

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*

Poverty and Government in America: A Historical Encyclopedia.

By Jyotsna Sreenivasan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 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-Clio, 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*

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. 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