

SOURCES

of social network analysis. For instance, readers will learn about principles such as homophily (the tendency of similar people to have more social interaction) as well as Q-analysis and other methods of graphically representing relationships. Graduate students and faculty conducting such research will find much more technical help in handbooks, but the encyclopedia's entries will be useful to undergraduates and librarians who need brief explanations.

There are other introductory works on social media (for instance, see *Encyclopedia of Virtual Communications and Technologies*, edited by Subhasish Dasgupta, Idea Group, 2006 and the *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media*, edited by John D. H. Downing, Sage, 2010), as well as titles for social relationships (such as the 3-volume *Encyclopedia of Human Relationships*, edited by Harry T. Reis et. al., Sage, 2009). However, these sources do not offer as much historical or cultural perspective. Recommended for libraries serving social sciences undergraduates, especially those with regional or international interests.—Bernadette A. Lear, *Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, The Pennsylvania State University–Harrisburg Library, Middletown.*

Encyclopedia of South Africa. Ed. by Krista Johnson and Sean Jacobs. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 2011. 373 pages. alkaline \$95 (ISBN: 978-1-58826-749-8).

Although other encyclopedias, such as John Middleton's *Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara* (Scribner's Sons, 1997) and Kwame Appiah and Henry Louis Gates' *Encyclopedia of Africa* (Oxford, 2010), include detailed entries about South Africa, the *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is the first English-language reference work to focus exclusively and comprehensively on the country of South Africa. Edited by Krista Johnson (Howard University) and Sean Jacobs (The New School), the *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is an authoritative and accessible introduction to the complex history, politics, and culture of the country.

The *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is organized alphabetically by entry and covers topics ranging from the geographical to the sociological; examples include thematic entries such as "Political Cultures and Ideologies," "Land Tenure and Dispossession," and "Theater and Performance," as well as briefer entries providing information about topics such as cultural figures, languages, indigenous groups, or cities. Entries are well written and provide thorough explanation without overwhelming the reader, and many end with a bibliography of further reading. The content and tone of the writing presents a thoughtful, balanced, and informative look at issues and is particularly welcome in complex entries such as "AIDS" and "Gold & Diamond Mining." The appendixes are a practical complement to the main text and provide up to date statistics, a chronology of South African history, and a chronology of key apartheid legislation. One noticeable omission is a cumulative reading list; although the majority of entries feature bibliographies, not all do, and readers would likely benefit from a central reading list. Concluding the text is a list of

volume contributors and an excellent index.

Overall, the *Encyclopedia of South Africa* is a strong reference work which benefits from simple organization and a clear writing style. Librarians and patrons alike will appreciate the care taken in providing continuity clues; readers are alerted in-paragraph to name changes such as "the Free State Province (formerly the Orange Free State Province)" (178). The encyclopedia also provides meticulous cross-referencing; helpful in circumstances when a patron researching the "ANC" may be redirected to the "African National Congress." A glossary of acronyms is also included in the appendixes. Highly recommended for all libraries.—Kristin J. Henrich, *Reference Coordinator, University of Idaho Library, Moscow, Idaho*

Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World. Ed. by Mary Zeiss Stange, Carol K. Oyster, and Jane E. Sloan. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Reference, 2011. 4 vols. \$495 (ISBN: 978-1-4129-7685-5).

Tackling the challenge of compiling a print reference for complete coverage of women in today's world (since 2000) seems at first a task too large to do successfully. In fact, the three editors explicitly state in the introduction that they knew the encyclopedia would have gaps, as it would be practically impossible to comprehensively cover all possible topics about all women in the world. However, they do state that what the encyclopedia may lack in completeness "is more than made up for by its overall coherence and consistency of purpose" (vii). The editors do accomplish meeting the challenge and give readers a usable print reference to begin supplementing the lack of reference material focusing on women globally and through a gender studies lens.

The encyclopedia is not a catalog listing of "great women" in the world; in fact, the editors chose to avoid that angle altogether. Recognizing that setting standards of greatness speaks to patriarchal roots, they instead focus on events, organizations, theories, and communities that are structurally relevant to women in the world today. There are "Signal Biographies," such as Judy Chicago or Vandana Shiva, where selected women are showcased because of their contributions to the evolution of women's status in the world.

The overall focus of the encyclopedia is limited to scholarship and events since 2000 with inclusion of foundational ideas when needed but omits any in-depth discussions of historical events or women. The encyclopedia's "Reader's Guide" gives an overall structure of a categorical listing that includes topics such as Education, Sexualities, War and Conflict, Health: Mental and Physical, with each category listing varied and focused alphabetical entries. However, the encyclopedia is organized by the complete list of all the entries, or articles as the editors call them, placed alphabetically throughout the four volumes. The reader can then choose to use the "Reader's Guide" to find an article related to a specific categorical theme or the "List of Articles" that lists all entries alphabetically and can be found at the beginning of each volume.

Individual entries vary from multiple-page descriptions of