

and common themes among the groups. These include the “Asian American Movement (AAM),” “Asian Music in America,” “Asian Religions and Religious Practices in America,” and “Political Participation.” All the articles conclude with cross-references and a bibliography of print and online sources for further reading.

A major portion of this encyclopedia contains biographical entries about famous people like Connie Chung, Jhumpa Lahiri, Bruce Lee, Maya Lin, Yo-Yo Ma, and Tiger Woods. However, many of the biographies are about lesser known Asian American artists, athletes, historians, politicians, scientists, and writers. This encyclopedia would be much more functional if it had biographical, geographical, and topical indexes or finders because unless you know the name of the individual there is no way of discovering these prominent figures.

A great supplement to this source is Huping Ling and Allan Austin’s two-volume work *Asian American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* (Sharpe Reference, 2010). It incorporates information about many of the same Asian American groups and is organized alphabetically by group ethnicity. There is a fair amount of overlap between the two sources, yet Ling and Austin’s encyclopedia could be useful in filling in some of the gaps with the Hmong, Malaysian, Singaporean, and Sri Lankan Americans. Both encyclopedias also chose to include information about the native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander people although Zhao and Park state, “To lump Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders together with Asian Americans is to marginalize these groups of people” (xix).

Overall, the editors of *Asian Americans: An Encyclopedia of Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political History* did an outstanding job compiling this reliable and significant work, and it is highly recommended for both academic and public libraries.—Megan Coder, Associate Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz

Culture Wars in America: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Viewpoints and Voices. 2nd ed. Ed. by Roger Chapman and James Ciment. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2013. 3 vols. alkaline \$349 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-8302-1). E-book available, call for pricing.

Culture Wars in America is a three-volume reference set with a stellar list of contributors from well-known universities. This is the second edition, updated for the Obama years. Broadly speaking, the overall content surrounds politics, education, law, various issues in popular culture, current and historical ideologies and movements, the media, and social and moral issues.

There has always been an attempt to define the social and political issues of American society. These books attempt to define these “culture wars” without “a labeling and classification of issues that suggests a moralistic either/or sensibility. Presenting players as pairs of polar opposites oversimplifies issues and fails to acknowledge their nuances and complexities” (xxvii).

The title and introduction are needlessly esoteric. The editors should have been more specific about the book’s intended purpose in the introduction. The meaning of “Culture Wars in America” may not be apparent to the average high school or early undergraduate student.

Information is easy to find because of the book’s well-organized front matter. A concise contents list by page number is in each volume. The “Topic Finder” is a hierarchical arrangement of topics within the three volumes. Volume One and volume 2 are arranged with alphabetized entries from A to Z. The entries are readable and appropriate for high school and college students. Volume 3 is Documents, which includes speeches, legal briefs, testimonies and official statements on topics like health care, climate change, and abortion. These items are timely and well chosen from significant dates in the history of the issue. The useful “Further Reading” lists at the end of each entry are a list of relevant sources, mostly books and articles.

These books will need to be replaced with a new edition in 3–4 years. At this price point, a combination of other resources, especially websites, may be a better bet. For example, the federal government’s website usa.gov, organizational, and news websites provide much of this information in a very timely way at the same depth. Many opposing viewpoint databases serve a similar purpose as this set of books.—Terry Darr, Library Director, Loyola Blakefield in Towson, Maryland

Encyclopedia of Cultivated Plants: From Acacia to Zinnia. Ed. by Christopher Cumo. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 3 vols. acid free \$294 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-774-1). E-book available (978-1-59884-775-8), call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of Cultivated Plants: From Acacia to Zinnia* is an interdisciplinary exploration of the various relationships between plants and people that have arisen over the course of human history. As civilizations discovered desirable properties of their local flora, they developed techniques to improve these properties in successive generations of the plants while increasing and controlling the products yielded at harvest. Aesthetic, culinary, and medicinal properties of plants have also made them a focus of art, literature, and music.

Cultivated varieties, including crops grown for food, ornamental plants cultivated for aesthetic qualities, and trees harvested for timber, are listed by common name. A few entries are cross-listed when there is some variation in the common name, and the index provides additional coverage. Entries typically describe the botanical features of the plant, its history as a cultivar, the specific attributes of the plant that affect how and why it is grown and used, and its vulnerability to disease and pests. The entries vary considerably in focus: for example, “tobacco” describes the plant’s interaction with human health and the world economy, while “rosebush” focuses on the symbolism roses have had for different cultures. This is a merit for an interdisciplinary work because it allows the reader to understand the most distinctive characteristics of a given plant, which may emanate from the study of botany,

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anthropology, culinary arts, medicine, and even economics.

As with any encyclopedia, both clarity and context are at times sacrificed in the service of communicating complex information in a restricted space. In some cases the writing is poorly organized, jumping from topic to topic. The further reading suggestions vary in both quantity and focus, with some entries pointing to introductory works, including websites that may lack rigorous provenance, and others pointing to complex technical works. The bibliography is comprehensive and would be helpful for identifying works that present additional context for the information in the entries.

The chief value of this work is its presentation of a cross-section of content typically found in gardening, agricultural, and culinary reference volumes, enhanced by information from other fields of study. This work would be particularly useful to high school and college students looking for introductory information related to the many ways in which humans interact with plants, including food, shelter, medicine, art, occupation, and recreation. It is also a delightful way to discover how plants connect disciplines and may be of interest to writers, historians, and others outside the study of botany.—*Shari Laster, Government Documents/Reference Librarian, University Libraries, The University of Akron, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence and Abuse. Ed. by Laura L. Finley. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2013. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-001-0). E-book available (978-1-61069-002-7), call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence and Abuse* from ABC-CLIO is a traditional two-volume set with twin aims of informing on and promoting awareness of a pervasive problem still too often relegated to niche status. Editor Laura L. Finley, assistant professor of sociology and criminology at Barry University, has culled the work of sixty academics who have authored over 170 entries each with byline and bibliography of suggested further reading resources.

The set's organizational structure begins with three special tools, which include comprehensive alphabetical and subject-based lists of entries followed by an extensive timeline of significant events related to domestic violence ranging from the first Roman marriage laws codifying women's obedience to their husbands in 753 BC to the recent determination in 2011 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that the US Supreme Court erred in declaring there is no entitlement to restraining order enforcement. Finley also pens the introductory essay in which she places domestic violence within the larger struggle for international human rights and constructs her own narrative timeline which catalogs recent legislative successes on various national and world playing fields while also attempting to identify where further work remains to be done.

The subjects covered reflect the international scope of the work right out of the gate with an entry on "Acid Throwing," a prevalent practice in several south-central Asian nations in which predominantly men throw or pour acid on women

and children as a means of nonlethal intimidation. This entry also highlights a common theme of domestic abuse in nearly all guises in that incidences routinely go underreported and therefore accurate statistics are often difficult to accumulate. In addition to entries on the various methods of abuse employed around the globe, subjects are generally clustered around biography (categories of victims and abusers as well as key individuals and organizations involved in the struggle against domestic violence), psychology (understanding and explaining abuse, effects, and correlates of abuse) and history (legislation, the courts, and activism). And while most entries highlight concepts and examples which directly correlate with domestic violence, there are several entries which exist to question their relationship with the topic such as Hakim Mohandas Amani Williams' "Music and Domestic Abuse" entry in which he states, "The intersection of domestic abuse/violence and music is an area almost entirely without any credible research" (335).

With the bulk of the subject entries residing in volume one (A through R) and only 127 of almost 500 pages in volume two devoted to their remainder (S through W), a majority of the second volume is comprised of reprints of all front matter from volume one (finding tools and introduction) as well as two major appendixes, glossary of terms, more recommended resource lists, and short author biographies. Appendix A contains the full text of four primary documents: "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women," "Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights re: Jessica Lenahan (Gonzales) et al. v. United States," "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000," and the "Violence Against Women Act" (actually a sub-section of the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act). Appendix B consists of a list of state, national, and international organizations related to domestic abuse along with contact information. Given how easily discoverable the documents in Appendix A are via the UN and US GPO websites and how compiled contact lists such as those found in Appendix B are often out of date before they are even printed, the editor and publisher would seem to have missed an excellent opportunity to produce a sleeker one-volume title to both strengthen its utility and lower its cost. Still, Finley's work has few directly comparable titles, the closest being editor Nicky Ali Jackson's *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence* (Routledge, 2007). Academic libraries specializing in sociology and criminology collections and others which still maintain comprehensive print-based reference collections are likeliest to find this title useful.—*Chris G. Hudson, Associate Director for Collection Services, Olin and Chalmers Libraries, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Great Popular Song Recordings. By Steve Sullivan. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2013. 2 vols. alkaline \$200 (ISBN: 978-0-8108-8295-9). E-book available (978-0-8108-8296-6), \$199.99.

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