

(title and date of publication only), and most entries have a second sidebar covering an aspect of the GN's life that was not appropriate for the main entry. For example, the entry on Naoko Takeuchi includes a sidebar about the marketing of products linked to her girls' manga, *Sailor Moon*. Most entries include an undated photo of the GN, but there are remarkably fewer reproductions of artwork than one might have expected. Words such as *pantomime*, *fascism*, and *glutton* are defined in the text, as is *World War II* (each time it is mentioned). Of the GNs, about fifteen are women and about seventeen are Japanese. Twenty-three of the seventy five GNs were interviewed for the encyclopedia, lending much more immediacy to those entries. References include easily found newspaper and magazine articles, as well as the occasional scholarly article, such as in the entry for Marjane Satrapi (author of *Persepolis*, *Persepolis 2*, and *Chicken with Plums*), which cites a 2005 *Yale Review* article. On the other hand, Miwa Ueda's life "is a bit of a mystery to Western readers" (583). Her entry lacks a date of birth, and the sidebar in her entry is "Art of Shōjo Manga" or manga for girls. All Web sites are from recent vintage and most seem to have been accessed just prior to publication.

Each volume includes a cumulative index, and all the introductory material, consisting of a history of the graphic novel, discussion of manga, bibliography, and glossary, is reproduced in each volume. There are a modest number of see-also references.

By way of comparison, it should be noted that about nine of the entrants and their award-winning works can be found in *Graphic Novels in Your Media Center* (Libraries Unlimited, 2004). *UXL Graphic Novelists* bears little resemblance to the heavily illustrated, two-entries-per-page *Comic Book Encyclopedia* (HarperEntertainment, 2004) or to the *World Encyclopedia of Comics* (2nd ed., Chelsea House Pubs., 1999) with its more than 1,400 brief entries with more emphasis on the artwork than on the GN.

All libraries serving a young adult population will want to purchase this work. It should be noted that according to the publisher's Web site, an e-book version was released in October 2006. The price for the e-book was not given on the site.—Martha E. Stone, *Coordinator for Reference Services, Treadwell Library, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*

Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Margaret Schaus. Routledge Encyclopedias of the Middle Ages. New York: Routledge, 2006. 984p. \$175 (ISBN 0-415-96944-1).

Reference works about the medieval and Middle Ages periods abound. Indeed, there are several encyclopedias that pertain specifically to women during this time period. Yet, *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe: An Encyclopedia* is not simply a rehash or even a reorganization of information already available. The work's uniqueness lies in its impeccable organization and referencing, its catering to its intended audience, and in the contributors' historiographical orientation.

Considering the contributors' writing styles, the depth of information, and the assumed background knowledge, *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe* appears to be geared toward graduate students, college instructors, and scholars of history and women's and gender studies. Yet, the interdisciplinary nature of many of the entries extends the work's usefulness to a variety of fields. For example, the entry "Adolescence" is clearly rooted in anthropological and social historical traditions and offers the psychology or anthropology student a good understanding of the concept's meaning and application as it varies according to geographic location and throughout history.

The introduction to *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe* implies that the entries will focus as much on the methodologies of women's and medievalist history as on the particular subject at hand. Including historiographical discussions as part and parcel of the thematic entries again speaks to the high quality and scholarship (and therefore intended readership level) of this work. For example, the entry for "Lying-in," "a customary period of time for a woman to withdraw from normal society when she gave birth" (500), discusses pre- and post-1980 understanding of this concept by scholars, allowing readers a chance to better comprehend apparent contradictions found in other sources.

As mentioned, several reference works address similar content. One such work is *Women in the Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Katharina M. Wilson and Nadia Margolis (Greenwood, 2004). The two works share many topical entries but each contains information that the other does not. The one glaring flaw of *Women in the Middle Ages* is its lack of index, thereby making *Women and Gender in Medieval Europe* its superior, though both are suggested for libraries serving graduate-level learners and above. A second, older encyclopedic work by Jennifer Lawler, *Encyclopedia of Women in the Middle Ages* (McFarland, 2001), is useful as a quick reference for middle school through undergraduate-level learners but does not meet the level, quality, nor depth of information found in either of the two aforementioned works. Additionally, *The Annotated Index of Medieval Women* (M. Wiener, 1992), edited by Anne Echols and Marty Williams, and *Extraordinary Women of the Medieval and Renaissance World: A Biographical Dictionary* (Greenwood, 2000) by Carole Levin et al., both focus on specific women. Neither work attempts to address the era in a thematic sense, nor to interweave the various entries as part of a larger context. Finally the textbook *Women in Early Medieval Europe 400–1100* (Cambridge, 2002) by Lisa M. Bitel should be mentioned as it is the perfect companion to the reviewed encyclopedia. Both state the importance of primary resources and historiographical discussions but, while Bitel's work paints broad strokes of women during this time period, the reviewed work provides more detail. A student taking a "Women in Medieval Europe" class would be well served in studying the works simultaneously.

This well-organized encyclopedia contains all the hallmarks of a traditional, high-quality reference work including: an extensive analytical index; cross references, author listings,

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and lengthy bibliographies; illustrations; meaningful appendices; and a listing of entries by theme. Bibliographies contain both primary and secondary sources, and to their credit, many contributors include citations to reprints of primary sources, making those sources far more accessible to students and scholars unable to travel to remote archives.

Women and Gender in Medieval Europe is highly recommended for libraries supporting graduate-level students in history and women's or gender studies.—Kristi L. Palmer, Assistant Librarian to Bibliographic and Metadata Services and Liaison to the Departments of History, Women's Studies, and American Studies, IUPUI University Library, Indianapolis

World Fascism: A Historical Encyclopedia. Ed. by Cyprian P. Blamires with Paul Jackson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2006. 2 vols. alkaline \$185 (ISBN 1-57607-940-6).

The term *fascism* originally referred to the extreme right-wing ideological and political movement in Italy in the early 1920s under the leadership of Benito Mussolini. As an ideology and a system of governance, Italian fascism was characterized by populism, belligerent nationalism, the notion of racial rebirth, and the exaltation of the nation over individuals or groups. Hostile to democracy, socialism, and liberalism, Mussolini's government relied on a centralized, autocratic system of rule, severe economic and social regimentation, and a commitment to violently purging groups or movements opposed to the State. In the public's imagination, Italian fascism has come to be symbolized by its devotion to youth and masculinity, mass rallies, theatric displays of military power, and the use of terror to subdue political opposition. Since then, fascism has been a dynamic, evolving political ideology that has taken on many forms in a variety of diverse nations. As a result, experts have had difficulty identifying common traits relative to a generic form of fascism and have defined it in a variety of conflicting ways. Until recently, this lack of a cohesive framework for studying fascism has made the production of an encyclopedia, whose entries must share a common perspective on a central topic, extremely difficult.

Roger Griffin, professor of modern history at Oxford-Brooks University and noted fascist-studies expert, begins *World Fascism: A Historical Encyclopedia* by outlining the developments in the field of fascist studies and describing the growing consensus of scholarly opinion for a conceptual framework and an agreed upon definition of generic fascism. Recent scholarship, Griffin maintains, has drifted toward a new approach to the subject, increasingly viewing fascism as a worldwide revolutionary ideology with a distinctive form of politics and common features. For the purposes of the encyclopedia, Griffin provides a working definition of fascism, consisting of three core elements: ultranationalism, revolution, and rebirth. Although this definition is controversial, it has permitted Cyprian P. Blamires (with Paul Jackson) to produce a distinctive and well-timed reference treatment of the subject.

Organized alphabetically in two volumes, *World Fascism: A Historical Encyclopedia* covers the period from World War II until today and features five hundred A–Z entries. Signed articles are written by an impressive list of more than one hundred subject specialists and are devoted to a wide variety of topics, including key people, significant events, important movements, relevant doctrines, and a host of other related subjects. Comprehensive coverage is given to those governments openly identifying themselves as fascist, those that have been identified as fascist in the public's mind, and those that share an affinity with fascist ideology. The generally interesting and well-written entries are scholarly in their approach and provide references and cross references. Key features of the set include lists of contributors and entries, a chronology, a general bibliography, an index subdivided by subject with cross references highlighted in bold text, and a generous supply of high-quality photographs and illustrations.

There are many other reference works devoted to Nazi Germany and Italian fascism. For all of the aforementioned reasons, however, Blamires and Jackson's effort is the first significant attempt to produce an encyclopedia giving in-depth historical and global coverage to fascism from its beginnings until the new millennium, and as such, it is without rival in its format. Nonetheless, there are several books that will serve as excellent companion volumes. Foremost among these are the works of Roger Griffin. His first important monograph, *The Nature of Fascism* (Routledge, 1991), is notable for establishing a new theory of generic fascism, and it has had enormous influence among fascist-studies scholars since its publication. More recently, his book with Matthew Feldman, *Fascism* (Routledge, 2003), provides an interesting examination of the nature of fascism, its social dynamics, its relationship with culture, and its postwar development. Two other important contributions to the literature include Zeev Sternhell, Mario Sznajder, and Maia Ashéri's *The Birth of Fascist Ideology: From Cultural Rebellion to Political Revolution* (Princeton Univ. Pr., 1996) and Robert O. Paxson's *The Anatomy of Fascism* (Vintage Bks., 2004). Both works will provide the interested reader with an engaging examination of fascism's development since its inception.

World Fascism: A Historical Encyclopedia is a unique addition that fills a glaring void in the reference literature for serious students of the postwar period. With the increasing global influence of autocratic, militaristic, collectivist, and nationalist governments, *World Fascism* will serve as a timely research tool for those readers interested in politics, modern history, racism, nationalism, and related subjects. Packaged in durable bindings using high-quality materials and unrivaled in its depth and scope, *World Fascism* is highly recommended for all academic and public library collections serving political science and history students and researchers.—Vincent P. Tinerella, Coordinator of Electronic Reference Services, Founders Memorial Library, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb