Rosenberg is a well known, prolific author of business dictionaries such as *Dictionary of Banking* (Wiley, 1993), *Dictionary of Business and Management* (Wiley, 1993), *Dictionary of Marketing and Advertising* (Wiley, 1995) as well as a number of books on the Middle East. In this encyclopedia he states the goal to be an “attempt to spell out the activities and events of the past two years and to be a guide to help navigate the reader through this economic downturn” (viii). One quibble about the source is that the title indicates the information will span 2007–2010 but the content is limited to 2008–2009 period. The goals go on to state “this book should help readers to better understand the reasoning, motives, hidden agendas, and power plays of those responsible for this debacle and, most important, what the government has done to try to overcome it” (viii). Unfortunately, the book does not really address the stated goals.

This encyclopedia contains an A to Z list of short entries. There is a reader’s note giving information about the dates that are used in the entries and how the cross-references work. There is also an alphabetical index. The entries range in length from a sentence to several pages though most are no longer than a paragraph. There are entries with only “see” references such as “ABA see AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION.” Some examples of the topics that contain lengthier entries are China, Citigroup, Dubai, Ford, Japan, Russia and Unemployment. Many of the entries seem to be filler and don’t advance the goal of helping the reader to better understand the recession. For example, under Portugal it states “unemployment in Portugal in the second quarter 2009 was 9.2 percent and the economy shrank by 3.7 percent in 2009.” Most of the entries concerning companies are only a line or two relating the plummeting of sales, how jobs were affected, and net losses. There is no context for entries like these to show if questionable business practices or risk taking contributed to the economic climate.

The lofty goals of the book make it seem like the reader will have a greater understanding of the big picture of the recession when in fact, this source is purely an encyclopedia with entries. There is no timeline, there is no text to try and connect the information, and there is nothing to help the reader understand how all the concepts fit together. This is a straight forward reference book of recession-related terms and concepts. The bigger question is whether these types of reference books are necessary anymore. All of the information contained in this source could be found elsewhere, although if a user was researching the recession, it is a handy guide for quick facts and figures. This feels like a quickie book to be the first to market on the topic.—Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, D.C.

**SOURCES**

**Reference Books**

*Tammy J. Eschedor Voeler*

*Editor*


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