

downside of this system, however, is the minor inconvenience of not being able to tell what terms are being suggested without flipping back to the table of contents to identify each by its given number.

The “Primary Documents” section begins halfway through the first volume and continues through the second. There are 106 documents in total, organized into 6 categories with the vast majority filed under “U.N. Related.” As explained in the section introduction, it is within the context of the United Nations that most U.S. international human rights activity occurs. Each document is prefaced by a list of helpful metadata including full official title, type of document, date of document, and other applicable descriptive information. Finally, the eighteen appendixes offer additional documents, charts, and other references to supplement the material in the two previous sections.

In the opening paragraph of the introduction and user’s guide, the author writes, “The most important service this text could provide is the imparting of the basic concepts, definitions, and theory of international human rights as they are presently understood in the national and international context” (xxiii). While the inquisitive researcher could surely piece together similar content from an array of other sources, many freely available, Condé’s encyclopedia does what any good work of reference on a specific subject should do: provide an authoritative and well-organized amassment of pertinent information and supplementary material in one convenient location.

But is it unique? Yes. It is written especially for an American audience, providing broad coverage of important human rights issues concerning the U.S. while accentuating their international scope and consequence. It is intended to educate the “average American” whose understanding of the subject is “narrow, inaccurate, and often fully erroneous” (xxiii). Other reference works this reviewer has encountered treat the subject of human rights, on the whole, from a purely global perspective. The *Encyclopedia of Human Rights* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009) is an impressive 5-volume set containing essay-length entries for each country as well as other key human rights-related topics. Of lesser scope and scholarly value is the *International Encyclopedia of Human Rights: Freedoms, Abuses, and Remedies* (CQ Pr., 2000) which, for this subject, is clearly outdated. Neither of these loosely comparable works contains full text primary documents or appendix items like those provide in Condé’s work.

Although well-written, compiled, and somewhat reasonably priced, *An Encyclopedia of Human Rights in the United States* is not necessarily a “must-have” library reference source. However, some professors of undergraduate-level political science courses covering topics of human rights might find this a convenient and reliable go-to source for their students. The introductory essay could perhaps even serve as a nice primer on the subject in general. In any case, the e-book version would likely be the preferred option.—*Todd J. Wiebe, Research & Instruction Librarian, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

Encyclopedia of Power. Ed. Keith Dowding. Los Angeles: Sage, 2011. 755 p. \$175 (ISBN 978-1-4129-2748-2). E-book \$220 (ISBN 978-1-4129-9408-8).

The word “power” most often refers to social, versus physical, power. But the latter use is not that rare. Indeed, a search of large academic library OPACs using the subject term “power resources” yields hundreds of titles. The *Encyclopedia of Power* would be much more aptly named the *Encyclopedia of Political Power* or the *Encyclopedia of Social Power*. The single volume contains 381 signed articles ranging from 400 to 4,000 words on theories, phenomena, individuals, and events related to political and social power. Many of the 157 contributors are from abroad, primarily Europe. Editor Keith Dowding, a professor of political science at Australian National University, appreciates the uniqueness of power as a topic of study. He provides a short but edifying description of several current interdisciplinary themes in power research; this provides useful context. He also defines nearly all of the categories of the encyclopedia’s Reader’s Guide, a finding tool that groups articles by topic. A list of articles that should illustrate the volume’s breadth contains “Banks,” “Civil War,” “Discourse,” “E-Governance,” “Gunboat Diplomacy,” “Hegemony,” “League of Nations,” “Loyalty,” “The Media,” “Queer Theories of Power,” “Power and Testosterone,” and “Veiled Women.” The book also has an alphabetical entry list and exhaustive index. Dowding clarifies that the primary sources of material are the fields of political science, international relations, and sociology. Many articles are intended to touch on several disciplines at once. Those areas of study are not specifically delineated in the multidisciplinary articles, but good students should be able to identify the connections. Some longer articles have topic headings. Each ends with cross references and further readings. The content also includes a handful of graphics.

Dowding invited his contributors to offer their own perspectives on many of the work’s topics, along with providing the latest factual information. Thus, this work is a compilation of current theories of power applied to hundreds of phenomena and concepts, as well as biographies of people who have been influential in the field. It has no real peers in the literature, and is much more extensive in its approach to its subject than subject encyclopedias in the social and political sciences. The *Encyclopedia of Political Science* (Sage, 2011), the *Encyclopedia of Psychology* (ALA, 2000), and the *Encyclopedia of Sociology* (Gale, 2000) each include articles on power focusing on discipline-specific theories. Based on Dowding’s stated source of material, and a review of this encyclopedia’s entries, it seems that this book will be most useful for researchers of political science, international relations, and sociology. Its organization, content, and reasonable price should make it appealing to librarians. However, the ambiguity of this book’s title raises questions regarding the speed and frequency with which it will be used when its record is retrieved in an OPAC. Hopefully a harried researcher will either take the time to look at its catalog record and see that it deals with social/political power, or do a keyword or subject search for “power social sciences.” This access

issue makes this book a tricky acquisition. The *Encyclopedia of Power* is recommended for academic libraries with staff committed to aggressively promoting its use.—*Eric Petersen, Reference Librarian, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri*

Encyclopedia of Religion and Film. Ed. Eric Michael Mazur. Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-Clio, 2011. 644 pages. Acid free \$85 (ISBN 978-0-3133-3072-8). E-book available, (978-0-3130-1398-0).

This one-volume encyclopedia edited by Eric Michael Mazur (associate professor of religious studies at Virginia Wesleyan College) is not a reference work covering individual films with references to religion (like I expected it to be). Rather, there are more than 90 entries in essay format focusing on more general topics related to religion and film such as angels, the devil, holidays, and rituals. There are even entries for those interested in those perennial film favorites, vampires and zombies. Several entries are dedicated to specific directors like Woody Allen, Frank Capra, and Martin Scorsese and to specific religions like Catholicism, Islam, and Mormonism. An effort was made to include coverage of non-English, non-Western films and directors, but the emphasis is on films from the English-speaking world.

The entries are written in layman's terms by academic and independent scholars and are arranged alphabetically. Most are around four to six pages in length, and happily, the contributors don't discriminate against cult classics. For example, I wasn't sure if the entry on Joan of Arc would mention 1989's *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*, but there it was on page 262! Multiple entries mentions *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, too. Each entry contains see also references when appropriate and a list of further reading. A limited number of images are provided in black & white (the cover, however, features an eye-catching color photo of Charlton Heston in *The Ten Commandments*). For access, there is a list of entries and a guide to related topics in the front of the book as well as an index in the back. There is also a filmography listing all the films mentioned in this work as well as a selected bibliography.

The study of religion and film is a relatively new field of academic study, and other books have been published on it in recent years. In comparison to the Mazur work, William L. Blizek's *The Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (Continuum, 2009) contains lengthy essays and has a higher price point at \$160 as does John Lyden's *The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film* (Routledge, 2009) at \$200. At \$85, Mazur's book is an excellent value and would be a terrific addition to academic and public libraries.—*Samantha J. Gust, Electronic Resources Librarian, Niagara University Library, Niagara University, New York*

Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media. Ed. John D. H. Downing. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage, 2011. 602 p. Acid free \$150 (ISBN 978-0-7619-2688-7). E-book available (978-1-4129-7931-3), \$190.

In January 2011, the world witnessed a political uprising in Cairo that was catalyzed by social media—so much so

that pundits quickly dubbed it Egypt's "Twitter Revolution." Scholars have yet to appraise the accuracy of that label, of course, but in the meantime, and thanks to the excellent new *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media* just published by Sage, we can begin to understand the Egyptian protests within their broader historical and communications contexts. In entry after entry, the *Encyclopedia* reminds us that words, images, performance and sound have been used across the ages and across the globe to inspire individuals and ignite (sometimes even incite) collective action and social change.

The *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media* is comprised of 250 entries, organized alphabetically, on topics that range from the local to the transnational. Articles are typically 1–4 pages in length, generously cross-referenced, and followed by brief bibliographies. Readers can use the *Encyclopedia* to explore subjects such as the "angry Buddhist monks" in Tibet, political murals in Northern Ireland, alternative comics (U.S.), beheading videos (Tehran), *samizdat* media from the Soviet era, Black Exploitation films from the 1970s, and Bhangra dance in South Asia. The list of contributors assembled for this project is impressively diverse as well; 80 percent are scholars working outside the U.S., and many of them, quite deliberately, are women.

Editor John D. H. Downing is well aware of the difficulties in amassing an encyclopedia around such a shape-shifting phenomenon. In part, those difficulties have to do with nomenclature: one person's "social movement" media, after all, might be described as "alternative," "participatory," "community" "counterinformation" or "nano-" media by someone else. Then there is the "dizzying array" (xxv) of subtypes to contend with: indigenous, ethnic and minority, tactical and "rhizomatic," to name a few. And inevitably, hard choices of what to include (or not) have to be made. "You are looking at the very tip of the top of a gigantic iceberg," Downing announces in his introduction, "so think of this encyclopedia as a first edition, a downpayment on a much more extensive project" (xxv) yet to come.

However, while the contents of the *Encyclopedia* are certainly eclectic, they are hardly eccentric, and Downing is explicit about his selection decisions. Chief among his "guiding principles" was a desire to "ensure as far as possible that experiences from the global South are given voice"; to sample the panoply of format types—from graffiti to tattoos, to dance and radio—through which social movements spread their messages; and to include some examples of "repressive social movement media"—like Radio Milles Collines—alongside more "progressive ones" (xxv). In fact, the overall coherence of the volume is enhanced by the detailed index at the back of the book and by a helpful reader's guide in the front. Users can view entries grouped together by region, media type, and theme.

At \$150, the *Encyclopedia* is a worthy investment for college and university collections; it fills an unmet need with its unique focus on the means of communicating social action and it should have relevancy and broad utility across disciplines and curricula. The e-book version, just slightly more