

## SOURCES

those same times" (<http://expomuseum.com/history>). This encyclopedia serves to aid in our understanding of this fascinating and complex topic and should prove useful to both those just being introduced to the topic and more seasoned scholars alike. There is no competing reference resource available. Findling and Pelle's incomparable work is highly recommended for all academic and larger public reference collections.—Jennifer B. Stidham, *Houston (Tex.) Community College—Northeast*

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***Everyday Finance: Economics, Personal Money Management, and Entrepreneurship.*** Ed. by Thomas Riggs and Mary R. Bonk. Detroit: Gale, 2008. 2 vols. \$195 (ISBN 978-1-4144-1049-4).

The editorial staff of Gale Cengage has put together this two-volume set to introduce the reader to the basic concepts of economics. The purpose of the book is to "introduce the field of economics, as well as its related topics personal money management and entrepreneurship, in a simplified, meaningful way" (xv). The three hundred articles are organized by subject into three major sections: "How the Economy Works," "Personal Money Management," and "Entrepreneurship." Each essay has five parts: "What It Means," "When Did It Begin," "More Detailed Information," "Recent Trends," and "Sidebar Box." This arrangement of the essays into multiple parts made it difficult for the reviewer to easily see where one topic ended and the next one began because there are so many headings and subheadings with similar typeface.

Along with the essays, there are biographies on seven prominent economists, including Karl Marx and John Maynard Keynes; more than 220 images (although most of the images don't really add any value to the information presented); and many tables, charts, and graphs. Each volume starts with an extensive glossary of financial terms and ends with a detailed subject index. There is a bibliography that lists books, journals, and websites for further reading. The introduction states that there were experts in the field who contributed to the essays, and it would have been useful to see a list of these contributors and their affiliations.

This source is dense with information. As an example, the section on credit cards explains how a credit card works; includes a sidebar on the minimum payment trap; goes into detail about APR, late fees, and over-limit penalties; describes the history and differences of Visa and MasterCard; and discusses the recent trends involving credit cards.

Volume 1 contains the section on how the economy works, and the introduction answers the question, what is economics? Some of the topics covered in this volume are basic economic concepts, economic systems and philosophies, what money is, how the economy is measured, supply and demand, labor, and international trade. The last section of volume 1 lists several government organizations that oversee economies, such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Federal Reserve System, International Monetary Fund, and World Trade Organization.

Volume 2 focuses on the consumer's role in the economy

and has chapters on the ways to pay for purchases (credit, debt, money order, and so on), problems with debt, types of insurance, and government protection. The section on entrepreneurship covers the different types of businesses (corporation, partnership, and franchise), creating products and services, marketing, working with employees, and business ethics. Although the subject index is extensive, the inclusion of cross-references would have been helpful to the reader.

Despite the confusing format, *Everyday Finance* is an excellent introduction to the timely topic of economics and provides a tremendous amount of information in easy-to-understand language for the lay reader. Recommended for all libraries.—Stacey Marien, *Business and Economics Librarian, American University, Washington, D.C.*

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***The Harlem Renaissance.*** By Kevin Hillstrom. Defining Moments. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 2008. 240p. alkaline \$49 (ISBN 978-0-7808-1027-3).

Mention of the Harlem Renaissance conjures up images of glitzy nightclubs, glamorous figures, great literary achievements, and the birth of new trends in painting and sculpture, as well as a growing intellectual movement. Kevin Hillstrom's *The Harlem Renaissance* provides an entrée into this world. As Hillstrom notes about the Harlem Renaissance, "It marked the emergence of African Americans into the mainstream of the nation's art, music, literature and culture, while simultaneously proclaiming the unique vitality and character of the African-American experience" (3). *The Harlem Renaissance* is part of the twelve-volume Defining Moments series from Omnigraphics, each volume focusing on a significant event or period in American history, and aimed at the middle school to high school markets.

Hillstrom's work begins with an overview and historical background on how Harlem came to be the focal point for this flashpoint of creativity and activism and the heightened role of African Americans in American society and culture. He also provides insight into the terrors faced by newly freed slaves during Reconstruction and the resulting drive to migrate north. Illustrated with photographs and etchings, the beginning section provides a useful introduction. The first chapters also chronicle the rise of civil rights organizations, such as the National Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The following chapters are more in-depth and provide fairly detailed information on the varied aspects of the Harlem Renaissance, with chapters devoted to the literature, art, and music; the end of the era; and the legacy of the period.

Following the overview, the middle section of the book provides lengthy biographies of select personalities, such as W. E. B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, and Bessie Smith. These are standard, encyclopedia-style entries and have a photograph of the subject. While this section provides more in-depth information, it is relatively short and covers only ten of the leading people of the period. Only one artist is covered here and, curiously, examples of his work are not included.