and Abroad, 1921 to the Present. Each volume contains an era-specific introductory overview, an extensive bibliography of relevant literature, and a set of black-and-white maps. All volumes are well illustrated with duo-tone drawings, paintings, and photographs. Lending context as well as human interest are full-page biographical sketch boxes, which include birth and death dates, an illustration of the person in question, and the main facts of her or his claim to fame. Printed on the lower corners of each page is the year pertaining to those particular entries, which allows the user to fan the pages to quickly pinpoint a desired time period. Volume IV contains an index for the entire set.

Entries follow a year-month-day format. Appearing beneath each date is one to several subject headings in small caps, which helps the reader to zero in on specific topics across time. Typically, these amount to a single line of straight description, as, for example, “1776, August 2, POLITICS: The Declaration of Independence is finally signed by all 55 delegates to the Continental Congress” (394). However, it should be noted that significant occurrences do receive a modicum of analysis, as with the trial of John Peter Zenger, a New York publisher who had the temerity to print material critical of the state governor. Writes Fredriksen: “This is a precedent-setting event for freedom of the press, establishing that truth constitutes an absolute defense against libel. Henceforth, individuals are empowered with implicit ability to criticize the government” (212).

Although there are many similar titles vying for a slice of the collection development librarian’s budget, many tend to be limited in coverage, either by geography (Chronology of the American West: From 23,000 B.C.E. Through the Twentieth Century, ABC-Clio, 2002) or scope (American Decades, 10 volumes by various authors, Gale, 1996–2000) or some other factor. The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates (10th ed., Harper Collins, 1997) was for many years considered a decent, inexpensive pick for the reference desk, but, sadly, this volume has been left to languish and is now out of date. All told, Chronology of American History is a solid buy and is highly recommended for all public and academic libraries. —Michael F. Bemis, Assistant Librarian, Washington County Library, Woodbury, Minnesota


Covering the relations between India and Pakistan from independence in 1947 to the twenty-first century, this work objectively examines the bitter divisions between the two nations. Many tensions go back to 1947, when by partitioning the provinces of Punjab and Bengal and absorbing more than five hundred princely states, British India was succeeded by two independent countries, a primarily Hindu India and a Muslim Pakistan.

Entries in the encyclopedia range from one paragraph to two pages in length and cover important events, people, movements, treaties, political parties, and other topics. Trea-