camel, groundnut stew, or fresh anchovies with escarole. A list of further reading concludes each entry. These range from a few citations to sometimes substantial lists. Black and white photos appear frequently throughout the volumes.

The volume suffers from its lack of cross-referencing and an unwieldy index. A full index is included at the end of each volume that works more as a glorified table of contents than as a true index. Entries are indexed largely by country or region name with the sub-sections broken out by page number. Recipes are also included in the index, but the index does little to augment or expand the reader’s access to the work. The index also is also difficult to read, as the entries wrap, challenging the eye. Despite these drawbacks, this title represents a unique and important addition to the reference literature. It is highly recommended for public and academic libraries.—Kenneth Burhanna, Reference Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio


The eight-volume International Encyclopedia of Political Science from Sage Reference is a set without any directly comparable works. A large part of that fact may be explained by its nominally contradictory assessment of a subject area more traditionally associated with North American educational institutions within an international context. While “political science” has an established history in the humanities departments of universities all across the United States, one is still more likely to encounter departments of “political philosophy” or “political economy” or just plain old “politics” around most of the rest of the globe. Nonetheless, this work was developed in partnership with the International Political Science Association which was itself born out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its calculated push to further develop the social science-related disciplines in the immediate post-World War II era. As such, its editors Badie, Berg-Schlosser, and Morlino represent prestigious universities in France, Germany, and Italy respectively and the list of contributors exceeds 600 individuals representing the educational institutions of over 40 nations (but with a decided tilt towards the United States and the countries of the European Union).

This work as reviewed here in its tangible print format is comprised of eight hard bound volumes of a quality and attractiveness to be expected of Sage. Beyond the lists of entries and contributors, it also includes such standard tools as an index and a “Reader’s Guide,” organizing more narrow topics within broader concepts of political science, which helps to make the set as appropriate for undergraduate students and the general public as for those individuals with graduate level or otherwise advanced familiarity of the discipline. Both the list of entries and the index are mercifully reprinted in each volume to help sate the impulse towards the instantaneous search capability of the modern technological era. The main entries are alphabetical, signed by the authors and include “see also” references along with extensive bibliographies for “further reading.” The list of entries heavily emphasizes concepts (from anarchism to Zionism) and their associated terminology over individual figures except in cases where concepts are so named for particular individuals (for example, Marxism or Maoism) and in cases where the impact of those individuals is deeply felt at the theoretical level. But there are some puzzlingly inconsistent choices (yes to solo entries on Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Kant, but none for Aristotle, Montesquieu or Burke). The first volume also contains an invaluable “Introduction to Political Science” article penned by the editors which summarizes the historical evolution of the discipline and lays out its general parameters as defined by the IPSA. As can be reasonably expected from an organization so intricately tied up with the United Nations, those parameters fall squarely within the conventional mainstream academic study and analysis of political science to the point of nearly excluding the likes of an Ayn Rand on the right or a Frantz Fanon on the left. Still, those who wish to gain insight to the basics of the discipline regardless of whether they agree with its perspective will find much to like here.

In a world where even Encyclopedia Britannica has finally called “uncle” on its print component, the ebook version is likely preferable to the undergraduate audience which will find the greatest utility in this set.—Chris G. Hudson, Serials & Government Documents Librarian, MacMillan Law Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia


World Terrorism: An Encyclopedia of Political Violence from Ancient Times to the Post–9/11 Era attempts to cover political violence throughout a wide swath of human history. As noted in the introduction, this presents challenges that range from the roots of the term terrorism in the French Revolution to the difficulty of categorizing state and non-state violence under the broad definition of terrorism. These challenges are addressed well in the collection’s introductory set of essays that focus on definitions, types, and categories of political violence. Taking a wide angle view, the work adopts the following definition of terrorism: “the use of violence or the threat of violence to effect political change through fear” (xxi). This large scope becomes problematic when attempting to include events that took place prior to the 20th Century. There are only about a dozen entries spanning from ancient times to 1900, resulting in very broad coverage of regions and historical events in this large span of time. Taken as a whole, however, the work achieves the aim of broad historical, geographic, and topical coverage of terrorism even though the coverage focuses mostly on twentieth and twenty-first century events.
The encyclopedia is organized in three volumes. Volume one focuses on a typology of terrorism and its historical roots through World War II. Volume two focuses on modern terrorism and the response to the attacks on September 11, 2001. Volume three covers tactics and aims of modern terrorism. In addition to a standard index the work includes such useful items as a directory of terrorist groups, chronology of events from 1945, and a fairly extensive twenty-two page bibliography.

The work is not unique among encyclopedias that focus on terrorism and political violence. Recently, an updated version of The Sage Encyclopedia of Terrorism (Sage, 2011) was published. Although there is much overlap between these works, the Sage encyclopedia focuses much more on terrorism as a modern phenomenon. This editorial difference results in entries in the World Terrorism encyclopedia that provide more in-depth historical context to more recent events. For example, the World Terrorism entry on Uighur nationalism in Northwest China provides historical context dating back to the Han dynasty and moving through 19th and 20th Centuries. The Sage encyclopedia on the other hand focuses entirely on the current manifestations of Uighur nationalism as they have occurred since the mid-twentieth century. There is also Combs’ Encyclopedia of Terrorism (Facts on File, 2007), which, like its Sage counterpart, focuses on modern terrorism.

This work is recommended for public and academic libraries. Libraries that are only purchasing one encyclopedia on this topic would be advised to consider the depth of historical coverage in the work and throughout the entries. —Steven W. Witt, Associate Professor of Library Administration, Head, International and Area Studies Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign


It is hard to believe that a work like this has not existed before. What Spencer Tucker has accomplished with his latest effort is to assemble information on the subject of United States Naval history during World War II in a two-volume set encyclopedia.

What sets this encyclopedia apart from all others that cover World War II and the Navy is that it is the only work of its kind to focus specifically on all characteristics of naval service during World War II. Similar items focus on specific types of vessels such as: Cruisers of World War Two: An International Encyclopedia (M. J. Whitley, 2004), Destroyers of World War II: An International Encyclopedia (M. J. Whitley, 2000), and American Cruisers of WW II: A Pictorial History (Steve Ewing, 1985). While Fight for the Sea: Naval Adventures from World War II (Turner, 2002) covers the British Royal Navy perspective.

A brief review of the A–Z entries shows that the encyclopedia consists of influential people, places, ships, battles, operations, campaigns, and miscellaneous entries. An example of the entries include the following: “Adriaic, Naval Operations in,” “Bismarck, Sortie and Sinking of (March 2-5, 1943),” “Iwo Jima, Invasion of,” “Nimitz, Chester William (1885-1966),” “Hospital Ships,” “Human Torpedoes,” “Gibraltar,” and “Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES).”

In addition to the A-Z entries, the book includes the following sections: “Chronology of Principal Events of World War II at Sea” and “Glossary of World War II Naval Terms.” The chronology consists of seven pages of brief descriptions of events beginning with September 1, 1939 when German forces invaded Poland and ending with September 2, 1945 on V-J Day (victory over Japan). The glossary explains military acronyms and terminology.

The entries are listed alphabetically. A categorical index is included for finding information about specific subheadings such as individuals; events; groups and organizations; places; ideas and movements; technologies, agreements, objects, and artifacts; and a miscellaneous category.

One drawback is that while there are several black and white photographs, there are no illustrations or maps included. Everyone from students searching for basic information to military buffs and historians looking for more in-depth information will benefit from this resource. Colleges, universities, public libraries, and high school libraries could all benefit from this work.—Rachael Elrod, Reference/Instruction Librarian, The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina