

## SOURCES

Confucianism is directed to “Chinese Law, History of, *subentry* on Eastern Zhou, Warring States (464–221 BCE), and Qin State and Empire (c. 350–206 BCE). Finally, the encyclopedia features a topical outline, a case index, and a 265-page general index.

Stanley N. Katz, the editor-in-chief, is a lecturer with the rank of Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He has authored and edited numerous articles and books. The area editors are affiliated with academic institutions, and the contributors are alphabetically listed in a directory that further details academic affiliations and area of authorship.

*The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History* is recommended for advanced undergraduate and graduate studies in law, politics, history, and religion.—*Jacquelyn N. McCloud, J.D., Student, School of Library and Information Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

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### *Poverty and Government in America: A Historical Encyclopedia.*

By Jyotsna Sreenivasan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2009. 2 vols. alkaline \$195 (ISBN 1-59884-168-8).

Jyotsna Sreenivasan’s two-volume work on poverty and its intersections with government of all levels in the United States is encyclopedic in both name and format, but the result is very much that of an individual’s vision. Rather than an edited collection of entries penned by a variety of field experts, the author, with a background in English literature, has composed the entirety of the text.

Four introductory essays—each addressing poverty in the context of local, state, federal, and tribal governments—provide a history and sociology of poverty for the uninitiated and are helpful with intuiting and understanding the subject choices for the encyclopedic entries that make up a majority of the work. Sreenivasan does well to condense a great deal of historical research into these manageable partitions. She describes how concern for poverty by government progressed from one of municipal concern to that of federal policy. Along the way we learn that such cities as Kansas City, Missouri, had already established laws that would later be used as models for the Civil Works Administration program. She also shows that the first forays into poverty relief at the state level were aimed at the “transient poor,” for whom localities had little to no regard, which resonates with the modern controversy over entitlements to illegal immigrants. She also shows that it was not until the establishment of President Roosevelt’s New Deal programs in response to economic disruption—another controversy with modern overtones—that the federal government became actively involved in poverty relief. She also illustrates via such examples as the “Quincy Report” that the earliest official government assessments of poverty set tones that continue to this day by laying blame at the feet of the poor for their own condition, be it the result of character traits, habituation, or even the provision of relief itself.

The set also includes “Chronology of the Government

and Poverty,” a tool covering major events from the 1500s to 2008. The timeline is perhaps reflective of the author’s English background and includes event descriptions that are of paragraph length as often as not. Those looking for a more concise chronology of poverty-related events would be better served by Russell M. Lawson and Benjamin A. Lawson’s *Poverty in America: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2008).

The encyclopedia entries in *Poverty and Government in America* generally have a narrative tone similar to that of the introductory essays. They are rarely longer than two or three pages, are liberally supported by photographic illustrations, and are each followed by “see also” references, lists of sources with basic bibliographic information, and (where relevant) separate lists of related websites. Another feature of the entries that distinguishes this set from the *Poverty in America* and (to a lesser extent) Gwendolyn Mink and Alice O’Connor’s *Poverty in the United States: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics and Policy* (ABC-Clío, 2004) is the inclusion of primary documents. For example, the entry for the “Quincy Report” includes a lengthy excerpt of the original source document with enough bibliographic information to track down the original if so desired.

For a topic that may appear on the surface to be niche in scope, Sreenivasan ultimately delivers a useful and broadly applicable reference work. Those libraries seeking their first U.S. poverty-related subject encyclopedia may be better served by the Mink and O’Connor’s text, but those academic libraries with larger budgets, or those wanting to supplement Mink and O’Connor with a more recent publication, will not be disappointed.—*Chris G. Hudson, Assistant Law Librarian for Serials and Government Documents, MacMillan Law Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia*

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*QFinance: The Ultimate Resource.* London: Bloomsbury, 2009. 2,160p. acid free \$250 (ISBN 978-1-849-30000-1).

According to Bloomsbury’s publicity handout, the goal of *QFinance* is “to be the ultimate, practical reference tool for the financial sector.” This very large volume (2,160 pages) is a print desk reference book accompanied by a website—[www.qfinance.com](http://www.qfinance.com). The handout also states that the *QFinance* is “the brainchild of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority, the business arm of the government of Qatar.” The international flavor of the information is well-represented here, probably because of this collaboration.

*QFinance* is organized into eight sections plus an index. Sections 1 and 2 are divided again into nine themes: corporate balance sheets and cash flow, governance and business ethics, insurance and financial markets including macroeconomics, making and managing investments, mergers and acquisitions, operations management, raising finance, regulation and compliance, and strategy and performance. The first section, “Best Practice,” contains essays written by leading finance writers and educators who offer practical advice and summarize the best thinking on myriad financial issues, such as risk management, profitability analysis, and leveraged buyouts. Grouped

under each theme are several two-to-five-page essays about various issues related to that theme. Each essay begins with an executive summary of the issue. The author then explains the issue, defines the terms, suggests ways to perform the best practice in dealing with the issue, and concludes with a brief bibliography indicating books, articles, or websites for more information. Sometimes a case study is included. Section 2 contains checklists and step-by-step guides relating to the same broad themes and subthemes that were discussed in the first section. Section 2 also has very good explanations of more than one hundred ratios and calculations used in finance.

Ensuing sections are “Finance Thinkers and Leaders” (57 profiles of practitioners of modern finance from Prince Al-Walid bin Talal to Robert Zoellick) and “Finance Library” (126 digests of important finance books, which include summaries of the work, its importance to the field, author background, and further reading). Other sections profile 102 country profiles and 26 industries. A two-hundred-page section, “Finance Information Sources,” briefly summarizes books, journals, websites, and organizations, including contact information, organized into sixty subject areas. These sources are not included in the index by author or title, but can be found there under topic. Section 7 contains more than two thousand quotations, with the source and date arranged according to subject. For example, there are three quotations about women in business: one from 1801, another from 1946, and another from Jill Barad in 2000. An author index in this section includes very brief biographical information. The final section is a dictionary of more than nine thousand international business and finance terms, abbreviations, acronyms, and finance and business jargon. Mini-essays explain more complex concepts, such as capitalization ratio. A twenty-three-page index completes the volume.

This is a huge book—more than seven pounds, according to the publisher’s representative. Although it contains an enormous amount of information of all kinds, its bulk works against it. The pages are flimsy and could easily be torn. In a library (or perhaps anywhere) I would put it on a dictionary stand for ease of use. And its accompanying website, [www.qfinance.com](http://www.qfinance.com), seems to include the same information, is easy to navigate, and promises updated information. The site is available as part of the book and is, also according to the publisher’s representative, free to the user. Both the print volume and the website are beautifully organized so that a search of business ethics, for example, will find a best practice essay, a checklist, summaries of the best research in the area, recommended books or articles on the subject, quotations, and the meaning of terms associated with the concept. Contributors are well known and the material is meticulously explained. There is some discussion of regulatory terms, particularly in the industry and country sections. Because the book is international in scope and comprehensive in subject coverage, it would prove very useful to any business library as well as beginning practitioners in the finance arena and, of course, students. For the price, the user receives a compendium of

different kinds of knowledge on almost any finance topic or question.—Carol Krismann, *Business Librarian, University of Colorado, Boulder*

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**Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health.** Hackensack, N.J.: Salem, 2010. 5 vols. acid-free. \$495 (ISBN 978-1-587-65556-2).

Navigability being a key component of large reference works’ quality, *Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health* shines. The encyclopedia comprises 5 volumes and 593 articles (listed alphabetically in every volume) ranging in length from one to eight pages. Its scope is the full breadth of psychology, including key concepts, phenomena, measurement tools, and researchers. Since its last incarnation in 2003, 159 articles have been newly written, and 46 have been significantly revised. As should be the case for a new psychology encyclopedia, events and trends of the past decade, including economic and terrorist catastrophes, the growth of reality television and the Internet, and environmental conscientiousness are reflected in articles’ content. Among the more intriguing topics are articles on air rage, behavioral economics, biracial heritage and mental health, midlife crisis, and retirement.

Each article includes delineations of type of psychology (from nineteen categories) and applicable fields of study (from sixty-one categories); several types and fields of study may be associated with a single article. The fields of study affixed to each article presumably correspond to the sixty-one categories forming a category index appearing at the end of each volume, but careful inspection reveals some fields of study attached to articles that are not listed in this index. Editor Nancy Piotrowski should have chosen only one of these categorization schemas to use. All but one of the “Type of Psychology” headings are included within the category index, making the former labels seem unnecessary. The articles themselves read at the level of an upper-division college text, each ending with sources for additional study and cross-references. Visuals are sparse, but those included are good. Volume 5 contains a master subject index and a personages index. Preceding the indexes, appendixes include a glossary of some six hundred terms; a Website directory; a mediagraphy, including films and television programs that reference psychological phenomena; a list of organizations and support groups; a pharmaceutical list; biographies of seventy-five prominent psychologists; and important U.S. court cases. Listings in the website directory include paragraph descriptions; many sites are more popular-interest than research-focused. The support-groups section ends with a listing of hotlines; this should have been highlighted in the complete list of contents.

A fourth edition of the four-volume *Corsini Encyclopedia of Psychology* (Wiley, 2010), priced at \$600, is being released as of this writing. The eight-volume, \$795 *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (American Psychological Association, 2000) lacks the Salem Health finding aids (such as a listing of all articles), but does have an extremely thorough index.

Do not judge *Salem Health: Psychology & Mental Health*