

SOURCES

Each essay begins with a brief introduction followed by a description of the country's geography, economy, population, and political system leading up to the outbreak of civil war. Analysis of the civil war, or successive civil wars, as the case may be, focuses on the conflict's background and immediate cause; discussion of the parties involved; their aims, tactics, territorial pursuits, supporters and opponents; duration of the conflict; any attempts to mediate or manage the conflict; and the conflict's eventual outcome. Sobering details of body counts, internally displaced persons, and cross-border refugees make the human cost of each civil war all too clear.

Essays are signed, with the qualifications of the essayist given at the beginning of both volumes. Essays conclude with a chronology of the major events in the civil war, a list of any acronyms or abbreviations used in the essay, and a list of references. Many essays also include a glossary of terms, description of organizations, and definition of concepts. Maps, sidebars, and black-and-white photographs illustrate the encyclopedia.

A fifty-three-page "Regional Analysis" in volume one surveys "The Insurgents," "Geography and Tactics," "Causes of the Wars," "Outcomes," and "Conclusion" in Asian, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, North African, and sub-Saharan African conflicts. This survey assists the reader to place the forty-one major civil wars forming the heart of *Civil Wars of the World* into geographic context.

Civil Wars of the World: Major Conflicts Since World War II offers a uniquely specialized and qualified approach to the study of post-World War II intrastate conflict that is without equal both in its restrictive application of what constitutes a major conflict and in the ensuing depth of analysis that restriction affords each civil war so defined. By contrast, *Encyclopedia of Conflicts Since World War II* in four volumes, edited by James Ciment (2d ed., Sharpe Reference, 2007), has no such restriction and, consequently, includes in its pages intrastate conflicts (Haiti, for example) that do not qualify by the Sambanis definition as a civil war. The same is true of *World Conflicts and Confrontations*, the four-volume reference work (Salem Pr., 2000) edited by Charles F. Bahmueller for middle and high school students.

Civil Wars of the World: Major Conflicts Since World War II is highly recommended for college and university libraries and for special libraries associated with political and military establishments. It also is available as an electronic book.—Sally Moffitt, *Bibliographer, History, Political Science, Philosophy, African-American Studies, Asian Studies, Judaic Studies, Latin American Studies, Women's Studies, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*

Drugs and Sports. By Fred C. Pampel. Library in a Book Set. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 288p. alkaline \$45 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6575-2).

Drugs and other performance enhancers have been used for hundreds of years by athletes, contributing to the downfall and even death of many fine athletes. This newest book in the

Library in a Book series is an excellent source for undergraduate research on this very popular topic in high schools and colleges. Providing an easy-to-read overview that emphasizes the seriousness of the problem in sports, this book details how doping has affected not only famous athletes, such as bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger, but also high school students looking to outperform their friends and rivals. Starting with an overview, then continuing with a chronology of important events, this source provides a wealth of information for students to draw from for a research paper on any sport. A glossary of terms, biographical listing, a fully annotated bibliography, and a complete index make it simple for the novice researcher to find information. Organizations and agencies are listed for further research, and helpful appendixes include such things as the Anabolic Steroid Act of 1990 and 2004 and a research report on anabolic steroids.

There are many books, such as Gail B. Stewart's *Drugs and Sports* (Greenhaven, 1998) and Elizabeth Ann Nelson's *Coping with Drugs and Sports* (Rosen Publ. Group, 1999), that are written with a young audience in mind, but Pampel's book is the best place to start on this topic. As with all books in the Library in a Book series, this addition will be useful in high school, public, and academic libraries.—Diane J. Turner, *Senior Instructor, Auraria Library, University of Colorado at Denver*

Encyclopedia of American Folklore. By Linda S. Watts. Facts On File Library of American Literature Set. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 480p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 0-8160-5699-4).

Encyclopedia of American Folklore is part of the Facts On File Library of American Literature series, which also includes American drama, short stories, and the Harlem Renaissance. This encyclopedia is a general treatment geared toward multiple audiences, including ninth- through twelfth-grade students and teachers, college students, librarians, folklorists, storytellers, and general readers.

American folklore is "transmitted traditional beliefs, myths, tales, language, practices and customs of the people of the United States whether that transmission takes place orally, observationally or through writing about such lore" (vii). Folklore is still clearly relevant for today and exists even if we do not specifically name it so. In her "Why Study Folklore?" introduction, the author wisely focuses on the tragic events on September 11, 2001. The makeshift memorials, recountings from survivors, and other representations are examples of modern folklore.

The emphasis in this work is on verbal (narrative) folklore. The main body of the book consists of alphabetically arranged entries. Entry length is naturally limited due to the general nature of the treatment and space considerations for a one-volume work. There are ample "see" references for synonyms and closely related concepts in the book itself. There is a generous back-of-the-book index. Other sections include "Starting Points for Researching American Folklore," which outlines steps for research by explaining question for-

mulation, use of the library, and accessing the existing body of folklore knowledge; “Selected Bibliography of American Folklore,” which arranges resource types for further research into categories (dictionaries, encyclopedias, guides and directories, and so on); and “Entries by Category,” which breaks down “folklore inquiry” into specific areas, including folk heroes and legendary figures, cultural groups, and more.

One slight weakness in readability occurs within the entries themselves. It would be easier for reading and scanning if important names and terms within the passages were in bold face. For instance, in the passage for the term “Jamaican-American Folklore,” it would be helpful to have “Bob Marley” bold, even though Marley is not a separate entry.

There are other weaknesses as well. After each entry, there is a list for further reading that includes books, journal articles, and, occasionally, Web sites. The value of Web addresses printed in a book that could sit on the shelves for years is questionable. Additionally, the books and articles may not be easy for ninth- to twelfth-grade students to access.

The Internet often is a better source of information than a print volume. For example, on the topic of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the official Web site (www.aidsquilt.org) is very stable and gives a full history, current links, and up-to-date information that is beyond the scope of *Encyclopedia of American Folklore*.

At best, this book seems to be a good starting point for students and general researchers. The bibliographies could be of some value to more serious researchers. It would be most useful in academic environments where folklore is part of the curriculum; otherwise, authoritative, current Web sites or database resources may be better for more involved research.—*Theresa Kelly Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Towson, Maryland*

Encyclopedia of Beat Literature. Ed. by Kurt Hemmer. Literary Movements Set. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 416p. alkaline \$75 (ISBN 0-8160-4297-7).

Part of the Facts On File Literary Movements series, *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature* attempts to differentiate itself from other books about the movement by focusing on the literary aesthetics of the beat culture rather than on personalities and other aspects. Editor Kurt Hemmer has chosen what he considers the most innovative works associated with the Beats and provided synopses and critical analyses of the literature as well as the background of the pieces and how they were received. The entries devoted to the writers, although they include biographical information, do not focus heavily on the writers as iconic figures, but rather on their writing. A “Selected Bibliography of Major Works written by Beat Writers” is included.

The “hundreds of entries” mentioned on the Facts On File Web site (www.factsonfile.com) is closer to 175 entries, ranging from about half a page to more than five for the entry on Jack Kerouac. The alphabetically arranged, signed entries include bibliographies and cross-references to other entries.

The book also includes a bibliography of secondary sources (in addition to the bibliographies following each entry) and a chronology of the beat movement.

Compared to the three-volume *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion* (Thomson Gale, 2003), Hemmer’s one-volume book is, in some ways, less comprehensive. Although *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion* does not offer entries devoted to individual pieces of literature, the entries devoted to authors do include sections on individual works. In addition, although the two works contain some overlapping material, Hemmer’s encyclopedia offers useful information about a growing area of research. Hemmer’s book also includes entries on some works by such writers as Bob Dylan and Hunter S. Thompson, who were influenced by the aesthetics of the movement but are not traditionally included in it. In this way, Hemmer’s *Encyclopedia of Beat Literature* will complement *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion*.

Encyclopedia of Beat Literature is recommended for public, academic, and high school libraries.—*Sigrid Kelsey, Associate Librarian, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge*

Encyclopedia of Catholicism. Ed. by Frank K. Flinn. Encyclopedia of World Religions. New York: Facts On File, 2007. 704p. acid free \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5455-8).

In the larger Encyclopedia of World Religions series, Christianity is the only major religion divided into two volumes, one for Catholicism and one for Protestantism. This decision allows for a greater coverage of these two major Christian traditions. However, the decision leaves one to wonder why such a decision was applied to Christianity and not to other religions. Why, for example, is Islam not similarly divided into volumes for Sunnite and Shiite traditions? This is never explained in the preface. This bifurcation of Christian tradition between Catholic and Protestant also effectively diminishes the rich traditions of Eastern Orthodox and Coptic Christianity in the larger discussion. Articles in *Encyclopedia of Catholicism* deal with these traditions, but the vantage point is distinctly Roman Catholic.

Encyclopedia of Catholicism is perhaps most striking for being current without losing sight of the larger historical tradition. The work includes contemporary theological discussions, such as Inerrancy of Scripture, alongside early Christian controversies, such as Docetism. There are numerous biographical entries for living persons, such as Charles Curran, alongside historical figures, such as Ambrose of Milan. Editor Frank Flinn has done an outstanding job of including female subjects, such as Rosemary Radford Ruether and Teresa of Avila. Flinn also presents Catholicism from a more global perspective, with entries such as the Nagasaki Martyrs and Africa.

Flinn evidently strives for objectivity. He does not sugar-coat discussions about such topics as the crusade against the Albigensians or the recent pedophilia scandal. Flinn also suspends judgment about claims of miracles and the like, taking a tone that is neither skeptical nor enthusiastic.