

Two volumes are titled “Milestones in the Law” and provide an overview of landmark cases, as well as reproductions of the briefs and opinions for each case. A single volume also reproduces key primary documents.—*Jacquelyn N. McCloud, J.D., M.L.I.S., Electronic Services Librarian, The University of Iowa Law Library, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa*

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***Women Criminals: An Encyclopedia of People and Issues.*** Ed. by Vickie Jensen. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-33713-0). E-book available (978-0-313-06826-3), call for pricing.

The Preface to this set describes women’s criminality as a growing area of scholarship that can no longer be encapsulated in a chapter or two in a criminology textbook or monograph. The scope of the work supports this assertion. The first volume in this set provides twelve well-researched essays written by scholars in the fields of criminology, sociology, criminal justice, and psychology. The second volume includes biographies of 135 women criminals dating back to the sixteenth century. The essays discuss topics such as the types of crimes women most often commit and diversity in relation to women’s crime, as well as specific types of crimes such as sexual offending, political crimes, and crimes of retaliation by women victims.

This set is easy to use and provides cross references between essays and biographical sketches. Criminals’ names appear in bold print within the essays. While this makes the woman’s biography relatively easy to find by name using the complete tables of contents appearing in both books, the inclusion of page numbers would also be helpful, but ultimately proves unnecessary. The appendixes featuring statistics and reports will also prove useful for students and researchers. An index appears at the end of Volume 2. Names, laws, organizations, and topics are indexed with page numbers.

This set works to establish connections between women’s (often gender-specific) experiences, the crimes that they commit, and how they are received and treated by the criminal justice system; however, the authors resist arguing for overly simplified causal connections between these elements. Clearly, this resource has a decidedly feminist flavor. While some readers may find ideological difficulty with this, the assertions of the authors are generally well documented by thorough research, sound logical reasoning, and statistical information. Perhaps most importantly, the biographical sketches are readable and interesting. Throughout the writing of this review, I have likely spent more time reading than truly necessary as a result of the engaging biographical sketches.

To my knowledge, there exist few reference works specifically dedicated to women’s criminality. One such volume is Nicole Hahn Rafter’s *Encyclopedia of Women and Crime* (Oryx 2000). This volume, in its Preface claims to be the “first comprehensive reference book on the topic of women and crime” (xxv). This work includes discussions of various types of crime, crime occurrence and corrections by geographical area, correctional systems, women in law enforcement and

the court systems, and only a few profiles of women criminals. The breadth of this work is wider and covers a larger number of topics than *Women Criminals*. *Women Criminals*, on the other hand, offers more detailed biographical sketches of women criminals and a more in-depth examination of the relationships between women criminals and the crimes they commit. The two works together will complement each other nicely without being duplicative.

In summary, while this set is somewhat costly, it is recommended for most academic libraries and public libraries with adequate funding. Libraries supporting programs in law enforcement, criminology, sociology, gender studies, and related disciplines will find this set particularly useful.—*Anita J. Slack, Information Services Librarian, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

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***Women in American Politics: History and Milestones.*** By Doris Weatherford. Los Angeles: CQ Press, 2012. 2 vols. Acid free \$225 (ISBN 978-1-60871007-2). E-book available, call for pricing.

Doris Weatherford’s latest compilation chronicles the political history of American women in nineteen thematic chapters beginning with the suffrage movement’s achievement of the franchise and ending with a state-by state overview that draws on her previous 4-volume *A History of Women in the United States: A State-By-State Reference* (Grolier Academic Reference, 2004). In between, chapters cover statewide elective officeholders, state legislators, congressional legislators, state governors and lieutenant governors, city mayors, presidential and vice presidential candidates, cabinet and subcabinet officers, ambassadors, the judiciary, political parties and conventions, interest groups, and PACs.

Each chapter presents a chronologically arranged historical overview of the subject at hand, tabulations such as Table 9.1 “First Female Mayors of Cities with More Than 150,000 Residents, by Year” (238) and Table 14.1 “First Women on State Supreme Courts, by State,”(360), selective biographical profiles of representative women, and a brief listing of references and suggestions for further reading. Black and white photographs illustrate some of the entries. Indexes to names and to subjects are in the back of each of the two volumes.

The numerous tabulations in *Women in American Politics* are especially useful and would be more so had the author listed the sources from which she drew these tallies. With few exceptions (see for example tables 5.3 “Total Number of Women Elected to State Senates, through 1960s, by Decade and State” [122] and 12.2 “Female Ambassadors, Both Political Appointees and Career Diplomats, 1933 to 1993 [323]), Weatherford covers the data in her tables with the general source note “Compiled by author.”

Among recent reference works the one-volume *Encyclopedia of Women and American Politics* edited by Lynne E. Ford (Facts on File, 2008) emphasizes the conjunction in its title. Some 500 signed essays by 51 contributors address the interplay of women and the American political system through

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articles such as reproductive rights, the wage gap, and similar social and political issues that have affected women disproportionately, though it too gives extensive coverage to individual women officeholders. The work also includes a series of statistical and chronological appendixes, as well as the text of 21 primary source documents, this latter feature not present in Weatherford's work except in the occasional excerpt inserted in the form of a sidebar.

Suzanne O'Dea's updated two-volume *From Suffrage to the Senate: America's Political Women: an Encyclopedia of Leaders, Causes, and Issues* (Grey House Publishing, 2006; first edition ABC-CLIO, 1999) remains a chiefly biographical work whose subjects reflect a broader definition of political involvement including, for example, journalists, feminists, social activists, and the like, though the bulk of the biographies remain women officeholders. Like Ford's encyclopedia, O'Dea's work includes some topical articles not the subject of Weatherford's focus, bona fide occupational qualification for example. O'Dea's work covers close to 300 court cases affecting the lives of American women. Though court cases figure in Weatherford's text too, a more modest number are covered, not as separate articles but within the larger context of an overview or biographical entry to which the case relates. O'Dea's work also includes a substantial appendix of primary source documents and another on facts and statistics, the latter heavily dependent on the work of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers, cited by O'Dea as Center for the American Woman and Politics.

Much of the information in these three reference works on women in American politics can be found elsewhere, particularly biographical information about women of national prominence. Weatherford's entry into the field offers a compilation of women officeholders at the city, state, and national levels conveniently assembled into a two-volume work that anchors these women in the historical context and circumstances in which they gained their political positions while providing extensive supplementary tables and charts that demonstrate American women's political progress. *Women in American Politics: History and Milestones* is recommended for high school, public, and two-year college library collections. College and University libraries may consider adding this title to serve their undergraduate population.—Sally Moffitt, *Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science; Africana, Asian, Judaic, Latin American, and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies; Cohen Enrichment Collection, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio*

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**World Literature in Spanish: An Encyclopedia.** Ed. By Maureen Ihrie and Salvador A. Oropesa. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2011. 3 vols. Acid free \$350 (ISBN 978-0-313-33770-3). E-book available (978-0-313-08083-8), call for pricing.

This new reference encyclopedia provides 848 articles on literatures from around the world produced in the Spanish language. The work uses language, rather than nation-state, other political entity or geography, as the basis for the subjects

covered. All genres of literature are treated in the work, including fiction, poetry, theater, documentary, and testimonial literature, as well as writings on history, philosophy, music, film, media and popular culture, political protest, revolution and war, exploration, and travel. Themes in literature are covered, including modernism, postmodernism, realism, social realism, surrealism, *costumbrismo*, romanticism, eroticism, feminism, identity, the avant-garde, and many more. Articles also address the literature of groups including Afro-Hispanics, Chicanos, Cuban-Americans and other Latinos in the United States, exiles, indigenous peoples, gays and lesbians, literature for children, and the Islamic and Judeo heritage in Spanish literature, as well as the literatures of all of the countries in the Spanish-speaking world today. In terms of periods covered, the work provides a solid overview of the Spanish literature of past centuries (the baroque, the Golden Age, colonialism, discovery and conquest), while maintaining an emphasis on modern literatures from the twentieth century to the present. A substantial portion of the text is devoted to individual articles on important writers for all periods and countries.

The work is intended for non-specialists in the study of literature and language, and articles are intentionally free of the jargon and special vocabulary of literary criticism. Bibliographies accompanying articles emphasize works available in English as well as Spanish. References and publication information is provided for all literary works that are available in English translation. Appendixes provide a listing of articles by century, a listing by geographic areas, a glossary of literary and cultural terms that might not be familiar to the general reader, a bibliography of print and electronic resources, and a comprehensive index.

*World Literature in Spanish* is an excellent addition to the available reference materials for the subject. University library collections tend to more specialist-oriented works focusing on specific geographical areas, genres or national/regional literatures, or historical periods. For instance, the *Encyclopedia of Latin American and Caribbean Literature 1900–2003* by Balderston and Gonzalez (Routledge, 2004) is a specialized one volume work focused on a specific world region and the period of the 20th and early 21st centuries. Verity Smith's *Encyclopedia of Latin American Literature* ((Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997) is a scholarly work also limited to New World writers. *Latino Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests*, edited by Sara Martinez (Libraries Unlimited, 2009), is a "readers' advisory" volume with selections arranged by genre and aimed at a public library/high school audience.

The current work fills a gap by providing a huge amount of information on the rich compendium of literature from around the world (Spain, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, the Philippines) created in the Spanish language. The volumes are accessible and useful to English-only as well as bilingual readers. I would recommend this work for all university and college libraries and for public and school libraries that serve communities of Latino, Chicano, and Spanish-origin immigrant communities.—Molly Molloy, *Border and Latin American Specialist, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico*