

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

large-scale concepts such as Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights which are broken into subsections, to shorter descriptions of particular people or groups such as the Guerilla Girls or biographical entries. The black and white photographs included for most entries are relevant and give the reader an eye into certain entries such as a photograph of Wiccan items to complement the Wicca/Goddess Spirituality entry; however, others seem to be less specific to the entry (for example, included for the entry on Working Mothers, there is a photograph of a woman standing holding a small child while typing on a keyboard). But overall the photographs add extra detail to the entries and are an added plus to the encyclopedia.

The almost one thousand entries are supplemented with a glossary, resource guide, complete index, and an appendix that includes the entire Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (held in 1995). The editors state that they compiled the encyclopedia for an academic audience—especially “the community of feminist and women’s and gender studies scholars” (viii). However, the entries are written in a clear and concise language that any scholar in a college or university would be able to use to learn more about women today in general or find information on a specific idea, organization, or person. For academic libraries with reference material discussing women historically, this four-volume encyclopedia will complement nicely with its focus on contemporary women and relevant topics but may not be suitable for a single item reference discussing women globally.—*Melia Erin Fritch, Multicultural Literacy Librarian, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, Kansas*

Europe, A Political Profile: An American Companion to European Politics. By Hans Slomp. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-0-313-39181-1). E-book available (978-0-313-39182-8), call for pricing.

Although it may be commonplace for many Americans to view most European nations as nearly identical in political terms, at the local and national level, each European country may display some similarities but also many differences. Associate professor of comparative politics, Hans Slomp’s two volume encyclopedia, *Europe, A Political Profile: An American Companion to European Politics*, serves as a resource for those seeking to understand the distinctive and similar features of European politics from the local to the supranational. Intended for an American audience, Slomp’s work explores many political concepts such as organized labor, liberalism, and conservatism all within an American-European comparative framework. This work is a remarkably accessible and illustrative comparative political analysis that illuminates the political, economic, and philosophical differences among European nations and more generally between Europe and the United States.

Consisting of two volumes, the first resembles a political science monograph or textbook, whereas the second volume is more similar to a traditional encyclopedia. The first volume is a revised and updated version of Slomp’s 2000 book,

European Politics into the Twenty-First Century: Integration and Division (Westport, Conn.: Praeger). Throughout this updated version, Slomp added highly informative comparative sections, charts, and tables, which contrast American and European politics. This results in clear and easy to understand comparisons of the United States and Europe as well as comparisons among European nations. The comparative themes that run through this volume are discussed with such clarity that each chapter is an almost enlightening experience. Slomp’s ability to construct highly informative comparative charts and to compose immediately discernible comparisons with anecdotal descriptions make this a remarkable and important work. The only weakness of this volume is that it is marketed as an encyclopedia. Therefore, in most libraries, this highly readable work will be placed in noncirculating reference sections. Although volume 1 may have been better suited as a stand-alone monograph or textbook, this work is nonetheless important.

Volume 2 of *Europe, A Political Profile* represents a more traditional reference work. Divided into two sections, this volume contains encyclopedic country profile entries and a glossary of political terms. The country profiles are grouped together by region and contain a section on various elements of each country’s political system such as its constitution and civil society. In addition to a glossary of terms, volume 2 also contains a short sources and further readings section and an appendix that lists some brief statistics on European nations and the United States.

Slomp’s *Europe, A Political Profile* is a very important work that most likely could have reached a wider audience had it been published as a monograph or textbook. While this two volume reference set is really a political science treatise with an additional book-length country profile appendix, it is nonetheless highly recommended. The chapters in volume 1 would serve very well as assigned readings in European and comparative political science and international public policy courses. For that reason, it is recommended that academic libraries wishing to acquire this set purchase the electronic version, as it will therefore not be limited to a non-circulating reference section. Although this set does not necessarily function well as a reference item, volume 1 represents a significant contribution to European-United States comparative politics and is therefore highly recommended for selected high school libraries, all large public libraries, and all academic libraries.—*Joseph A. Hurley, Data Services, Geosciences, Gov’t Info, Maps and GIS Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

Historically Black Colleges and Universities: An Encyclopedia. By F. Erik Brooks and Glenn L. Starks. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. \$89 (ISBN: 978-0-313-39415-7).

Greenwood’s *Historically Black Colleges and Universities: An Encyclopedia* offers a concise and well edited collection of materials for beginning researchers to identify the major issues and historical events about Historically Black