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Reference Books

Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Editor

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Individuals interested in reviewing reference materials should contact the "Reference Books" editor, Tammy J. Eschedor Voelker, Reference and Instruction Librarian, University Libraries, Kent State University, 1125 Risman Dr., Kent, OH 44242-0001; e-mail: tvoelker@kent.edu.

Anti-Immigration in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia. Ed. by Kathleen R. Arnold. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN: 978-0-313-37521-7). E-book available (978-0-313-37522-4), call for pricing.

To justly assess Arnold's *Anti-Immigration in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia*, the reader must first get past the somewhat unusual and unsettling, although not unheard of, use of the negative prefix "anti" as the first word in the title. Then comes the task of determining how the editor defined the term "anti-immigration" and how she was able to establish the scope and parameters of this broad topic. Arnold's lengthy introduction provides an explanation, which is by necessity complex, thereby raising the question: if one needs such extensive background to use this publication, and it requires such effort to place the material in a context, should it be a reference work at all, or would it be more effective as a monograph? That stated, for those seeking a very basic understanding of "anti-immigration ideas, events, policies and figures" (xvii) and the "history of anti-immigration sentiment throughout American history" (xvii) in particular, *Anti-Immigration in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia* can prove useful, with some caveats. Some of the coverage is uneven. For example, the "Italian Immigrant Experience" entry makes no mention about the internment of this group during World War II, whereas it is noted under the entry for German Americans. Further, because of the negative orientation of this work's title, the authors are prone to identify stereotypes and then substantiate the basis for them, thereby actually perpetuating them, a point Arnold mentions in her introduction. Some contributors handle this problem by balancing out the negative with the positive. The "Irish Immigrant Experience" entry, for example, states "John, Robert, and Edward Kennedy, would become three of the most respected politicians in American history" (284-85), which is hardly evidence of "anti-immigration in the United States."

Organizational elements of this publication enhance its value. Volume 1 contains a helpful "Topical List of Entries," which includes anti-immigration figures, both contemporary and historical; movements and groups, including significant ethnic, cultural and political ones; institutions; issues and theories; historical periods; laws and policies; and entries related to class, gender, and sexuality, as well as an alphabetical listing and a list of the primary documents found in volume 2. The signed entries, authored by journalists, sociologists, historians, anthropologists, political scientists, and many others, are followed by sources and further reading lists and extensive "see also" references.

While other reference works such as Louchy, Armstrong, and Estrada's *Immigration in America Today: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2006), Ciment's *Encyclopedia of American Immigration* (M.E. Sharpe, 2001), and Ueda's *Companion to American Immigration* (Blackwell, 2006) have chapters or entries on the topic of anti-immigration or a particular aspect of it, none are devoted specifically to this topic. Arnold's publication, therefore, fills a void in this area despite the challenge of

defining exactly what it is. It is recommended for high school and undergraduate academic libraries and large public libraries.—*Joann E. Donatiello, Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey*

Battleground: Government and Politics. Ed. by Kathleen Uradnik, Lori A. Johnson, and Sara Hower. Battleground Series. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-0-313-34313-1). E-book available (978-0-313-34314-8), call for pricing.

This new addition to Greenwood's *Battleground Series* provides brief contemporary overviews and analysis of a wide range of contentious political and social issues, primarily as they pertain to the United States. In two volumes (630 pages), *Battleground: Government and Politics* includes a total of seventy-five entries along with a short appendix, selected bibliography, and index.

Entries appear alphabetically throughout the volumes, but to aid in identifying themes, the front matter contains a "Guide to Related Topics," which groups issues together under broad category headings such as "Civil Rights," "Economic Controversies," "Health and Welfare," and "National Security." All of the ever-popular hot button issues such as "Abortion," "Death Penalty," "Same-Sex Marriage and Civil Unions," and "Universal Health Care" are included, as are many other topics of current interest, like "Amending Power," "Cyberterrorism," "Living Wage," and "Veteran's Rights and Needs." Each entry begins with a general introductory paragraph or section (placing the issue in context, defining key terms, etc.) and then proceeds to address and explore related questions and sub-topics. Suggested books and websites for further reading are given for each entry. Appendixes 1 and 2 contain lists of pertinent court case citations and statute citations respectively, and the selected bibliography is organized into fourteen overarching themes seen throughout the work.

It should be noted that this book is clearly targeted at high school and lower-level undergraduates, or "the young adult reader," as it is laid out in the introduction. The *Battleground Series* in general claims to provide readers with "balanced, in-depth tools to serve as a launching pad for obtaining a thorough understanding of all sides of those debates that continue to provoke, anger, challenge, and divide us all" (xv). The key phrase here would definitely be "launching pad" as the entries, at least in the book being reviewed here from the series, are quite concise (as opposed to in-depth), and any thorough understanding would have to be obtained through other means. That is not to say there is no value in such works. As an academic librarian who works with scores of first year students each semester in selecting and developing research paper topics, this type of reference book is often one of the first places I point to, being sure to emphasize the suggested further readings. The next step might be to look for a related and current volume from the *Contemporary World Issues* (ABC-Clio) or *Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven Press) series to further explore an issue.

As previously mentioned, the entries here are brief, but for the intended audience and purpose, this is to be expected. It is the breadth of issues covered, along with currency, that make this reference work stand out. There are plenty of other, issue-specific, reference books (too many to list here), many with primary sources and more substantial appendixes, available to follow-up with, but this one would make a perfectly good starting point or topic-prompter.—*Todd J. Wiebe, Research & Instruction Librarian, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

The Civil War Era and Reconstruction: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History. By Mary Ellen Snodgrass. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$249 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-8257-4). E-book available, call for pricing.

The Civil War Era and Reconstruction: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History by Mary Ellen Snodgrass presents a unique point of view on the Civil War and Reconstruction. The difference between this piece of writing and others in the genre is that this encyclopedia is less focused on the military and war efforts and more focused on the social, political, cultural, and economic efforts during this era as the title suggests. Mary Ellen is the author of many books; this is her first work specifically about the Civil War era and Reconstruction.

While there are many books written about the Civil War and Reconstruction there are few encyclopedias that attempt to provide an overview of the era in the way that this encyclopedia does. Some address the era from a military stance including the *Encyclopedia of American History (Volume 5: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1856–1869)* edited by Gary B. Nash (Facts on File, 2003); others from a racial/ethnic standpoint such as Richard Zuczek's *Encyclopedia of the Reconstruction Era* (2 volumes), a part of the Greenwood Milestones in African American History Series (Greenwood, 2006).

A Topic Finder section is included in the front with the topic headings such as "African Americans," "Arts, Culture, Recreation," "Cities, States, Regions, Features," "Education," "Family, Community, Society," "Historical Events, Periods, Holidays," "Native Americans," "Organizations and Institutions (Non-Governmental)," "Religion and Religious Groups," "Science, Technology, Medicine," and "Women and Gender."

Entries in this work consist of a wide gamut of topics, including "Buffalo Soldiers," "Freedman's Bureau," "Underground Railroad," "Ku Klux Klan," "Art and Architecture," "Cook's Tours," "Horse Racing," "Recreation and Amusements," "Colleges and Universities," "Cereals and Grains," "Food and Food Preservation," "Chicago Fire," "Diseases and Epidemics," and "Clothes and Fashion" among others. Black and white photographs, maps, paintings, and documents accompany several of the entries.

Biographical information is provided, as expected, on key figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and Ulysses S. Grant. Additional biographies include notable