

## SOURCES

public demand for more information about global warming. Libraries have been inundated with new global warming and climate change books, but surprisingly, *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* is the first comprehensive, cross-disciplinary encyclopedic treatment of the phenomenon and, as such, is a unique and valuable resource.

*Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* takes a primarily nontechnical, but multidisciplinary approach, offering more than seven hundred articles written by biologists, geographers, political scientists, economists, and other scholars. Every country and every U.S. state is profiled, as are major scientific concepts, notable people, and institutions. The individually authored articles range in length from a few hundred to a few thousand words and include bibliographies.

Special features include an introductory essay covering the fundamentals of global warming and climate change, richly illustrated with full color photographs and maps. A brief “Chronology” follows, beginning ambitiously with the creation of the Earth, 4.5 billion years ago, and progressing through the Little Ice Age to the world’s first Earth Day to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s most recent report in 2007.

Except for the heavily illustrated “Introduction,” the bulk of the encyclopedia is textual. The few visual elements consist primarily of sparsely distributed black-and-white photographs. The “Appendix” contains several well-annotated and relevant graphs, such as “Recent Sea Level Rise” and “Global Warming Projections.” Due to the paucity of visuals, I recommend Kirstin Dow’s *The Atlas of Climate Change: Mapping the World’s Greatest Challenge* (Univ. of California Press, 2007) as a companion and supplement.

A number of recent encyclopedias cover humankind’s impact on the environment, including *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society* (Sage, 2007), *Environmental Encyclopedia* (Gale, 2003), and *Encyclopedia of Global Change: Environmental Change and Human Society* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2002). More technically oriented but related are *Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences* (Elsevier, 2002) and its companion, *Encyclopedia of Oceanic Sciences* (Elsevier, 2002). Worth a special mention is the free, online *Encyclopedia of Earth* (Environmental Information Coalition), launched in 2006, which uses a wiki format in combination with recognized experts as editors to create a continuously evolving resource. All of these encyclopedias dedicate significant space to issues of global warming and climate change, but their scope is much broader and addresses a range of other issues as well.

Several shorter, handbook type publications have a narrower focus, such as *The Environment and Science: Social Impact and Interaction* (ABC-CLIO, 2005) and the ever-popular *Opposing Viewpoints* series entry on global warming. However, as previously stated, *Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* is the only encyclopedia dedicated to covering the issue exclusively. Not surprisingly, more reference titles about global warming and climate change are forthcoming.

*Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change* is recommended for reference collections in academic libraries

and larger public libraries. It is also available as an e-book. —Lori Townsend, *Electronic Collections Librarian, California State University East Bay, Hayward, California*

---

***Encyclopedia of Political Communication.*** Ed. by Lynda L. Kaid and Christina Holtz-Bacha. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 978-1-4129-1799-5).

This new two-volume set appears to be the first encyclopedia on this topic. It would be a good starting point for a person doing research in political science or journalism or the intersection of both of these fields. The editorial board is comprised of faculty members from both political science and journalism departments.

Books such as these are a welcome addition to the publishing field because politics are at the forefront of many people’s minds, given the current political climate. This work will suit those who feel intimidated about looking up information about political figures or movements in a bigger reference work. Additionally, a reference work such as this is an excellent starting point to begin research on today’s political climate in addition to beginning to understand America’s political past.

Within the main part of the set, some entries are really just cross references. For instance, an entry for Sargent Shriver only directs the reader to an entry about George McGovern. When one reads the entry about McGovern, there is a brief mention of Sargent Shriver as a running-mate for McGovern. Readers may be interested in learning about Shriver’s connection to the Kennedys, which is not brought up at all.

The few pictures are excellent. However, the work would have benefitted from having more photographs of historical significance in connection to the encyclopedia entries.

Another drawback is the text formatting in the longer entries. It is difficult to delineate the different topic headings in the longer entries and a beginning researcher may have a hard time discerning where one entry ends and another begins. Additionally, the binding appears to be weak and may not hold up to extended use without being rebound.

Still, the title would be a welcome addition to any academic or public library and is very accessible to many readers. It offers an excellent beginning to a soon-to-be burgeoning discipline.—Sheila Devaney, *MBA Career Resource Center Manager, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

---

***Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society.*** Ed. by Richard T. Schaefer. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2008. 3 vols. acid free \$495 (ISBN 978-1-4129-2694-2).

The complex, human concepts of race and ethnicity, according to the editors, “refer to long established groups with a common culture and geographic origin, often sharing a common language and religious tradition” (xivii). This reference work, encompassing a major body of research by various scholars, was created because race and ethnicity are

“situated at the intersection of individual social identity and the very structure of society. It literally answers the question: Who are we?” (xivii).

This is a three-volume, hardback reference set geared towards post secondary social science researchers. There are six hundred entries and two hundred visuals. The books are striking in their meticulous citations and high level of research for a reference work.

There are sixteen pages of introductory and explanatory material in the front matter of volume 1. A significant number of these pages are used to present this as a scholarly work. The editors believe that “the strength of any reference work rests on its authorship” (xiviii) and to that end, there are lengthy biographies on the main editors and a detailed list of every contributor with their professional and university affiliations.

Included in the front matter of all three volumes are “finding aids” for the entire set: a “List of Entries” that provides an overall, alphabetical list of topics covered in all three volumes; a “List of Images” with page numbers listed for the images; and a “Reader’s Guide,” an overall list of topics organized around 18 subject headings.

Each individual, alphabetized entry in this encyclopedia is between five hundred and six thousand words. They are varied and include biographies and information about ethnic and racial groups. Further research is encouraged by “see also” references at the end of each entry for related topics within the three volumes. “Further Readings” is a list of authoritative books and scholarly articles included at the end of each entry. The index for the entire set is in Volume 3.

The black-and-white photographs within the text of the entries are very effective. There are three to five detailed, explanatory sentences with a citation under the photographs. The maps within the entries are small, labeled artistic renderings to give the reader a visual perspective.

The appendix materials are in two sections. Appendix A, “Data on Race and Ethnicity in the United States, 1820 to the Present,” has its own detailed introduction written by the editor. There are tables that track patterns of race and ethnicity from 1820 with projections into 2050. The next group of tables features analyses from the very important American Community Survey of the U.S. Census Bureau. This is a unique grouping of data sets that isn’t easily available elsewhere in print or electronically. Appendix B, “Internet Resources on Race, Ethnicity and Society” is a section of carefully chosen topical websites grouped into broad subject areas. A list of Internet resources has become an expectation with these types of reference books; the editors have chosen sites that will stand the test of time. For example, the website for the United States Administration on Aging is likely to be stable indefinitely.

Comparable works on this topic do not have the same breadth of coverage nor are they in reference book format. Joseph Healey’s *Diversity and Society: Race, Ethnicity and Gender* (Pine Forge Press, 2007) is a textbook analysis of minority groups and issues in the United States. Patricia Gagne’s *The*

*Dynamics of Inequality: Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality in the United States* (Prentice Hall, 2002) focuses on issues of social inequality at the individual level.

This set would be very appropriate for college undergraduates or advanced high school students involved in a research in the social sciences. It has the best qualities of print reference books and achieves its overall purpose: highly credible information and a clear roadmap for the reader to engage effectively in further research.—*Terry Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

---

***The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History.*** Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 4 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 978-1-85109-841-5).

Spencer C. Tucker’s *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History* provides the most extensive coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict to date. Other reference sources with the same subject heading include: Claude Faure’s *Dictionary of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Culture, History, and Politics* (Thomson Gale, 2005), Philip Mattar’s revised edition of *Encyclopedia of the Palestinians* (Facts On File, 2005), P. R. Kumaraswamy’s *Historical Dictionary of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Scarecrow, 2006), and Bernard Reich’s *Historical Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Greenwood, 1996).

While Faure’s *Dictionary of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* boasts nearly double the 750 articles that appear in *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, it dedicates less space to each article. An extensive chronology and 168 primary sources, over triple the number found in *Encyclopedia of the Palestinians*, add luster to *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Despite the omission of an annotated bibliography, such as the one included in Mattar’s *Encyclopedia of the Palestinians*, *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* provides references at the end of each article and a bibliography section in volume four that guides readers to other sources. Photographs, maps, and charts abound in Tucker’s four volume set; an illustration appears on nearly every other page, a feature that comparable sources lack.

Tucker’s aim is to explore the history surrounding the Arab-Israeli conflict, emphasizing events from World War I to the present day, and the articles and chronology clearly focus on this time frame. Another underlying goal as explained in the introduction is to present an exhaustive summary of the military history of this region in an attempt to spark ideas for peace. Articles that promote peace range from a three page “Peace Movements” article, to biographies that focus on peace activists, such as Hanna Siniura, to primary source materials like “James A. Baker, Five-Point Peace Plan, October 10, 1989.”

As the introduction indicates, there is a heavy emphasis on military issues, which is a little surprising given the subtitle. Articles discussing military issues account for approximately double the number of entries focusing on social and