
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*

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*

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

immediate victim. Teachers quit, students don't show up, classrooms are disrupted, activities are reduced and cut, and the school's reputation suffers. More frightening is the frequency of homicide, serious assaults, and sexual assault. An unhappy daily routine at many schools is students' having to deal with lockdown, security checks, metal detectors, and guards and police officers. School violence and crime, moreover, is a global phenomenon that affects many different schools at every socioeconomic level.

A welcome addition to the literature, therefore, is this unique and comprehensive two-volume offering from reference leader ABC-CLIO. Edited by Laura L. Finley, an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida, the encyclopedia is a convenient one-stop reference for criminal justice, sociology, education, and law enforcement students. It will undoubtedly serve as a timely and important source for researchers; for school administrators, school board members, teachers and parents; for law-enforcement and public-service officials; and for concerned general readers.

Organized alphabetically, the encyclopedia covers a wide variety of issues including specific incidents, theories, preventive measures, important agencies, international cases, and significant people in eighty entries written by an impressive list of contributing scholars and subject-specialists. Articles are informative and engaging and end with bibliographies for further reading. The encyclopedia provides high-quality photographs that accompany the text and a number of user-friendly features including an alphabetical list of entries; appendices featuring discussion questions, primary source documents, and Supreme Court decisions; a comprehensive bibliography including films; and a good general index with cross references. Produced on high-quality acid free paper and sturdily bound, the encyclopedia should hold up for many years. It should be noted, in addition, that the encyclopedia is available from ABC-CLIO in an electronic version.

Finley's work is unrivaled in its scope and depth as a reference encyclopedia. Nonetheless, a number of current sources will serve as valuable companion volumes for any collection serving interested readers. William L. Turk's *School Crime and Policing* (Prentice Hall, 2003) is a hands-on treatment of school violence as it relates to the broader subject of juvenile crime. It is written from a criminal justice perspective and offers a number of preventive strategies and guidelines for handling criminal situations, suggestions for providing a safe school environment, and details of the school crime phenomenon. *Violence in America's Schools: Understanding, Prevention, and Responses* (R&L Education, 2009) by psychologist Murray R. Thomas, seeks to understand the foundations of school violence and offers methods for coping with a variety of violence issues. Twemlow and Sacco's *Preventing Bullying and School Violence* (American Psychiatric Publishers, 2011) is a new examination of school violence from a psychological perspective. The book is written by two prominent psychiatrists specializing in bully prevention and research. The book offers a number of pragmatic solutions including an

understanding of the bullying process, the role of community, identifying at-risk children, therapeutic mentoring, the concept of wellness, and other intervention strategies. There are, in addition, a number of practical guidebooks like this that are specific to bullying and harassment.

Finley's work, however, stands alone, and as such, is highly recommended for all academic, public, and school libraries.—*Vincent P. Tinerella, Library Director, University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton*

Encyclopedia of the Black Death. By Joseph P. Byrne. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 429 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-59884253-1). Ebook available (978-1-59884-254-8), call for pricing.

For more than 1400 years, outbreaks and epidemics of plague caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* and carried by flea-infested rats swept the western world via its trade routes, decimating populations and transforming all areas of society and culture. *Encyclopedia of the Black Death* is the first reference work to provide thorough A-to-Z coverage of the medieval world's most devastating cycle of plague, the Second Pandemic, which began with Europe's Black Death of 1347-1352, and continued to make the rounds in Europe and the Ottoman world until about 1840.

The encyclopedia is composed of some 300 entries, which trace an interdisciplinary path through the devastation of the Black Death and its impact on global history, scientific understanding, politics, religion, and literature. Byrne's coverage of the period is wide-ranging and eclectic, embracing key outbreaks in cities like Marseilles and Florence, medieval hygiene and medical practices, contemporary religious explanations in the Islamic world, alarming cultural responses such as flagellation and dancing mania, as well as the impact of plague on the grave digging profession. What emerges is a remarkably accessible and compulsively readable distillation of a complex subject. Byrne has a knack for turning up the odd piece of trivia that perfectly punctuates his brief essays. Did you know, for instance, that the diarist Samuel Pepys bought a wig made from human hair as the plague swept through London in the 1660s, but, thankfully, thought twice about actually wearing it? (83)

Entries range in length from one to three two-column pages, and are supplemented by brief bibliographies and a strong selection of "see also" cross-references. The work also includes illustrations, a glossary, a 30-page bibliography, and a timeline of the world's three major plague pandemics. One of the true strengths of the work is its "List of Entries by Broad Topic" which immediately precedes the alphabetical entries and does a fine job of complementing the index. Here Byrne arranges his entries according to ten major subjects, including "Art and Literature," "Coping Methods," "Groups," "Medieval and Early Modern Medicine," and "Religion," which collectively add a much-needed framework to the entire work. The overall approach is ideal for an audience of high school and college students, since it invites browsing