

SOURCES

by crimson streaks of unrelenting fire” (26). This work is a valuable contribution to the study of the Korean War because it gives readers an intimate look at combat.

Hannings succeeds in showing a detailed portrayal of combat in Korea, but the work does tend to have an American bias. For example, many of the sources he consulted are military histories published by the U.S. government. He indicates in the preface that North Korean, Soviet, and Chinese records “were unavailable” and he had to rely on information from the U.S. military for the Communist countries’ military movements and casualty figures (5). Readers will therefore need to keep in mind that the events presented may not be completely balanced.

Other works that investigate the Korean war include James I. Matray’s *Historical Dictionary of the Korean War* (Greenwood, 1991) and Spencer C. Tucker’s *Encyclopedia of the Korean War: A Political, Social and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2000). Hannings’s work differs significantly from the other two titles. While Hannings’s work looks specifically at combat, Matray’s work focuses primarily on the political and diplomatic aspects of the war. Tucker also examines these aspects as well as social and military dimensions. Furthermore, the Tucker and Matray books present a broader perspective of the war. Both Tucker and Matray indicate that their books are from American and South Korean perspectives. Additionally, Tucker notes that articles in his encyclopedia were constructed with information available from Russian and Chinese archives. Finally, the Tucker and Matray works may also be considered more scholarly. For instance, both individuals are academics as are many of the contributors to their respective volumes. But Hannings presents a unique perspective on the Korean War and his work is recommended for academic libraries supporting American military history or foreign relations programs.—Michelle Hendley, *Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*

Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life. Ed. by Helen Sheumaker and Shirley T. Wajda. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 420p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-1-57607-647-7).

From “attics” to “yard sales” and from “adolescence” to “shopping centers and shopping malls,” the 193 entries in *Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life* offer a glimpse into material culture in the United States over the past four hundred years. An introductory overview defines material culture studies in the United States. As the editors state in the introduction, “it is not yet possible within the confines of one volume to account for, describe, and discuss the full wealth of material culture created, used, and altered by various groups in the American experience” (xvii). This volume instead sets out to cover three aspects of the field of material culture. First, it describes the scholarly disciplines that incorporate material culture into their study of American history and society. Covering theoretical issues, methodologies, and professional practice, entries in this category include “anthropology and archaeology,” “disability and disability studies,” and “social

history.” Second, there are entries that relate to the “stuff” and aspirations of material culture: “funerary (sepulchral) monuments,” “mobile homes and trailer parks,” and “religious dress.” Third are entries that address aspects of the human experience with respect to material culture, for example, “adulthood,” “poverty,” and “rite, ritual, and ceremony.”

The alphabetically arranged entries range from one to six pages in length, with the majority about two pages. Entries are signed and include cross references and a brief list of references and further readings. Contributors include faculty, graduate students, and museum professionals; however, a substantial number of entries were authored by one of the co-editors. Stock photos illustrate the text. The fifty-two page bibliography is arranged by topic and/or type of material, including categories such as “theory and methodology,” “journals,” and “social, cultural, and ethnographic approaches.” The work ends with a detailed index.

Entries are interesting to read and one can learn snippets of information about the freegan movement, the history of sex toys, the invention of the carpet sweeper, or the appearance of the mass-produced toilet paper roll. While the scholarship is fine, the selection criteria are unclear, and many entries emphasize material culture of the past hundred years, not the full spectrum of American history. There is no comparable encyclopedia of American *material* culture, but the brevity of many entries, and the selection of topics and the exclusion of others (why “plainness, Quaker” and not “Shakers”), leaves one holding a rather Spartan and eclectic “map of American material culture and its study” (xvii).

Reference works with more substantive essays on many of these topics include *Encyclopedia of American Social History* (Scribner, 1993), *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century* (Scribner, 2001), *Encyclopedia of American Studies* (Grolier, 2001), and the *Greenwood Guide to American Popular Culture* (Greenwood, 2002), as well as specialized encyclopedias such as the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2004). For example, the *Greenwood Guide to American Popular Culture* covers only fifty-eight topics, but the chapter-length essays on “games and toys” and “foodways” go into far greater historical detail than the two-page entries in *Material Culture in America*. An encyclopedia covering four hundred years of American “stuff” ought to have more volumes and include a much wider range of topics in greater historical depth. A *raison d’être* for this reference work never seems to materialize, making *Material Culture in America: Understanding Everyday Life* an optional purchase for academic libraries supporting programs in material culture or American Studies.—J. Christina Smith, *Anthropology/Sociology Bibliographer, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts*

New Encyclopedia of Africa. Ed. by John Middleton. New York: Thomson-Gale, 2008. 5 vols. alkaline \$575 (ISBN 978-0-684-31454-9).

New Encyclopedia of Africa is the successor to *The Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara* (Scribner, 1997) also edited

by John Middleton. The editor's intention in the new work was to provide a broader coverage than before, including Northern Africa and highlighting the tremendous changes that have recently taken place. Each article is signed and includes a bibliography. Maps, tables, and figures abound throughout the set and are listed in volume 1. The list includes the volume and page where the table or figure can be found. The table of contents for the set is also provided in volume 1. Articles are illustrated with beautiful color and black-and-white photographs as well as drawings.

It is tempting to compare *New Encyclopedia of Africa* with Kwame Appiah's and Henry Louis Gates's *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African & African American Experience* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2005). But the Appiah and Gates encyclopedia includes the experience of the diaspora as well as Africans on the continent while Middleton's encyclopedia covers only Africans on the continent. A more balanced comparison would be to Shillington's *Encyclopedia of African History* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2005).

To make that comparison, I chose a country (Cameroon) and compared the treatment of that country in each set. Both sets have signed articles on Cameroon that are around eight pages long, cross-references to relevant topics or personalities, and bibliographies at the end of each article. The difference between the two sets is in the content, layout, and organization. The difference in the content is that the *New Encyclopedia of Africa* article covers the history of the country plus geography, economy, society and culture, and politics of Cameroon, while *Encyclopedia of African History* devotes all of its content to the history of Cameroon, as expected from the title of the encyclopedia. *New Encyclopedia of Africa* includes a full-page table of current vital statistics, with population, literacy rate, name of current head of state, principal religions, economy, and principal products and exports among other indicators listed. *New Encyclopedia of Africa* uses a table of contents at the beginning of the article indicating exactly what will be covered; *Encyclopedia of African History* does not. A bonus in the *New Encyclopedia of Africa* is the use of large color and black-and-white photographs throughout. *Encyclopedia of African History* uses only black-and-white photographs, illustrations, and drawings. Another item that some might consider minor but that made a big difference to me was *New Encyclopedia of Africa*'s use of a slightly larger font.

New Encyclopedia of Africa can also be compared to the annual *Europa World Year Book* (Europa Publications, 1926–). All African countries in the *New Encyclopedia of Africa* are included in *Europa World Year Book*. A typical country entry in the *Europa* includes brief paragraphs on location, climate, language, religion, flag and the capital; several essays on recent history, government, defense, and economic affairs; and several pages of statistical tables of current information on area and population, health and welfare, agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, industry, finance, external trade, transport, tourism, communications media, and education. The last part of each entry in *Europa* is a directory of organizations and personalities that directly complement and parallel the statistical

tables. The difference between *New Encyclopedia of Africa* and the *Europa World Year Book* is that the emphasis in the latter is on current, statistical, and directory information with a small section on recent history. In contrast, *New Encyclopedia of Africa* emphasizes more comprehensive information on the history and current situation of the continent, its people, and its countries. There is much more subject matter dealing with the various cultures of Africa as well as cultural aspects of the continent in general (for example, literature, Islamic law) that you will not find in the *Europa World Year Book*. If you need brief recent history and statistical and directory information on countries only, *Europa* should be sufficient.

For the latest upper-level comprehensive encyclopedia on the continent of Africa, *New Encyclopedia of Africa* is a must and well worth the price. Highly recommended for large public and academic libraries.—M. Elaine Hughes, *Liaison Librarian, African Studies, Georgia State University, Atlanta*

Origins and Development of Musical Instruments. Jeremy Montagu. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow, 2007. 280p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8108-5657-8).

Jeremy Montagu is the president of the Galpin Society for Musical Instruments and retired curator of the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments and lecturer in the University of Oxford. He has published a number of books on musical instruments. *Origins and Development of Musical Instruments* is arranged in encyclopedia fashion with chapters on origins, drums, flutes and recorders, reeds, brass instruments, string instruments, pipe organs, and electrophones. Following each chapter is an interlude describing in more detail the development and uses of various instruments. There is a list of black-and-white illustrations (mostly photographs of instruments from the author's collection), an obtuse "Explanations and Definitions" section, and world maps with nearly illegible country labels. An afterword, "Archaeology and Other -ologies," describes in arduous detail the classification of musical instruments. There is a nine-page bibliography and three indexes that contain some indexing errors. I looked up "nose flute" in the Index of Instruments and Accessories and was referred to page 102. But there is no mention of the nose flute on page 102—that section may be found on page 48 instead, with an illustration on page 47 (which was not noted in the index). Similarly, under both "guitar" and "guittar," the first reference is to page 27, which is the first page of the chapter on "Drums." The guitar is not mentioned on page 27 at all. The other page references under the guitar terms do correctly refer to pages where the guitar is mentioned.

Classic texts on musical instruments are Curt Sachs's *The History of Musical Instruments* (Norton, 1940), Francis W. Galpin's *A Textbook of European Musical Instruments* (Benn, 1956), Alexander Buchner's *Musical Instruments Through the Ages* (Spring Books, 1956?), Sibyl Marcuse's *A Survey of Musical Instruments* (Harper and Row, 1975), Mary Remnant's *Musical Instruments: An Illustrated History* (Batsford, 1989), and Anthony Baines's dictionary *The Oxford Companion to*