

SOURCES

York: Facts On File, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$210 (ISBN 978-0-8160-4887-8).

This latest volume in the Facts On File Library of World History series describes the world of Christians, Muslims, and Jews during the medieval period, dated roughly from 476 to 1492 C.E., who lived in the geographical area once ruled by the Roman Empire. Written by the medieval scholar Madeleine P. Cosman and completed by Linda G. Jones, a professor of Arabic philology, this three volume set explores the history, cultures, economy, and social milieu of medieval Europe, Britain, the Mediterranean, North Africa, Asia Minor, and the Middle East and discusses both the differences and the interrelatedness of Christians, Muslims, and Jews during this time.

Each of the twelve chapters in the *Handbook* covers a separate aspect of the medieval world, and includes history, literature, economy and trade, and clothing and textiles, following the format of other volumes in the series. Chapters begin with a general treatment of the topic at hand and a description of the intersections between the three cultures, before continuing with an in-depth look at each culture separately. There are numerous maps and illustrations and a short list of references at the end of each chapter supplemented by a full bibliography at the end of volume three. The text is clearly written in easily understood language and avoids unnecessary academic jargon. The volumes themselves are well-laid out, with crisp text and handsome black-and-white illustrations.

There have been several recent reference works published on the medieval world, including *Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001), *The Encyclopedia of the Middle Ages* (Viking, 1999), and Facts On File's own *Encyclopedia of the Medieval World* (2005). The *Handbook of Life in the Medieval World*, with its concentration on daily life and its topic coverage that emphasizes depth over breadth, tends to complement rather than compete with these other resources and would make an excellent addition to academic, public, and high-school libraries.—Amanda K. Sprochi, *Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia*

Holocaust Literature. Ed. by John K. Roth. Magill's Choice. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2008. 2 vols. alkaline \$120 (ISBN 978-1-58765-375-9).

Magill's Choice *Holocaust Literature* is a welcome affordable addition to reference works on the literature of the Holocaust. The purpose of the encyclopedia, to provide a survey of the "essential" works of Holocaust literature, is ambitious for a work that is 960 pages across two volumes. The encyclopedia includes more than one hundred essays, arranged alphabetically by the title of the work. Two-thirds of the essays cover works of non-fiction, with the remainder comprised of fiction and poetry. The selections made by editor John K. Roth, a professor of philosophy at Claremont McKenna College, offer an interdisciplinary and comprehensive overview of Holocaust literature. Topics of the works covered are as far ranging as the history of genocide, eugenics in the twentieth century,

the effects of bombing during World War II on contemporary German cities, and how the Holocaust has influenced contemporary American life. The title does not adequately describe the content; this encyclopedia offers a thorough introduction to not only the literature but also the development of intellectual thought about the Holocaust.

The essays originally appeared in *Magill's Literary Annual* and several different editions of the *Masterplots* series. Although new material has been added, the extent of updating is often negligible. For example, the changes for the entry on Sylvia Plath's "Daddy" consist only of an updated bibliography from the 1987 edition of *Masterplots*. Although much of the content is available in other sources, having the various authors arranged under the main topic of Holocaust literature is useful. In addition, few libraries are able to afford all of the different editions of *Magill's* and *Masterplots* from which these essays are gleaned. The up-to-date bibliographies in each essay feature only books and articles from newspapers and popular periodicals, with no references to journal articles included. The entries feature the plot summaries, list of characters, and brief biographical information typical of *Masterplots* and *Magill's*, but offer little or no explanation about how the authors or works fit into the larger topic of Holocaust literature. Additional commentary on how these works fit into the topic of Holocaust literature would have greatly improved this work.

There is an extensive bibliography arranged by genre, title, and author of both further primary and secondary sources on both the Holocaust and the literature of the Holocaust. Both volumes also offer a chronology of the Holocaust.

The extensive and scholarly two-volume *Holocaust Literature* (Routledge, 2003) is more suitable for academic libraries as it features lengthier bibliographies for entries and covers more scholarly authors and texts. The one-volume *Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature* (Oryx, 2002) is another recent title, which is a quality work, but does not describe individual works. The entries are all specific to authors. The careful thought informing the selections made by the editor of *Magill's Choice Holocaust Literature* is clear throughout. Reading through the majority of the essays would expand any reader's understanding of the Holocaust, but the information contained in individual essays could be more in depth. Recommended for public and high school libraries.—Shannon Pritting, *Coordinator of Access Services, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, New York*

International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies. Ed. by Stewart R. Clegg and James R. Bailey. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 4 vols. acid-free \$695 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1515-1).

This four-volume set edited by Stuart R. Clegg (University of Technology, Sydney, Australia) and James R. Bailey (George Washington University) provides a wealth of information about organization studies and spans multiple disciplines.

With more than five hundred entries, the encyclopedia is organized alphabetically with plenty of cross-references to direct the reader to more possibilities. All of the entries