

## SOURCES

students in the health sciences will find this encyclopedia a welcome addition to their reference collections.—*Maria C. Melssen, Medical Librarian, Port Clinton, Ohio*

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***The Twenties in America.*** Ed. By Carl Rollyson. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012. 3 vols. \$395 (ISBN 978-1-58765-855-6). Online access provided with purchase of print.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the incomparable 1920s, it is obvious the Twenties are once again roaring in America. Between the smashing success of television shows like *Boardwalk Empire* and the imminent release of the modern retelling of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, the Twenties have clearly reentered the popular consciousness in America. For those looking to research this unique time in American history, there is this excellent work.

*The Twenties in America* is a three-volume set containing approximately 675 entries from over 300 contributors. The scope of this encyclopedia is impressive; topics can be as broad as "Immigration to the United States" and "Business and the Economy," or as specific as "Bread Slicer" and "Cotton Swabs." Even though over 300 different experts in the field had a hand in the creation of this encyclopedia, each entry is cohesive and consistent, which is a testament to the deft skills of the editor, Carl Rollyson.

Each volume is organized alphabetically by entry title. Within the appendixes and indexes in the third volume, users can also find information organized in a multitude of ways, such as a "List of Entries by Category," in a chronological time line, and by "Personages Index." Varying in length between one half and two pages, each entry begins with brief, key information about the topic. Entries are enriched with a bibliography at the end, some of which are annotated. A comprehensive bibliography is critical for any historical reference source, and *The Twenties in America* is supported with extensive research.

Many libraries might already own the 1920–1929 volume of the popular *American Decades* (Gale Research, 1994) reference set, which sets out to answer the same questions as *The Twenties in America*. Fortunately, these two reference sets complement each other very well. *American Decades* is organized first by subject, and then chronologically, making it an excellent resource to browse for a research topic. However, since the entire decade is condensed into a single volume, the amount of information contained in each entry is fairly modest. Once users have discovered their topic in *American Decades*, they can then refer to alphabetically arranged *The Twenties in America* and easily find a more thoroughly researched and enriched encyclopedia entry.

Well-organized and clearly written, *The Twenties in America* is an exceptional encyclopedia for finding authoritative reference information on the uproarious 1920s in the United States and Canada. With its extensive bibliographies for each entry, *The Twenties in America* would make an excellent addition to any academic library looking to enhance their collection with what could easily become the preeminent reference source on the twenties.—*Matthew Laudicina, Reference and Instruction*

*Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***The U.S. Justice System: An Encyclopedia.*** Ed. by Steven Harmon Wilson. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 3 vols. acid free \$294 (ISBN 978-1-59884-304-0). E-book available (978-1-59884-305-7).

*The U.S. Justice System: An Encyclopedia* is a reference work that provides introductory, as well as in-depth essays, short entries, and excerpts of important legal documents relating to the justice system in the United States. This three-volume set also features a glossary of common legal terms, general bibliography, and index. This multi-volume encyclopedia is also available as an e-book.

The first volume contains ten introductory essays that provide an overview of the U.S. justice system. Beginning with the Constitution, each essay builds on its predecessor setting forth the concepts that comprise the foundations of democracy and justice in the United States. These topics include the structure and function of the federal government, the federal and state judiciary, judicial power and policy, the civil and criminal justice system, civil and criminal procedure, administrative law and regulations, and public interest law.

The second volume contains 126 alphabetically arranged topical short entries that primarily focus on the federal courts and constitutional law issues. Entries provide easy access to information on the federal judiciary, including biographical information on U.S. Supreme Court justices, seminal U.S. Supreme Court cases, and key concepts of constitutional law. Additionally, each entry contains citations for further reading and helpful cross-references.

The third volume contains 69 chronologically arranged entries about key primary documents in U.S. legal history, as well as excerpts from the documents, starting with the Magna Carta, 1215, to the present with the USA PATRIOT ACT of 2001. Each entry provides the user with useful background information, providing context and insight into the significance of these primary sources.

This encyclopedia is best suited for a general audience. It is recommended for high school and public libraries, as well as a supplemental purchase for college and university libraries serving undergraduate students. Other works are more useful to reference collections of college and university libraries serving undergraduate and graduate students. An excellent alternative is the single-volume A-Z encyclopedia *The Oxford Companion to American Law*, edited by Kermit L. Hall (Oxford University Press, 2002). This work is very broad in scope with approximately 500 entries on American legal issues, including entries focused on the U.S. justice system. Another great alternative is the *Gale Encyclopedia of American Law*, 3rd ed., edited by Donna Batten (Gale, 2011), (formerly known as *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*), which is broad in scope and depth. This 14-volume set includes nearly 5,000 alphabetically arranged entries on legal terms, concepts, cases, events, and people that have influenced the U.S. legal system.