

American philosophy” (xv).

In 2004, Co-Editor in Chief Callicott and Associate Editor Palmer compiled one hundred previously published environmental philosophy papers in a five-volume set titled *Environmental Philosophy: Critical Concepts in the Environment*. Their new *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy* is considered by the editors to be complimentary to the 2004 set, providing the much needed introductory overview important to understanding issues in environmental ethics and philosophy. While there are many works written on the topic of environmental philosophy, none of them provide the encyclopedic treatment of the *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*.

Articles are signed, and the list of contributors, located in volume 1, includes their title and institutional affiliation. Black-and-white photographs, charts, graphics, and inset articles enhance the text. Every article includes a bibliography, which in many instances is quite extensive. There are more than fifty biographical articles describing the work and influence of key figures instrumental in developing the field of environmental philosophy. Of particular note are the articles that provide summary introductions to agricultural and animal ethics, and environmental philosophy from ancient through postmodern philosophical thought. All articles are carefully written to reveal connections between the topic and environmental philosophy and ethics and/or the philosophical interface between humans and the environment.

There is a great deal of detail beyond the articles themselves that adds value to this set. The first volume begins with an introduction that sets the tone by providing enough background for a basic understanding of the development of the roughly forty-year-old field of environmental philosophy, followed by a lengthy afterword that details the general types of ethical theory upon which environmental ethics is built. A useful thematic outline is included to aid in the discovery of connected and related topics. Appendixes in volume 2 include a glossary and a collection of ten primary resource documents, including essays by Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, and Arne Naess, as well as the 2000 Earth Charter (a code of ethics for a sustainable world). Finally, the index is detailed and complete.

Overall this is a nice encyclopedia for a field that is currently underrepresented by broadly written reference works. This work admirably meets its stated objective of providing a “synoptic account of environmental attitudes and values” (xv) and is highly readable and useful for both scholars and the general public. This set would be at home on a high school, large public or academic library shelf. It is also available as an e-book. Highly recommended.—*Aimée deChambeau, Associate Librarian, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York*

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***Encyclopedia of Gender and Society***. Ed. by Jodi O’Brien. Los Angeles: Sage, 2009. 2 vols. acid free \$350 (ISBN 978-1-4129-0916-7).

The past decade has shown us a handful of valuable reference materials for those interested in studying and learning

about gender. Users have had a chance to reference encyclopedias on gender and sex, women in history, and the history of women’s studies, to name a few. However, the *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society*, edited by Jodi O’Brien, proves to be not only a vital addition to the field but also a leader among the reference encyclopedias on the subject.

What makes this two-volume encyclopedia stand apart from others? For starters, it is the emphasis on society. Its focus on personal, local, and global topics provides discussion of the effects of and on society, with some entries giving a complete, detailed history of the social and historical effects. With more than four hundred entries, the *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* is able to discuss pertinent subjects with focused detail rather than broad general coverage. The important cross-cultural and transnational emphases (entries include political, social, economic, and personal foci) are fully represented in the edition to offer an overall thorough view of gender and many societies.

The editor states in the introduction that studying gender and society makes for a complex subject. She gives the framework of the encyclopedia as analyses into the “complexities of gender in ways that are comprehensible, relevant, and useful” (xxx), and I believe that framework is evident throughout the set. The more than two hundred contributors have written accessible entries with a sophistication users will find encouraging and stimulating.

Following each entry is not only a list of further readings, but also a “see also” list of terms to cross-reference within the set. The reader’s guide at the beginning gives users a map to find specific entries under broad headings such as “Crime and Criminal Justice” or “Religion, Mythology, and Spirituality.” The relevancy and usefulness of that tool, combined with the extensive number of entries, make the *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* a top choice for laying the groundwork of a study focusing on gender.

The large and wide-reaching selection of entries will be helpful to a variety of students, from the undergraduate student who is just beginning to question societal norms to the graduate student in women’s studies or sociology. Though the encyclopedia set is a substantial purchase (\$350) for a library with budget constraints, it proves to be a strong foundation choice for a library of any size and definitely worth its price.—*Melia Erin Fritch, Reference Generalist, K-State Libraries, Kansas State University, Manhattan*

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***Encyclopedia of Marine Science***. Ed. by C. R. Nichols and Robert G. Williams. Facts On File Science Library. New York: Facts On File, 2008. 640p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 978-0-8160-5022-2).

The *Encyclopedia of Marine Science* is a solid example of a one-volume encyclopedia—it has all the usual features. One thing that does distinguish it is the small number of contributors—only ten. The contributors are a mix of people, including technicians, professors, government scientists, and businesspeople. This mix of contributors affects the types of entries found in this encyclopedia. Other encyclopedias of marine science don’t include entries like “Anchors,” “Harbor

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Pilot,” or “Marine Police.” The *Encyclopedia of Marine Science* does cover all the scientific and technical terms you would expect; the addition of some basic seafaring terms is a bonus.

The encyclopedia is written for a wide audience, from high school students to scientists. The style is easy to follow and explains all the terms that laypeople may not understand. The many black-and-white illustrations and tables support this effort. The appendixes include background information, like the periodic table and a list of geologic time periods.

There are two recent multivolume encyclopedias that must be compared with this work: the *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*, edited by Steele, Turekian, and Thorpe (Academic Press, 2001) and the *Interdisciplinary Encyclopedia of Marine Sciences* by Nybakken, Broenkow, and Vallier (Grolier Academic Reference, 2003). The first is a six-volume work, the second has four volumes. Both works are obviously larger and provide more content than the *Encyclopedia of Marine Science*. The *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*, while older, is aimed at a college-level or above audience, and the entries read that way. The *Interdisciplinary Encyclopedia of Marine Sciences* has an audience similar to the *Encyclopedia of Marine Science*.

Larger high school and public libraries that don't have the other two encyclopedias should consider purchasing the *Encyclopedia of Marine Science*. Academic libraries may not need to purchase this volume if they own one or both of the other encyclopedias, and I don't suggest purchasing this one-volume work to update the other two, which are larger and more detailed.—Robin N. Sinn, Librarian for Science and Engineering, The Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

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***Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania.*** Ed. by Barbara A. West. Facts On File Library of World History. New York: Facts On File, 2009. 2 vols. acid free \$175 (ISBN 978-0-8160-7109-8).

The *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania* is a two-volume reference set that provides information on roughly four hundred groups located in Asia and Oceania. Barbara A. West and the twenty-five contributors had many difficult choices to make on what groups would be included because “Asia and Oceania are broad and dynamic regions that encompass the two largest countries on Earth by population, China and India, and the largest by territory, Russia” (xvii).

Entries vary in length, and the majority of these entries are organized according to geography, origins, history, and culture. Entries may also include sidebar information about location, time period, ancestry, religion, and language. There are sixty-three nationality entries that “are defined by citizenship rather than by language, ethnicity, or some other cultural trait” (xix). Some of the nationality entries include essays about Australians, Fijians, Tongans, and Vietnamese. These are longer entries that include timelines, further reading lists, and more descriptive essays about the people. The timelines that are provided are useful for their up-to-date information.

There are cross-references available for certain groups, pointing the user to alternate entry names. This set also in-

cludes black-and-white maps and photographs. There are seven appendixes in volume 2. Appendix 1 is particularly functional, as it organizes the groups by country.

The *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania* is a valuable source for its inclusion of many different peoples. However, because so many groups are included, the depth at which each is covered is limited. West explains that “we made choices to cover the most important dates and events that we believe contributed to each group's contemporary position or ultimate demise” (xvi). This set does not include racial groups or caste groups. Contemporary people groups and also historical groups like the Greeks are represented.

Although readers will discover valuable information about a group's culture, they may not see that much information about the peoples' art, clothing, literature, or music. Users could refer to other ethnology reference sources like Timothy L. Gall's *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*, vol. 3, *Asia and Oceania* (Gale, 1998) or David Levinson's *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* (G. K. Hall, 1991–1996) for more detailed cultural information, yet these reference books are not as inclusive or current as the *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania*.

Overall, this reference work is an authoritative and appropriate place for students to start their research on a particular Asian or Oceanic group of people. Recommended for public and college libraries.—Megan Coder, Senior Assistant Librarian, State University of New York, New Paltz.

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***Environmental Science in Context.*** Ed. by Brenda W. Lerner and K. L. Lerner. Detroit: Gale, 2008. 2 vols. \$245 (ISBN 978-1-4144-3617-3).

This work is part of Gale's In Context series. It is aimed primarily at high school students but would also be appropriate to a general readership. The series supports and aligns with national science standards and high school curriculums across subject areas. The focus is on the “impacts of science on social, political, and legal issues” (xxiii).

*Environmental Science in Context* is a two-volume set with almost 250 entries and about 1,000 pages. The introductory information for the work is duplicated at the beginning of each volume. This consists of a complete table of contents that covers both volumes; the section “About This Book,” which explains the structure of the work and the entries with a section on bibliographic citation formats; a section on using primary sources, which explains what they are and how to use them; a glossary; and a chronology. Having this material in both volumes is extremely helpful. The discussion of citation formats is very thorough and should be helpful to student, teacher, and librarian alike. The primary sources section is also very helpful and is a concept sometimes overlooked or not well understood at the high school level. The glossary is extensive. While the chronology is interesting, I am not certain of the usefulness in such a broad subject area. A well-designed, comprehensive index and a bibliography, entitled “Sources Consulted,” are found at the back of volume 2.

The entries are arranged alphabetically. Each entry fol-