

## SOURCES

and rewards students who follow a particular path through the encyclopedia with many opportunities to focus their research.

Other encyclopedias, such as editor George C. Kohn's *Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence* (Facts on File, 2007) and Joseph P. Byrne's own recent *Encyclopedia of Pestilence, Pandemics and Plagues* (Greenwood, 2008) treat the plague epidemics from a much broader perspective, devoting a handful of isolated entries to the subject within the overall history of global epidemics.

Several other reference works focus on the Black Death and its impact on the medieval world, but are either anthologies of primary documents, such as John Aberth's *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348–1350: A Brief History with Documents* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005) or multidisciplinary collections of essays, such as editor Jordan McMullin's *The Black Death* (Greenhaven, 2003). Author Byrne has himself produced several previous works on the subject, including a monograph, *The Black Death* (Greenwood, 2004), and a twelve chapter reference work, *Daily Life During the Black Death* (Greenwood, 2006), which views the plague through the lens of various medieval settings such as medical schools, pest houses, and the streets of Europe.

*Encyclopedia of the Black Death* is currently the only encyclopedia of its kind. It is accessible and engaging, and serves as a fine entry point into a rich body of primary works and secondary scholarship. This work is recommended primarily for high school and undergraduate reference collections.—David W. Wilson, *Reference Librarian, Austin Community College, Austin, Texas*

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***Ethnic Groups of Europe: An Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by Jeffrey E. Cole. *Ethnic Groups of the World*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2011. 442 pages. Acid free \$85 (ISBN 978-1-59884-302-6). Ebook available (978-1-59884-303-3), call for pricing.

The first volume of ABC-CLIO's five-volume series on the world's ethnic groups, *Ethnic Groups of Europe: An Encyclopedia* contains descriptions of 104 ethnic and national groups in Europe. Adopting an inclusive definition of ethnic group, this work includes indigenous peoples without states (Saami), dispersed minorities (Roma), distinctive regional populations (Bretons), and nationalities (Danes). Excluded are populations not considered ethnically (San Marinians) or linguistically (Bavarians) distinct.

To be included in this work, according to the "Methodology" section, ethnic groups have to have both a historic homeland and a continued presence in Europe, and have a minimum population of 20,000. This latter criterion allows for adherence to publisher guidelines for approximately one hundred entries.

The twelve-page "Introduction" discusses ethnicity, nationalities, and nation-states in the context of Europe, and reviews historic and current trends, including the immigration of non-European populations.

Arranged alphabetically from "Abazin" to "Welsh," the signed entries range from a single page for "Manx" to eight pages for "Russians," with an average of four to five pages. Entries contain "a capsule summary of a group followed by an account of origins and early history, cultural life, and recent developments" (vii). The individual essays are interesting and accessible to the general reader. One learns of the "hard bread" and "soft bread" cultural boundary in Finland and of the nearly 150 liters of alcoholic beverages consumed yearly by the average German. For readers not accustomed to thinking of Georgia and portions of the Russian Caucasus as Europe, this volume will be a useful primer on groups such as the Abkhaz and Ossetians, whose political struggles continue.

Entries conclude with a list of one or more sources for further reading, primarily in English; however, four works listed in the eight-item bibliography for "Slovenians" are in Slovenian. Given that the series is geared to "a general readership in terms of language and presentation" (x), the inclusion of suggested readings in Croatian, Slovenian, and Turkish seems to be a contradiction.

Additional information can be found in sidebars, which are also signed. While primarily on ethnic groups such as "Irish Tinkers/Travelers" and "Turks in Central and Western Europe," sidebars also address topics as varied as "Srebrenica" and the "European Union Policy on Minorities."

The occasional stock photo depicts, for example, Cossacks on horseback and a Swedish girl celebrating St. Lucia Day, as well as, inexplicably, Ashkenazim in Jerusalem. A better use of illustrations would have been the inclusion of maps, especially for Russia and Georgia, where the reader may be unfamiliar with the Abazin, Abkhaz, Adyghs, Ajarians, and Avars.

This work concludes with a contributor list of eighty-nine international scholars, a geographical index, and an adequate but no-frills general index with few "See also" references.

There is overlap with Carl Waldman and Catherine Mason's two-volume *Encyclopedia of European Peoples* (Facts on File, 2006), which contains more than 600 entries (one paragraph to several pages in length) covering European peoples from ancient times (Vikings) to the present (Norwegians: nationality). Useful features of the Waldman and Mason work include timelines, maps, a list of alternative names, and language tables; none of which appear in the Cole volume. For extensive essays on Rus and Slavs as well as contemporary ethnic groups, Waldman and Mason would be the logical choice. For more up-to-date coverage of ethnic groups continuously occupying Europe, Cole would be the more useful. Unlike *Ethnic Groups of Europe: An Encyclopedia*, the *Encyclopedia of European Peoples* excludes Georgia, suggesting that the two works define Europe differently.

*Ethnic Groups of Europe: An Encyclopedia* is recommended for public and academic libraries, especially those that lack *Encyclopedia of European Peoples*.—J. Christina Smith, *Anthropology/Sociology Bibliographer, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts*