

Army in China lend a personal perspective to his scholarship. The “Contributor’s List” reveals that the authors all have solid academic and/or scholarly credentials.

Well researched, clearly written, and presenting a unique topic, this work is strongly recommended for purchase by larger public libraries and academic institutions supporting geography or history curricula, as well as China or Asia studies.—*Michael F. Bemis, Independent Reference Book Reviewer*

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***Cold War: The Essential Reference Guide.*** Ed. by James R. Arnold and Roberta Wiener. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 443 pages, acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-61069-003-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-004-1), call for pricing.

One of the ironies of modern history is that the “Cold War” was much hotter than the 24-hour-news-covered conflicts since that time. Millions of people died in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan and the many smaller clashes of the East-West stare down.

A new book about the Cold War is welcome if for no other reason than to put history in perspective since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. This single volume’s 85 interesting entries tell about a time when many world leaders rejected capitalism, and the possibility of nuclear war destroying civilization seemed much more likely than it does today. The Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Airlift, the nuclear arms race, Josef Stalin, and other important subjects are included.

The guide suffers somewhat, however, in having so few entries, although it should be noted that the title does include the word “Essential.” Among the subjects not directly addressed are Iran, Nicaragua, Chile, Vo Nguyen Giap, Douglas McArthur, and Pope John Paul II. The index does help readers find references to many subjects that do not have their own entries. One of those is the Soviet Union itself, which has many indexed references, but none of them point to the decisive events of 1989-1991.

Besides the alphabetically organized entries about key individuals and events, there are 17 primary source documents and several essays, including one about whether Ronald Reagan brought the Cold War to its peaceful ending. A bibliography and a chronology are included, the latter of which does provide a terse review of those final years.

By comparison, the five-volume *Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008), edited by Spencer C. Tucker, has roughly 1,300 entries, scores of maps and 171 primary documents. Another work with which librarians may be familiar is *The Cold War, 1945–1991: Leaders and Other Important Figures* (Gale Research, 1992), edited by Benjamin Frankel. It focuses mainly on biographies but also has an extensive Cold War chronology. Having been published right after the Cold War ended, it no longer has the advantage of historical perspective.

Libraries that already own the Tucker encyclopedia probably do not need the Arnold and Wiener guide, but libraries that do not own Tucker and have tight space and tight

budgets should find the new book useful. It’s also worth having to update the Frankel work.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

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***Daily Life Through American History in Primary Documents.*** Ed. by Randall M. Miller, Theodore J. Zeman, Francis J. Sicius, and Jolyon P. Girard. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2012. 4 vols. acid free \$399 (ISBN 978-1-61069-032-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-033-1), call for pricing.

Edited by four history professors, this multi-volume set purports to cover the grand sweep of American History, from the establishment of the Jamestown colony to the present. Yet the stated intent is not to give a grand, overall view, but rather a sharply focused one on “the daily habits and doings of people” (xiii). The primary resources used to present this angle are the usual suspects: letters, diaries, memoirs, newspaper articles, and speeches. There is great diversity in the voices heard here, including colonizers and colonized, immigrants and natives, slaves and free people, young and old, men and women. The four volumes are arranged chronologically, and within each volume there are chapters on domestic, economic, intellectual, political, recreational, and religious life. These chapters all contain a few pages of helpful background information before the excerpts from the featured primary sources. These source selections vary in size, but tend to be about a page in length, and are followed by a bibliographic citation for readers who may wish to further pursue investigation. Each individual volume also contains a “Historical Overview” of 15-20 pages that is well-written, accessible, and provides an excellent introduction to the time period covered.

A real strength of this set is the broad range of people, events, places, and time periods covered. Entries are quite entertaining as well as diverse. For example, the first volume, *The Colonial Period through the American Revolution*, contains “Dancing and Racial Mixing in the Taverns,” “Benjamin Franklin, ‘The Morals of Chess,’” “Arguments over a Smallpox Vaccine,” and “An Essay on Monarchy and Liberty.” The supplementary chronology in each volume provides a helpful context in which to place these wide-ranging entries. While there is no cumulative bibliography anywhere in the set, there is a rather extensive list of “Suggested Readings” at the end of Volume Four.

Although there are no glaring deficiencies with this set, some entries do appear in unexpected places. For example, while one would expect to find entries on cornhusking and sleigh rides in the chapter on “Recreational Life,” the entry on “A Public Execution of Pirates” in the same section is surprising. Also, the inclusion of some entries, such as the “Star Spangled Banner” and “Yankee Doodle” seems unnecessary. The sources themselves in this case are simply the words to these well-known songs, and the complete lyrics of each are easily accessible via an Internet search. The provided background material offered on these entries is scant and does not justify their inclusion here. Also, there are no cross references,

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## SOURCES

though each volume is individually indexed, allowing users to quickly see which pages mention certain individuals or ideas. The problem is that sometimes the entire entry on an item in the index is not mentioned. For example, users looking up the aforementioned “Star Spangled Banner” and “Yankee Doodle” in the index will only find a one-page reference for each to the volume’s introductory “Historical Overview,” where a brief reference is made to each song, but no reference to the full entries. If users miss these entries in the table of contents—entirely possible for reasons mentioned earlier—they may never find them. Despite these relatively minor issues, this is an excellent set overall for researchers looking for a sampling of primary resources in American History, and would be appropriate for public, academic, and high school libraries.—Mike Tosko, *Information Literacy Coordinator, The University of Akron, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of Global Religion.*** Ed. by Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Reference, 2011. 2 vols. \$325 (ISBN 978-0-7619-2729-7). Ebook available (978-1-4129-9789-8), \$400.00.

On any given day, news reports from around the world often focus on religion or the effects of religion on people, countries, and events. These range from the “good,” such as religious groups rallying to help others who have been afflicted by natural disasters, to those that are “bad,” such as murder done in the name of God. Thus, understanding the various religions of the world is required in order to make sense of many international events. This encyclopedia seeks to become “a standard reference work for the emerging field of global religion” (xxxvii). The editors have compiled over 750 entries by over 370 contributors that attempt to place the role of religion in its global context. There are articles on specific religions, religious ideas and practices, and individuals. In addition and most importantly, there are articles for every country on the face of the earth which examine religion and its effects on those countries.

As a whole, this encyclopedia fulfills its goals of illuminating the field of global religion, as can be seen by the classification of the articles in the “Reader’s Guide.” The articles are classed into nine major categories: biographies; concepts and theories; countries, cities, and regions; events and historical topics; influential texts and figures of veneration; movements and organizations; religion in public life; religious traditions and groups; and social issues and global trends. The editors, however, do not give an explicit rationale for the inclusion of specific articles. This is evident especially in both the biography and the influential texts and figures of veneration categories. Among the biographies included are figures such as Asoka (the great emperor of ancient India famed for his support of Buddhism), Mircea Eliade (the great scholar of religion), and Thich Nhat Hanh (the well-known Buddhist and teacher of mindfulness meditation). Yet also included are Mohammad Atta (one of the September 11 hijackers), Eric Robert Rudolph (the Atlanta Olympic bomber), and Timothy

McVeigh (the Oklahoma City Federal Building bomber). The inclusion of the latter individuals and their importance to global religion is questionable. The class of influential texts and figures of veneration includes only 24 entries, the fewest of any of the categories. Although the religious texts of most religions do not receive an entry, there are entries for the Gospel of Judas and the Gospel of Thomas, which, while invaluable, are of interest primarily to scholars of early Christianity and have not had significant impact on global religious practices. The articles on the Bible, the Qur’an, and the Veda themselves are very short (two to three pages each), which belies their importance to their respective religious traditions and to their impact upon the world. Within the religions covered, there are entries for Anglicans, Mormons (although the index includes an entry for “Church of Latter-Day Saints” instead of the official name “Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints”), but no entries for groups such as Presbyterians, Baptists, or Methodists. Surprisingly, however, there are good entries for atheism and neo-paganism.

Although several shortcomings are noted with this set, the editors and contributors do break new ground, and the resulting work will fulfill the editors’ goal of becoming a standard reference work for the expanding field of global religion. Many of the topics are covered well, sometimes even better, in works such as the *Encyclopedia of Religion* (Macmillan Reference, 2005) and the *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices* (Gale, 2006), but the emphasis of this work on the religious environments of the countries of the world make it unique. This encyclopedia will be a helpful purchase for those academic libraries that support programs in religion, international studies, anthropology, sociology, and area studies. In addition, it should be purchased by all seminary libraries.—Gregory A. Crawford, PhD, *Director, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

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***Encyclopedia of School Crime and Violence.*** Ed. by Laura L. Finley. Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-CLIO, 2011. 2 vols. \$173. (ISBN 978-0-313-36238-5). Ebook available (ISBN 978-0-313-36239-2) call for pricing.

An unfortunate fact of life for educators and prospective college, elementary, and secondary teachers in the United States is the pandemic of violence in our nation’s schools. Since the massive media attention surrounding the shootings at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech, administrators and teachers have met with increasing urgency from concerned parents and public officials over the measures they are adopting to reduce the level of violence in their schools. While studies have shown that school crime is declining, the prevalence of violence in US schools remains a difficult problem to solve because it ordinarily comes in more insidious and mundane forms than high-profile shooting rampages: bullying, theft, vandalism, sexual harassment, cyber-offenses, dating violence, fighting, race-related offenses, verbal abuse, gang intimidation, and drug and alcohol abuse, to name a few. The problem, moreover, affects everyone, not just the