

**The Cold War.** Ed. Robert F. Gorman. Magill's Choice. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2011. 3 vols. Alkaline \$225 (ISBN 978-1-5876-5730-6).

Arguably one of the most important and far-reaching events of the twentieth century, the Cold War influenced politics, military campaigns, economics and social movements across the globe. As a worldwide event that spanned most of the second half of the twentieth century, addressing all aspects surrounding this period in history is exceedingly challenging. While not attempting for a comprehensive treatment of the Cold War historical narrative, Robert F. Gorman's *The Cold War* focuses primarily on the political, foreign relations and military activities that emerged as a result of the Cold War. A three-volume set, *The Cold War* contains an abundance of maps and images as well as a bibliography by subject, a glossary, a categorized list of entries and several indexes including a geographical, photo, personages, and subject index.

A politically focused, top-down approach to Cold War history, Gorman's reference work provides readers with superb background information on a wide-ranging selection of topics related to domestic and international political and military affairs. *The Cold War* stands out for its uniform and accessible layout for each entry. Following an identical arrangement, the beginning of each entry notes the date or date range of the topic, indicates the topic's geographic location and also lists associated key figures. Each entry then provides a several page essay arranged into two sections; a longer "Summary of Event" section followed by a brief "Significance" section. This format produces an easily and readily comprehensible essay. Additionally, all entries contain a list of further readings and related topics. Organized chronologically, readers may appreciate the ability to browse the political developments of the Cold War in a linear, timeline fashion. While topics are not arranged alphabetically by subject, topics are easily discoverable as this work contains multiple, useful indexes which provide the reader with numerous entry points to its many essays.

While this three-volume work contains a rich collection of essays, a limited number are unique to this set. The publisher notes, "Most of the essays in this work originally appeared in Salem Press's *Great Events from History: The 20th Century, 1941–1970* (2007) and *Great Events from History: The 20th Century, 1971–2000* (2008)" (iv). The publisher further indicates that these volumes contain new material. However, a description of what new material has been added or a definition of what Salem Press considers new material is not provided. Therefore, libraries that own copies of the *Great Events from History* volumes from which most of these essays originated, should consider whether duplicating these essays in a Cold War specific work (and thereby possibly enhancing their discoverability) is worth purchasing this set. For libraries that do not own the *Great Events from History* volumes, Gorman's *The Cold War* is recommended for its informative and consistent treatment of political topics.

Although reference works on the Cold War do not

abound in comparison to other large historical events, other reference sets such as *The Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-Clio, 2007), edited by Spencer C. Tucker provide historical treatment beyond the political narrative. However, this set's introduction (that frames the international political scene throughout the period), its epilogue (that provides a summation of the period and expands upon its enduring influence), its succinct, yet informative entries, and its robust set of indexes, make it a work well suited for high school and undergraduate students. *The Cold War* is recommended for high school libraries, medium-size to large public libraries and academic libraries, especially academic institutions with an undergraduate library.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Data Services Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

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**The Polish American Encyclopedia.** Ed. James S. Pula. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2011. 585 p. Alkaline \$145 (ISBN 978-0-7864-3308-7). E-book available (978-0-7864-6222-3), call for pricing.

The preface to Pula's *Polish American Encyclopedia* states: "as the U.S. continues to mature as a pluralistic society, and to become more sensitive to the cultural past of its people and their contributions to the development of American life, an understanding of long-neglected groups becomes all the more important" (1). Having identified Poles as a significant yet unrecognized group, Pula, editor of the journal *Polish American Studies*, has attempted to correct the omission by compiling "the first comprehensive reference work and research tool published on the Polish experience in the United States and its influence on the development of American history and culture" (1) and he has succeeded. While there are works about specific aspects of Polish Americans and their history such as Pula's *Polish Americans: An Ethnic Community* (Twayne, 1995), John J. Bukowczyk's edited volume, *Polish Americans and Their History: Community, Culture and Politics* (Univ. of Pittsburgh Pr., 1996) and *400 Years of Polish Immigrants in America 1608–2008*, edited by Mariusz M. Brymora (Ex Libris, 2008), none are as comprehensive or thorough as this reference work. The *Encyclopedia* covers places, events, organizations, culture and individuals pertaining to Polish American history and life. It contains three types of entries: thematic, typically a chronological perspective on an aspect of American Polonia; topical, which identifies specific places, organizations or cultural elements; and biographical, including significant contributors either to the history and culture of the United States or to the development of American Polonia. Biographical entries, which outnumber the other types of entries, consist of Polish Americans or those who had a substantial impact on the organization of Poles in America, and who have been previously recognized as a prominent individual in at least two other sources. Those who migrated from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth are included as are those of Polish ancestry who were born in an area which, at the time, was part of Russia or Ukraine.

All entries are signed and contain sources for additional information. While the *Encyclopedia* has many features that make it easily navigable such as subheadings within long entries, bolded terms for cross referencing between entries, a thorough index and “see references” for entries known by alternative terms, browsing would be much easier with one simple addition, a listing of the entries by category: theme, topical and biography. Further, the very small typeface, reminiscent of print encyclopedias of the past, may cause difficulty for some readers. One other minor distraction is a lack of consistency between the “see references” and the actual headings: “Resurrections” versus “Resurrection,” for example.

Overall, however, this is a valuable and well-researched resource on a topic not covered elsewhere. It is a must for all Polish American, ethnic and cross-cultural studies collections, and highly recommended for academic research library collections and public libraries in areas with substantial Polish American populations.—*Joann E. Donatiello, Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey*

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***The Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Information in the Health Sciences.*** Ed. Laurie L. Thompson. New York: Neal-Schulman, 2011. 659 p. Alkaline \$295 (ISBN 978-1-5557-0719-4).

This resource is an updated option to the “*Brandon Hill Selected List of Print Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library*, which ceases publication in 2003 after 38 years and 20 editions” (xi). *The Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Information in the Health Sciences* (hereafter *MLA Master Guide*) expands the Brandon Hill list by including works in the basic sciences as well as digital and online publications. Works that were included in the final Brandon Hill list are given a special designation. This resource is being written about as the new gold standard in collection development tools for medical libraries. By using expert contributors, the editors have compiled more than 2,000 authoritative titles encompassing 35 specialties, plus subspecialties, basic sciences, and emerging disciplines. *The MLA Master Guide* is not comprehensive. Selectors were limited to choosing ten of the most important monographs and serials in their discipline.

This work is loosely arranged by the Health Occupations and the Biological Sciences tree structures of the National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). Definitions come from Stedman's Medical Dictionary or from the topics contributor if a MeSH derived definition is not available. Each section includes general works related to the discipline, as well as more specialized topics. Each entry contains full bibliographic information, URLs (if applicable), and an annotation describing the scope and coverage of the work. The majority of titles covered are appropriate for an academic medical library. Titles appropriate for a hospital or consumer health library are marked.

In comparison to the *Brandon Hill List of Print Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library* (Medical Library

Association, 2001), this resource appears much easier and more efficient. The *Brandon Hill List* is simply a list of titles with their prices, as opposed to *The MLA Master Guide* which contains nicely written annotations for each work listed. Another benefit to this work when compared to the *Brandon Hill List of Print Books and Journals for the Small Medical Library* is that the former is not strictly limited to print resources. The work being reviewed also covers many more titles.

I also looked at Jeffrey T. Huber, Jo Anne Boorkman, and Jean Blackwell's *Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences* (Neal-Schuman, 2008). This source also integrates print and electronic sources together and provides annotations. However, I don't feel that it is as organized. *The MLA Master Guide* is much more intuitive and user friendly.

I would highly recommend *The Medical Library Association's Master Guide to Authoritative Information in the Health Sciences* over the other two works. It is very well organized and the annotations offer just the right amount of information. Developing or maintaining a collection in a health sciences library can be expensive and is so important because the resources must be accurate, dependable, and up to date to be useful. MLA's guide makes this task easy. I would recommend this title for any academic medical or hospital library.—*Mina Chercourt, Unit Leader, Database Maintenance, Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio*

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***A Student Guide to Energy.*** By John F. Mongillo. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 5 vols. Acid free \$255 (ISBN 978-0-3133-7720-4) E-book available (978-0-3133-7721-1), call for pricing.

John F. Mongillo, middle school science teacher and author of other science reference books such as the popular *Teen Guide to Environmental Science* (Greenwood, 2004), has brought his skills to another timely work. Designed for use by middle and high school students, this multifaceted set provides students with grounding in basic energy concepts as well as discussing the need for both the development and management of energy resources. The set is divided into 5 volumes. Volume 1 deals with oil, natural gas, coal and nuclear energy; volume 2 covers solar energy and hydrogen fuel cells; volume 3 deals with wind energy, oceanic energy and hydropower; volume 4 includes geothermal and biomass energy; and finally volume 5 focuses on energy efficiency, conservation and sustainability.

Within each volume there are a number of accessible chapters devoted to a specific type of energy or topic. Each chapter orientates the user with a quick historical overview and explanation of the specific energy type. The rest of the meaty chapter provides in-depth treatment of the energy form, has interviews with scientists, and information boxes titled “Did you Know?” which draw attention to facts one might have missed. Each chapter also contains cross references to other volumes, a short unannotated bibliography, a suggestion of something to do, and a list of websites and videos. The text is illustrated with diagrams, black and white