

These, however, are less substantial and more broadly focused than EMPWA, which is highly recommended for academic libraries, and public libraries that serve students and history buffs. EMPWA is also available as an e-book.—Korey Brunetti, *Collections Coordinator/Reference & Instruction Librarian, California State University—East Bay*

The Encyclopedia of Middle East Wars: The United States in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts. Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 5 vols. acid free \$495 (ISBN 978-1-85109-947-4). E-book available (978-1-85109-948-1), call for pricing.

The scope of this work includes both political and military history and biography related to conflicts in the Middle East, North and East Africa, and Central Asia since about 1970. However, a few entries related to the relevant history and culture of the region and U.S. reaction to the conflicts are included. Some examples of essays included in the first four encyclopedia volumes are: “Iraqi Liberation Act,” “Italy: Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan,” “Desert Shield, Operation,” “Schwarzkopf, H. Norman Jr.,” “Sadat, Muhammad Anwar,” “Sheehan, Cindy Lee Miller,” “Cluster Bombs, U.S.,” “Satellites, Use of by Coalition Forces,” “Allah,” “Ottoman Empire,” and “Syria, Armed Forces.”

The essays are signed and range in length from one page to about four pages. Each provides a short bibliography. Most essays maintain an appropriate degree of political distance, though an American audience is presumed. The style is generally dry but quite readable.

The four encyclopedic volumes are much more detailed than *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa* (MacMillan, 2004), providing a much greater depth of information within a more focused scope that is more explicitly political and military. However, this work should be supplemented by other reference works about Middle Eastern social history, Muslim religion, and political history in earlier times.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of the work is volume five, which is a collection of relevant primary documents including correspondence of political and military leaders, presidential briefings, political speeches, United Nations Security Council resolutions, Congressional acts, broadcast transcripts, and other relevant primary sources. Having these documents gathered together in a single volume will be both useful to serious researchers and interesting to the curious browser.

The work is thoroughly indexed and provides interesting black and white photographs, many of which are military in nature, showing aircraft and ocean vessels, for example. Many other photographs feature biographical figures, pictures of cities, or political rallies and protests. The work contains a smaller number of black and white maps. The cover is olive drab featuring a large picture of soldiers and helicopters. The cover is attractive though clearly military in its appeal.

The purpose of this work is primarily educational: to provide an accessible resource for understanding the political exigencies and military strategies and technology involved in

these wars that have been so prominent in American life and policy. The work is well-suited to accomplish this purpose. Its essays can provide a useful guide to understanding evening news broadcasts and political speeches referencing conflict in the Middle East. It also has a great deal of browsing appeal for patrons interested in military history and technology, and it could be quite useful for researchers studying American and international politics. The work could be a useful addition to most public, high school, and undergraduate college libraries.—Steven R. Edscorn, *Library Director, Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee*

The Encyclopedia of Political Science. Ed. by George Thomas Kurian. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010. 5 vols. \$800 (ISBN 978-1-933116-44-0)

The Encyclopedia of Political Science is the first encyclopedia to comprehensively cover this interdisciplinary field. There are many other encyclopedias on subtopics within political science (for example, the *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Government and the Environment* published by ABC-CLIO, 2010), but none with the breadth of this five-volume set. Editor in Chief George Thomas Kurian is a well established editor of reference works, having edited many other titles related to both United States and international politics. The five associate editors represent diverse academic backgrounds within political science including political theory, political economics, international studies, and race and gender studies. The encyclopedia features over 1,500 articles from a globally diverse group of scholars from a variety of well-known institutions. Entries range from short definitions and biographies to longer essays on key concepts and events. All entries except for short definitions have current bibliographies including scholarly articles, court cases, and books.

One of the many strengths of this encyclopedia is the writing and editing. As most issues related to political science have multiple views or perceptions, providing an objective yet concise entry on a topic is difficult; however, the writing in the reviewed entries all provide a view into the complexity of the issues in clear, objective, and understandable terms. Most entries provide a brief history and overview of the topic or person, and then lay out opposing views with a conclusion that offers areas for the reader to consider.

The scope is comprehensive and covers the intersections with other disciplines well. For example, the intersection with literature is covered through entries such as “the Political Novel,” and treated in more depth in longer entries such as “Politics, Literature, and Film.” Entries such as “Slavery” and “Social Security” that could easily focus too much on American perspectives are international in scope, providing more in-depth discussion of the topic’s role within the United States when necessary. The discipline of political science is the backbone of this encyclopedia, informing nearly all entries, which is best illustrated by Manfred Henningsen’s entry for “Holocaust,” which identifies a “scholarly deficit of the political science profession” in the few political scientists who have