

phabetically. Entries range in length from a few paragraphs to several pages, and many include important cross-references and further reading citations. The range of topics included is good; however, some of the entries could have been shortened to allow for additions. For example, inclusion of an entry for Mohandas Gandhi covering his use of nonviolent resistance and his influence on subsequent protest movements would have been a great addition, since Gandhian tactics and influences are mentioned in several entries. Also included in some entries are lists of persons involved in specific events or movements. These lists are sometimes of questionable use, and it's often unclear whether or not the lists of persons involved in various acts or events is comprehensive or, as is more likely the case, a sampling of individuals.

Volume 2 is composed entirely of supplementary material, such as a chronology of historical acts of conscience and a glossary of technical terms related to civil disobedience. The glossary is particularly important given that many of these terms are used throughout the encyclopedia. I would have preferred to see it placed at the beginning or end of volume 1, since it is difficult to locate in the midst of the supplements, and I found myself wanting to refer to it on several occasions. Also included in volume 2 are charts of acts of civil disobedience on record sorted by the target of the act (for example, anti-abortion laws) and also by geographical location in which these acts occurred. The supplementary material is rounded out by a highly selective group of relevant documents (for example, "John Brown's Final Speech"), a helpful bibliography that is divided by primary and secondary sources, and a comprehensive index.

This source would be most suitable for collegiate and large public or research library collections. Effective use at the high school level is questionable because of the density and length of many articles, the lack of color illustrations, and the sophisticated vocabulary used. For example, the encyclopedia's entry for "civil disobedience" begins with the following: "Ingrained in lovers of democracy is a gut-level defiance of cumbersome, dehumanizing, or unconscionable laws, a concept that American philosopher Henry David Thoreau described in 1849 as 'civil disobedience'" (1:65). I had to reread this statement a couple of times in order to ascertain a definition, and it seems a more straightforward statement might better begin what could be considered the most important entry in this work. For libraries looking for a comprehensive source on topics related to American protest, dissidence, and civil disobedience, this set will make a good addition to their reference collections.—*Cara Gilgenbach, Head, Special Collections and Archives, Kent State University Libraries, Kent, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of Adventure Fiction: The Essential Reference to the Great Works and Writers of Adventure Fiction.*** By Don D'Amassa. Facts On File Library of World Literature. New York: Facts On File, 2009. 364p. acid free \$75 (ISBN 978-0-8160-7573-7).

D'Amassa's latest addition to the Facts On File Literary Movements series joins his *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* and *Encyclopedia of Fantasy and Horror Fiction*.

The introduction describes adventure fiction as fast-paced stories "where the adventurous element is of primary importance" (vii). Thus, although many stories contain an element of adventure, included here are only those tales in which the adventure is an overarching feature. This directive is fairly subjective, although the author attempts to include titles from overlapping genres and authors from antiquity to present day.

Entries include novels and short stories, from classics like *The Odyssey* to classic American texts such as Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, to the more modern *The Da Vinci Code*, to Carl Stephenson's short story *Leiningen versus the Ants*. The entries primarily concentrate on novels and short stories, although some authors and a tiny number of adventurous protagonists (James Bond, The Spider, The Shadow) receive coverage. Adaptations are mentioned when applicable; the entry for "First Blood," the first of the Rambo series, for example, also includes a comparison of the novel to the cinematic version.

Typical story entries are two to three pages in length, providing nominal information about the author and a concise plot summary followed by a brief analysis of author and plot, usually including a comparison to other stories within the genre. Author and thematic entries contain brief overviews of works. Although more detailed than a reader's guide such as Michael B. Gannon's *Blood, Bedlam, Bullets, and Badguys* (Libraries Unlimited, 2004), the *Encyclopedia of Adventure Fiction* is limited by its brevity. In comparison, entries in Magill's various Masterplots series (Salem), although similar in format, are superior to the *Encyclopedia of Adventure Fiction's* for brief summary and critical analysis; Masterplots entries contain more detailed analysis, themes, and bibliographic references and are a stronger reference tool.

The *Encyclopedia of Adventure Fiction* would better serve users if the list of entries was a more traditional table of contents, including page numbers for speedier navigation. Its "Bibliography of Adventure Fiction" details only the adventure stories of the authors included in the book; it is by no means a comprehensive list and does not claim to be so. Its "Selected Bibliography of Secondary Sources" is also less than comprehensive, with its sixteen entries seeming merely an afterthought and not a memorable feature, although the index enables strong cross-referencing.

This work is suitable for school, public, and lower-level undergraduate library populations to provide a quick summary and an introduction to critical analysis; purchase only if Masterplots is out of reach.—*Amy F. Fyn, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present: From the Age of Segregation to the Twenty-First Century.*** Ed. by Paul Finkelman. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009. 5 vols. alkaline \$495 (ISBN 978-0-19-516779-5).

The *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present: From the Age of Segregation to the Twenty-First Century* takes up the history of African Americans from where its three-

## SOURCES

volume predecessor and companion publication, *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2006) concluded. It carries that history forward from the landmark *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision to the landmark 2008 presidential election. Within the encyclopedia's five volumes, some 1,250 alphabetically arranged entries trace the evolution of race relations in the United States from legally sanctioned prohibitions on "Commingleing" to the election of a man who happens to be black to the nation's highest office.

Homer Plessy and Barack Obama stand at either end of the long twentieth-century struggle of African American men and women to be judged, in Martin Luther King's now famous words, "by the content of their character." The *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present* chronicles that struggle in entries that are biographical (more than six hundred black men and women with a few whites, such as Lyndon Johnson, who had a significant effect on the lives of African Americans), geographical (each state in the union as well as selected cities such as Baltimore and Chicago), topical ("Brownsville Raid," "Juneteenth," "National Conference of Black Lawyers"), or thematic ("Black Nationalism," "Entertainment Industry and African Americans," "Lynching and Mob Violence").

All entries are signed, and each concludes with "see also" references to related articles and, with minor exceptions, a bibliography of relevant books. Black-and-white illustrations accompany some entries. The section "Directory of Contributors" in volume 5 lists each contributor's name, affiliation, and titles of articles authored. "Thematic Outline of Entries" in the same volume offers the reader an additional means for bringing related articles together as, for example, the theme "Migration" brings together "African Diaspora," "American Colonization Society," "Black Migration," "Black Towns," "Expatriates," "Great Migration," "Great Migration, Second," "Immigrants and African Americans," "Immigration to the United States, Black," "Pan-Africanism," "Urbanization," and "West Indians in the United States." The section "Chronology of African American History, 1896 to the Present" and a comprehensive 244-page index to the encyclopedia's contents round out the work.

As is to be expected, certain topics and themes represented in the *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1885* carry over into the *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present*. Some articles, the "Black Church" for instance, are contributed to each publication by the same author, albeit with emphasis, details, and coverage appropriate to the different historical time periods of the two sets. Other articles, such as "Discrimination," are contributed to the two sets by different authors, and each is fully grounded in its own historical period.

With its more than four thousand entries in eight volumes, Oxford University Press' *African American National Biography*, edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, by far exceeds the six hundred biographical sketches included in the *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present*. Among overlapping entries sampled between the two sets this reviewer found that none had been contributed by

the same author and that each entry complimented the other rather than supplanted it. For example, the entry for W. E. B. Du Bois in the *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present* is conveniently subdivided into three sections, each separately authored, that cover Du Bois' life, his historical writings, his literary writings, and an especially useful arrangement for students; whereas the article in the *African American National Biography* is a good deal shorter, placing its emphasis not only on Du Bois' life and career but also placing his life and career into context with his contemporaries. It should be noted here that all three of these Oxford University Press publications (*Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619–1895*; *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present*; *African American National Biography*) are available online in the Oxford African American Studies Center ([www.oxfordaasc.com](http://www.oxfordaasc.com)), although as of this writing only the A–H entries are loaded from the print edition of newest encyclopedia.

The past several years have seen the publication of second editions of two major reference works about African Americans and the African American experience: *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2005) in five volumes, edited by Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates Jr. (also available online in the Oxford African American Studies Center) and the six-volume *Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History: The Black Experience in the Americas* (Macmillan Reference USA, 2006), edited by Colin A. Palmer. Both of these works expand their coverage beyond the shores of the United States, encompassing a broader definition of "American" that includes the experience of peoples of African descent in North and South America and the Caribbean.

The *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present* (and its predecessor) is more narrowly focused on the United States. Used in conjunction, these sets provide a complimentary overview of the African American experience in the Western Hemisphere that expands our understanding of what that experience has in common and what is unique and particular.

This encyclopedia is an obligatory purchase for high school, public, and university libraries that do not have access to the Oxford African American Studies Center online edition, especially those that have already purchased its three-volume predecessor.—Sally Moffitt, *Reference Librarian and Bibliographer, History, Philosophy, Political Science, African American Studies, Asian Studies, Judaic Studies, Latin American Studies, and Women's Studies, Cohen Library Enrichment Collection, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of African Religion.*** Ed. by Molefi K. Asante and Ama Mazama. Los Angeles: Sage, 2009. 2 vols. alkaline \$325 (ISBN 978-1-4129-3636-1).

The ambitious two-volume *Encyclopedia of African Religion*, edited by Molefi K. Asante and Ama Mazama, both at Temple University, is the "first comprehensive work to assemble ideas, concepts, discourses, and extensive essays