

hance readability and understanding. Sidebars are sprinkled throughout the text to provide in-depth information on specific scientific contributors, concepts, and events. Black-and-white photographs and illustrations also enliven the text.

Scientific Thought contains many features that increase its usefulness. Each entry contains cross references to related topics as well as a bibliography of books, journal articles, and websites for further research. Some entries include primary source material; these sections contain a reprinted article, usually from a popular serial, along with an introductory paragraph designed to place the article in context and promote critical thinking. Each volume contains a fifty-five-page glossary that provides easy access to scientific terminology and a table of contents for the entire set that enhances navigation. Volume 3 contains a comprehensive 293-page chronology that extends from the origin of the earth to the present. The chronology allows readers to appreciate the many contributions to scientific thought that have occurred over time and to place scientific advances into a historical context. A comprehensive index in volume 3 allows readers to locate secondary topics and persons mentioned in specific essays.

This title is ideally suited for high school and college students, but general readers will also benefit. These audiences will find the contents more comprehensible and easier to read than the more academic *Cambridge History of Science* (five volumes published to date; Cambridge Univ. Pr., 2002–). At the same time, *Scientific Thought* covers topics in more depth than single-volume science chronologies and more ably paints a wide-ranging picture of how we have arrived at our current understanding of science. This title is highly recommended for large academic and public libraries.—Annette M. Healy, Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

Story Behind the Protest Song: A Reference Guide to the 50 Songs That Changed the 20th Century. By Hardeep Phull. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 304p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-313-34141-0).

British music journalist Hardeep Phull has created a very readable volume that is part music history and part social history. His book is divided into nine chapters, each focusing on a time span in the twentieth century, such as “We Shall Overcome,” covering the period 1900–1938; “The Birth Of A Nation (1939–1964),” and so on. There is an epilogue discussing the sea change that occurred in protest music after the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, the Iraq war that began in 2003, and continuing up to the present. An appendix lists, in both chronological and alphabetical order, the fifty-two songs discussed in the text. Finally, there is a bibliography of fifty-two entries for further research and an index.

Phull writes in an engaging style that logically relates world events (particularly U.S. events) to the contemporary popular music that comments on these events, and he discusses how each work came to be written and performed. Each featured song includes a citation of the title, artist,

songwriter, album title, label name, and year of release. Most of the featured songs also include a black-and-white photo illustration of the performer. Footnotes appear at the end of each chapter.

Some other books about protest songs are *Strike Songs of The Depression* by Timothy P. Lynch (Univ. Pr. of Mississippi, 2001), covering 1929–37; *When The Spirit Says Sing: The Role of Freedom Songs in The Civil Rights Movement* by Kerran L. Sanger (Garland, 1995); *Guerrilla Minstrels: John Lennon, Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan* by Wayne Hampton (Univ. of Tennessee Pr., 1986); and *American Folksongs of Protest* by John Greenway (Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr., 1953). Phull's book is a welcome update and expansion of these earlier studies. Well-researched and enjoyable to read, I recommend this book for all libraries.—Mark Palkovic, Head Librarian, College-Conservatory of Music Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio

U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History. Ed. by Sonia Benson, Daniel E. Brannen, and Rebecca Valentine. Detroit: Gale, 2009. 8 vols. \$485 (ISBN 978-1-4144-3043-0).

The purpose of *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History* is to introduce “students to the history of the United States from pre-Colonial America to the present day” (xxv). This eight-volume collection presents a broad overview of American history that is suitable for younger readers.

The encyclopedia is extensive in its coverage, with approximately seven hundred well-written, alphabetically arranged articles that range from one to several pages in length. The entries were selected using the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Middle School standards, and they conform to the NCSS standard eras, which span from “Three Worlds Meet (Discovery of the New World, beginnings to 1620)” to “Contemporary United States (1968 to the present).” More specifically, the text includes articles extending from theories of the origins of the first inhabitants of North America to the presidential campaigns of John McCain and Barack Obama.

In addition to its broad coverage of time periods, the encyclopedia covers a variety of subjects. For example, the text contains traditional historical topics such as “George Washington” and “Civil War” but also includes entries beyond political and military matters. For example, the work discusses topics related to cultural and economic history (“Folk Music,” “Harlem Renaissance,” “Black Friday”); women (“Feminism,” “Hillary Rodham Clinton”); African Americans (“National Association for the Advancement of Colored People”); and Native Americans (“Native North Americans of California”). In addition, the text tackles contentious issues such as “AIDS,” “Gay Liberation Movement,” and “Stem Cell Research.”

In addition to the main text, the encyclopedia contains some useful, albeit sparse, supplementary features. For example, each volume contains an aggregate index and a common bibliography that guides readers to other useful monographs, periodicals, and websites. More than four hundred black-and-

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white photographs, maps, and other images complement the text. Nevertheless, the encyclopedia would have provided readers with an even richer experience if it contained additional supplementary material such as a general chronology or selected historical documents.

Other works examining American history that are aimed at young audiences include John A. Garraty's *The Young Reader's Companion to American History* (Houghton Mifflin, 1994) and David C. King's *Children's Encyclopedia of American History* (DK, 2003). These works differ significantly from the *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*. King's one-volume book encompasses the years 1000–2002, which is less than the coverage in *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*. Additionally, King's work is chronologically arranged into eighteen chapters that are further subdivided into visually striking two-page spreads that focus on specific historical themes and provide relatively brief treatment of topics in comparison to *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*. Like King's encyclopedia, Garraty's work is a single-volume text. It is similar to *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History* in that it contains alphabetically arranged articles. There is some overlap in coverage between the two works; however, unlike *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*, Garraty's text has articles dedicated to major sports such as baseball and basketball and social issues such as marriage and poverty. Finally, Garraty's work contains richer supplementary material, including the texts of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. On the other hand, neither Garraty nor King's work is as current or wide-ranging as *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History*, which is recommended for middle and high school libraries.—Michelle Hendley, *Reference Librarian, State University of New York, College at Oneonta*

World and Its Peoples: The Americas. World and Its Peoples. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2008. 11 vols. alkaline \$499.95 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7802-7).

This geographical encyclopedia is the third part of a series that will eventually provide coverage of all regions of the world. The current set of eleven volumes focuses on North, South, and Central America as well as the Caribbean Islands and Greenland. The volumes provide a very solid but general overview of the nations and territories of the Americas. For readers with a lower-level research need, it compares favorably to the *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations: Americas* (Gale, 2004) as well as the *South America, Central America and the Caribbean* (Routledge, 2008) volume of the annual Europa Regional Surveys when the myriad maps and photos are factored into the analysis. However, the latter two works are more appropriate for scholarly, college-level research, providing more detailed data and categories of information. *World and Its Peoples* presents statistics in an easy-to-browse format and uses text effectively to make the subjects more approachable. Another feature that sets it apart from the others is its lengthy overviews of the region and subregions as well as the context for each nation's place therein.

Each of the first ten volumes (the eleventh is an index volume) represents a discrete subregion or closely related

grouping of countries, for example "Brazil and the Guiana Coast" or "Northern Caribbean." Within the profile of each country there is an introduction (a basic statistical overview and brief chronology) and the sections "Government," "Modern History," "Cultural Expression," "Daily Life" (including profiles of major cities), and "Economy." The amount of information provided and additional subcategories vary widely between profiles.

The editors missed an opportunity to bring to light information on often neglected topics from lesser known countries, preferring instead to focus on economic behemoths such as the United States and Canada, which together make up nearly a third of the work. Similarly, a preference was shown toward territories under the dominion of the United States. Except for Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories, territories that are dependents of sovereign nations received only brief overviews. These territories are all very distinct from their mother nations and should have been fully profiled in recognition of their unique cultures and histories.

An additional area that should have received proper attention was a true ethnic breakdown of populations, especially with regard to indigenous peoples. With very few exceptions, such as Guatemala, the editors chose to use the generic term Amerindian and European as opposed to identifying the specific groups or country of origin when describing ethnic populations. Once again, it seems a missed opportunity to educate and provide broader historical context.

Given the intended audience, this reference set is recommended only for high schools and public libraries.—Brent D. Singleton, *Reference Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino*

We are sad to announce the loss of David Fagerstrom, who passed away on December 10, 2008 at the age of 59. David was Faculty Director of the Science Library at University of Colorado, Boulder, and a regular reviewer for this column. His contributions to Reference & User Services Quarterly were recognized at the 2008 RUSA Awards Ceremony. He will be missed.

Professional Materials

Karen Antell
Editor

Answers to the Health Questions People Ask in Libraries. By Laura Townsend Kane, Rozalynd P. McConaughy, Steven Patrick Wilson, and David L. Townsend. New York: Neal-Schuman, 2008. 278p. paper \$65 (ISBN 1-55570-642-8).

For any reference book to be useful, good organization is vital, a task that is particularly difficult when dealing with consumer health information. The authors' intent is for this book to be useful anywhere that consumer health questions