

## SOURCES

early lesbian activist group Daughters of Bilitis in San Francisco and the arrest of Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama. Suggested reading lists are incorporated at the end of each chapter, a critical feature in a work that seeks to condense so much historical scholarship into a small space. There is also a master bibliography, a short list of abbreviations, and a selective list of American films (not annotated). An interesting feature is the inclusion of debate topics—set off from the main text—that summarize key issues. The “Queers in Cold War America” chapter, for example, contains a debate about the validity and methods of the Kinsey studies. Photos and artwork are included throughout but unfortunately these are black and white and limited in number. The image-rich *Becoming Visible: An Illustrated History of Lesbian and Gay Life in America* by Molly McGarry and Fred Wasserman (Penguin Studio, 1998), would be an excellent companion to *Queer America*. The scope of coverage and narrative approach make *Queer America* a unique work that sits somewhere in between a reference source and a historical survey. There are many works that address specific movements, periods, and aspects of queer history, but few that cover the ground Eaklor does here. Among these are two nonreference titles, Barry Adam’s *The Rise of a Gay and Lesbian Movement* (Twayne, rev. ed., 1995) and Leila J. Rupp’s *A Desired Past: A Short History of Same-Sex Love in America* (Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1999). Chuck Stewart’s *Gay and Lesbian Issues: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO, 2003) includes brief essays, annotations, and source lists that address much of the content in *Queer America*. A true ready-reference source, Stewart’s work is easier to navigate. *Queer America* fills a gap in the literature by balancing components of all three works in a well-written and updated form. That said, given the currency of this work and its coverage of media-related topics, it’s surprising how little attention is paid to the emergence of the Web, which has reshaped queer experiences. *Queer America* is recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with well-developed GLBT reference holdings, as it’s probably put to better use in the circulating collection. *Queer America* is also available as an e-book.—Korey Brunetti, *Reference & Instruction Librarian, California State University East Bay, Hayward*

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***Rich and Poor in America: A Reference Handbook.*** By Geoffrey Gilbert. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 275p. alkaline \$55 (ISBN 978-1-59884-056-8).

ABC-CLIO upholds the reputation of its Contemporary World Issues series with this latest addition. Taking a panoramic view of the evidence, causes, and effects of the broadening gap between America’s rich and poor, the volume will serve as an excellent jumping-off point for students writing about wealth disparity from virtually any angle. This has also been a popular topic for social issues point-counterpoint series such as *Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven, 1970–present) and *At Issue* (Greenhaven, 1976–present).

Those familiar with the Contemporary World Issues series will recognize the book’s organization: Several content

chapters; a chronology with detailed descriptions of cited events; short biographies; miscellaneous data and documents; a directory of organizations; and an annotated section of additional print and media resources. Race, health, education, immigration, technological change, unionization, and taxation are each presented as mediating factors affecting the distribution of American wealth.

Gilbert has authored two other books in this series, on world population and world poverty. He clearly wants to develop a relationship with his reader around this newest topic, wealth disparity. His intimate writing style periodically challenges the reader directly to consider his points. Measured compassion describes the tone. Gilbert’s deftness in moving from one concept to the next will leave the reader with many thought-provoking questions about poverty—and this is a good thing.

Each chapters’ topics are discussed in one-and-a-half to three page sections that are separately headed, making the topics covered immediately obvious when leafing through the chapters. Gilbert rightfully highlights taxation as a major pivot point of the national poverty discussion, and his thoughts on this intimidating topic are very readable. There is also a chapter addressing poverty from a global perspective, adding context to the discussion. One could proceed to Mehmet Odekon’s 3-volume *Encyclopedia of World Poverty* (Sage, 2006) to explore this further. The twenty-seven biographies presented are a socioeconomic smorgasbord, ranging from Horatio Alger Jr. to former Vice Presidential candidate John Edwards. The variety of the “Data and Documents” section is impressive (included are census and survey data, the text of a speech by Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, an essay by Andrew Carnegie, two opposing editorials on CEO pay, and the powerful poem “Being Poor,” widely circulated after Hurricane Katrina).

For more numbers, *American Incomes: Demographics of Who Has Money* (New Strategist Publications, 2007) is an excellent source of detailed statistical information on income, wealth, and poverty. *Rich and Poor in America* is unique in its presentation of the lifestyles of both the poor and the rich, as many other sources focus on one or the other. With regard to breadth of formats presented, its information is beyond comparison. Recommended for academic and large public libraries.—Eric Petersen, *Reference/Public Services Librarian, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska*

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***Rock Band Name Origins: The Stories of 240 Groups and Performers.*** By Greg Metzger. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2008. paper 256p. alkaline \$45 (ISBN 978-0-7864-3818-1).

In *Rock Band Name Origins*, Greg Metzger has compiled an entertaining reference book detailing the history of the naming of 240 popular rock and pop artists from the 1960s to the present. Although most entries focus on groups, *Rock Band Name Origins* does include entries for selected individual artists. Each entry includes the original lineup, date the band was formed, or individual artist born, any later members of note, best known