

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

were written by international experts from a variety of fields including management, psychology, communication, education, and political science.

According to Clegg and Bailey, organization studies is “the examination of how individuals construct organizational structures, processes, and practices and how these, in turn, shape social relations and create institutions that ultimately influence people” (xliii). Included in each volume is a “Reader’s Guide” that classifies the encyclopedia’s entries into twenty themes or topics, such as “Organizational Relations,” “Approaches to Management Theory,” and “Innovation and Creativity.” The encyclopedia also contains an alphabetical list of all entries and a fifty-plus-age index.

The entries are succinct and average 2 to 3 pages in length. The basic format of an entry consists of the “Conceptual Overview,” “Critical Commentary,” “Future Directions,” and “Further Readings.” In compiling the entries for the encyclopedia, the authors referred to the indexes of two prior reference books by Stuart Clegg: *Handbook of Organization Studies* (Sage, 1996) and *Managing and Organizations* (Sage, 2005) and created a list of topics that was further enhanced by the international contributors.

This encyclopedia covers such diverse topics as “Post-colonial Theory,” “Magic in Organizing,” and the “Free-Rider Problem” in organizational economics. As an example of topic development, in the entry for “McDonaldization,” George Ritzer (*The McDonaldization of Society*, Pine Forge Pr., 1993) presents a clear compendium describing the concept of McDonaldization and its influences on the global community. The entry concludes with a cross-reference pointing the user to entries for “Bureaucracy,” “Capitalism, Models of,” “Globalization,” and “Modernity.”

International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies surpasses comparable works such as the *Handbook of Organization Studies* (Sage, 1996) and *Managing and Organizations* (Sage, 2005) because of its wide and deep scope. *International Encyclopedia of Organization Studies* is an extremely thorough and lucid resource. However, libraries may benefit more from the electronic version of the encyclopedia because the theoretical nature of the content does not encourage browsing and discovery of ideas. Recommended for academic libraries with organizational studies programs.—Colleen Lougen, *Electronic Resources Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz*

Life Events and Rites of Passage: The Customs and Symbols of Major Life-Cycle Milestones, Including Cultural, Secular, and Religious Traditions Observed in the United States. By Jeff Hill and Peggy Daniels. Detroit, Mich.: Omnigraphics, 2008. 520p. alkaline \$71 (ISBN 978-0-7808-0735-8).

Taking a broad approach to life’s rites of passage, this volume describes making the transitions from infancy to death and how the rituals are carried out in the United States at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Formal ceremonies, beliefs, or rituals, many based on specific religions or cultures, are covered in an easy-to-read and interesting format for an

intended audience of middle school and high school students. This book would also be an excellent starting place for college students researching customs and ceremonies or for anyone interested in life’s rites of passage.

The four sections—Birth and Childhood, Coming of Age, Adult Rites of Passage, and Death and Mourning—make it easy to find information on everything from naming a baby to quinceañera to Ramadan to crematoriums. American social customs are continually being shaped by a melting pot outlook that welcomes a variety of customs from regional sources (such as Native American, Mexican American, and Cajun) and from international cultures (such as Chinese and Japanese). The book supports this outlook by providing “see also” references for cross-cultural comparisons and related information. The bibliography offers a wealth of information, recommending websites, articles, and books for further inquiry into each rite or life event. This volume would be an excellent textbook for a class on cultural diversity because of its coverage of folk beliefs, ceremonies, rituals, and everyday beliefs.

Some of the information can be found in encyclopedias such as Len Travers’s *Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days* (Greenwood, 2006) or Frank A. Salamone’s *Encyclopedia of Religious Rites, Rituals, and Festivals* (Routledge, 2004), but this book brings together a potpourri of information into one source. This is not a comprehensive tome on the rites of passage in life, but it is a great place for students to begin to understand how we transition from one life stage to the next.—Diane J. Turner, *Senior Reference/Instruction Librarian, Auraria Library, Denver, Colorado*

Queer America: A GLBT History of the 20th Century. By Vicki L. Eaklor. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 312p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-313-33749-9).

Described in the introduction as “a ‘one stop’ handbook to U.S. GLBT history of the 20th century” (xii) Vicki Eaklor’s *Queer America* charts the evolution of GLBT identities, political struggles, and cultures. This comprehensive work draws from seminal writings of prominent historians such as John D’Emilio, Allan Berube, and Lillian Faderman. Although its narrative style and organization suggest a textbook rather than a traditional reference source, *Queer America* works well as both a broad-based history and a gateway to the key literature of the field. Eaklor, a professor of history at Alfred University and contributor to Gale’s indispensable *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History and Culture in America* (2004), organizes *Queer America* as a chronology of GLBT life during specific eras. These engaging chapters weave together primary writings and interviews with political events and social history. A detailed table of contents facilitates topical look-ups, although readers will likely want to read through whole chapters. A selective timeline of GLBT landmark events nicely contextualizes the contents within the larger picture of U.S. history. For example, the entry for the year 1955 includes both the founding of the