspects are covered and facilitates comparison. A selected bibliography follows each of the entries, which also include maps, sidebars elaborating on the main narrative, and illustrations that provide interesting and useful additions.

Complementing the entries are forty-two longer thematic essays related to various aspects of the interplay between nationhood, politics, culture, and society. These are also formulaic, discussing the topic's relevance, origins, dimensions (scope and impact), and consequences. Among the topics addressed are various facets and dimensions of nationalism (e.g., conflict, education, gender, class, religion, geopolitics, language, literature, and globalization). Other areas explored include national identity, nation building, ethnic cleansing and genocide, and national rituals.

The unique historical arrangement of the book distinguishes it from past encyclopedic treatments acknowledged in the preface, notably *Encyclopaedia of Nationalism*, edited by Athena Leoussi (Transaction, 2001), and *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* by Louis Snyder (Paragon House, 1990), and makes it a worthy successor to Alexander Motyl's somewhat analogous two-volume magisterial work, *Encyclopedia of Nationalism* (Academic Press, 2001), which separates discussion into two categories: “Fundamental Themes” and “Leaders, Movements and Concepts.”

The shortcomings of the book are inconsequential. It would have been nice to include some more information about the credentials of the contributors, for whom only institutional affiliations are provided. Reproducing the tables of contents for all volumes at the beginning of each of them would have been useful also.

In sum, this is an impressive and noteworthy work, also available in electronic format, which should prove a welcome addition to academic collections in political science, appealing to undergraduate and graduate students alike. It is suitable for reference collections, but because each volume can stand on its own, it could circulate as well.—David Ettinger, *International Affairs and Political Science Librarian, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.*

Student Encyclopedia of African Literature. By G. D. Killam and A. L. Kerfoot. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 368p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 978-0-313-33580-8).

Greenwood Press has recently thrown its hat into the world literature ring with the new publication, *Student Encyclopedia of African Literature*. With nearly six hundred entries, the work offers both a historical perspective and a contemporary context for readers to fully embark on a better understanding of African literature. The book provides a fine and solid introduction to African literature without overwhelming anyone who picks it up. For instance, one does not need a master's degree in English to understand the topical entries or to have enrolled in advanced classes in literary theory to comprehend major themes the book discusses. The authors' writing style is good for both upper-level high school students and an undergraduate college population.

The alphabetically arranged entries range from one or two paragraphs to a page in length. Within each entry, if there is a cross-reference to another entry within the book, the cross-referenced phrase is put in bold. The work also includes a list