

literature, archaeology, theater, and film. Charles and Ruth Moorman's *The Arthurian Dictionary* (University Press of Mississippi, 1978) is a slim, ready reference volume which treats hundreds of historical and legendary figures, but entries are extremely brief snapshots, providing a mere line or two of context for each personality. The Moorman dictionary also pre-dates some of the recent developments in the debate over Arthur's historicity. Christopher W. Bruce's *The Arthurian Name Dictionary* (Garland, 1999), which is composed of some 5600 entries, is both thorough and accessible, but its focus is exclusively on legendary figures.

Arthurian Figures of History and Legend may be the only contemporary biographical reference work that thoroughly analyzes and evaluates the historic sources that lie behind the Arthur stories. To its credit, the work does not provide the broad strokes and thumbnail synopses that students might easily find elsewhere; it is dense and detailed, and assumes some level of familiarity with the essentials. It is also sometimes provocative in its assertions, which may or may not be appropriate for a work of this kind. This work is recommended for both undergraduate and graduate library collections.—David W. Wilson, *Information Literacy Coordinator, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas*

Battles that Changed History: An Encyclopedia of World Conflict. By Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2010. 655 p. acid free \$95 (ISBN 978-1-59884-429-0). E-book available (978-0-59884-430-6), call for pricing.

Historians have been fascinated by lists of great battles since at least 1851, when E. S. Creasy's *Fifteen Decisive Battles* first appeared. *Battles that Changed History* is in many respects an admirable addition to the genre, but it only partially develops the theme of its title.

The volume consists mainly of 212 lucid, chronologically organized entries chosen for such reasons as decisiveness of the battle, the impact of charismatic leaders and demonstration of human will. Each entry includes a small chart with information about the combatants and an explanation of why the battle was important. The index and bibliography are extensive, and there are references at the end of each entry. Maps are few but detailed. There are no color illustrations.

It would seem that any battle can be said to have "changed history;" a discussion of how the author interprets that phrase would have been welcome. For instance, can a battle be said to have changed history more if it was relatively recent, or if it occurred a long time ago? The answer here favors more recent battles; half of those chosen occurred since 1800.

As for coverage of world conflict, there are some entries from China and other Eastern regions, but the great majority of entries involve Europeans or North Americans. Five battles fought by Alexander the Great are addressed, and five by Napoleon, but none, very surprisingly, by Genghis Khan. Also entirely missing in action are the Assyrians, who carved out multiple empires over hundreds of years.

Two books that bear comparison to Tucker's are Paul K.

Davis's *100 Decisive Battles From Ancient Times to the Present* (ABC-Clio, 1999) and *The Seventy Great Battles in History*, edited by Jeremy Black, (Thames & Hudson, 2005). There is considerable overlap in the battles chosen for the three books. Davis does briefly spell out his criteria for inclusion in his list, and he includes a greater proportion of premodern battles, but the geographic mix is about the same. Though he describes fewer battles, the essays are longer, and there are more maps. *Seventy Great Battles* emphasizes relatively well-sourced battles that marked milestones in strategy, tactics and technology. This book also features abundant use of full-color illustrations.

Though not as comprehensive as its number of battles would suggest, *Battles that Changed History* is a serviceable resource for public and high school libraries, especially for notable battles that are not included in other authors' lists.—Evan Davis, *Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Booms and Busts: An Encyclopedia of Economic History from Tulipmania of the 1630s to the Global Financial Crisis of the 21st Century. Ed. by James Ciment. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2010. 3 vols. alkaline \$339 (ISBN 978-0-7656-8224-6).

Focusing on one niche of economic history—the economic cycle—this three-volume set will serve as a good resource to answer questions from high school, undergraduate and public library patrons regarding the who, what, when, where and how of economic "booms and busts."

Coverage extends from the speculative behavior exhibited by the Dutch during the 17th-century "tulipmania" through the Great Recession of the late 2000s. While articles on the economies of the larger nations of the world are included, the primary focus is on the economic history of the United States during the closing decades of the twentieth century, including the housing and stock market boom of the mid-2000s and the financial meltdown and recession that followed.

The three introductory essays should be required reading: "Booms and Busts: Pre-Twentieth Century"; "Booms and Busts: The Twentieth Century and Twenty-First Centuries"; and, "Booms and Busts: Causes and Consequences." With 361 one-to-10 page entries in the "Topic Finder" under 16 broad headings—such as "Banks, Brokerage Houses, Financial Firms," "Corporations and Corporate Affairs," and "Economic Terms and Concepts,"—and three to 49 entries under each heading, the set covers this niche of economics from a variety of helpful perspectives.

There are numerous biographical entries, profiles of major banks and other financial institutions and helpful entries with detailed discussion of business-cycle theory. Narrative content is supported by an alphabetical and a topical table of contents, judicious placement of photographs and tables, and use of cross-references to other articles elsewhere in the set. There is also a variety of supplemental materials, including: a 153-item thumbnail-sketch historical chronology of significant events related to "booms and busts"; an 11-page glossary of words, acronyms, and theories used in the text; an extensive bibliography

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of books and websites; and an impressive, in-depth 59-page index to related names, terms, events, theories and concepts.

While the alphabetically arranged articles are written at varying levels of academic sophistication, readers will find them generally informative, concise and clearly written. Each is signed and the list of contributors with institutional affiliations appears near the front of Vol. 1. Entries are written by 96 different contributors: 51 American, 32 foreign, 10 self-identified as “independent scholars,” and 3 with a corporate affiliation. Unfortunately, because neither academic rank nor their degree is specified, it is not possible to determine whether contributors’ credentials include the PhD or in what field their terminal degree is in.

Most large university libraries will have two-to-three shelves of books on the topic of business cycle theory. However, because they are typically written for economists, most readers will find them packed with arcane statistical formulas, sophisticated mathematical analyses and numerous consumption, supply and demand curves, all to illustrate the various principles and theories proposed in the text. Few, if any, will offer the articulate, understandable narrative historical overview offered by this set. Indeed, it is likely that only the expensive new second edition of *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics* (Palgrave Macmillan; 2nd ed., 2008) and the widely held *Business Cycles and Depressions: An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 1997)—now nearly 15 years old—will offer any significant additional reference resource coverage.

The editor, Dr. James Ciment, brings many years of experience to this set. A prolific reference book producer whose firm (East River Books) provides publisher M.E. Sharpe with a steady stream of subject encyclopedias, he is commended for providing yet another excellent resource. Highly recommended for public and undergraduate collections of academic libraries.—R. Neil Scott, Professor and User Services Librarian, James E. Walker Library, Middle Tennessee State University

The Civil War Naval Encyclopedia. Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN 978-1-59884-338-5). E-book available (978-1-59884-339-2), call for pricing.

On this sesquicentennial of the Civil War, *The Civil War Naval Encyclopedia* provides a summary of Civil War naval subject matter that appears to be the first encyclopedia to be published on this specific topic. The editor, Spencer C. Tucker, is a noted scholar on this topic having previously published works relating to the Civil War and/or the Navy such as: *Handbook of 19th Century Naval Warfare* (Naval Institute Press, 2000), *Naval Warfare: An International Encyclopedia* (ABC-Clio, 2002), *A Short History of the Civil War at Sea* (SR Books, 2001), and *Blue & Gray Navies, The Civil War Afloat* (US Naval Institute Press, 2006).

There have been several books written about the Navy and the Civil War, most notably, Tony Gibbons’s *Warships and Naval Battles of the Civil War* (Popular Culture Ink, 1990), Ivan Musicant’s *Divided Waters: The Naval History of the Civil*

War (Book Sales, 2000), and Jayne E. Blair’s *The Essential Civil War: A Handbook to the Battles, Armies, Navies and Commanders* (McFarland, 2006). What sets Tucker’s, *The Civil War Naval Encyclopedia*, apart is that it combines many of the issues that are covered in these other publications into an easy to navigate, two-volume set.

Included in these volumes are entries on important battles, campaigns, conflicts, strategies of the North and South, ships (including “individual ship engagements”), submarines, torpedoes, significant people (including naval officers, constructors, and government officials), weapons systems, and maps.

The arrangement of the encyclopedia is characteristic of most. There is an alphabetical list of entries at the front of the book which includes all categories. A categorical index in the back of the book is useful for looking up entries on specific categories. The categories listed are: “Individuals,” “Events,” “Groups & Organizations,” “Places,” “Ideas & Movements,” “Technologies, Objects & Artifacts,” “Agreements, Reports and Other Documents,” and “Miscellaneous.” A brief 6-page overview by Tucker introduces the user to the work. Some of the more interesting entries of the book include: “African American Sailors,” “Food and Drink aboard Ship,” “Balloons,” “Shipboard Life,” “Confederate Naval Strategy,” and “Union Naval Strategy.” Black and white photographs, maps and illustrations accompany several entries.

Colleges or Universities with programs related to the military and/or American history/politics will find this work useful as a starting point toward more in-depth research on a specific topic or for a broad understanding of naval issues as they pertain to the American Civil War. The fact that the entries are listed alphabetically as a whole and not by their categories can be seen as a drawback, however, the categorical index does a good job of providing the user with a listing by topic. Overall, *The Civil War Encyclopedia* provides an inclusive history of Civil War naval affairs. Public libraries may also consider purchasing, especially if the price of the e-book is more affordable than the print version.—Rachael Elrod, Reference/Instruction Librarian & Archivist, The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, Charleston

Encyclopedia of African American Music. Ed. by Emmett G. Price III. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$280 (ISBN 978-0-313-34199-1). E-book available (978-0-313-34200-4), call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of African American Music* aims to present the music of the African Diaspora through the lens of its development and impact within the United States. The goal of Price and his associate editors is a “comprehensive reference source” that “extends beyond the traditional chronological and biographical approach that is common to works in this genre” (xxxix). They support that goal by taking a more encyclopedic approach, providing articles on broader musical topics in addition to biographical entries. For example, there are entries on African American concert music, Black-owned music publishing companies, and African American music