

skillfully placing baseball within the larger framework of U.S. history. This work is recommended for academic library collections in support of both the general undergraduate curriculum and advanced programs in sports history. Other libraries with strong baseball or sports history collections will also want to consider this solid, yet modest work.—*Ken Burhanna, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Kent State University, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Measurement and Statistics. Ed. by Neil J. Salkind. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 1-4129-1611-9).

The stated objective of the editor of this set is to provide the general reader with a source of information on statistics as applied to the social sciences, particularly psychology. The encyclopedia contains entries on experimental methods, techniques, sampling, analysis, and statistical tests. Nearly one hundred psychometric assessment tests, such as the Myers-Briggs Inventory and Clinical Assessment of Depression, have individual entries describing their history, the test forms, and uses.

The entries are written by academics in the fields of psychology and statistics and range in length from several paragraphs to several pages depending on the complexity and importance of the subject. The clarity of the entries varies according to the subject and author; the level of writing is uneven. For example, the entries on Eigenvalues and Fourier Analysis include dense discussions of high-level mathematics, which is not in keeping with the level of the audience targeted by the editor and evident for the majority of the entries. In contrast, the entry for z scores, a much simpler topic, is clear and easily understandable. In any case, the general reader is more interested in the meaning of the values that statistical software generates, such as probability *p*, than the detailed mathematics that produced them.

The nonmathematical topics are generally well written and lack excessive jargon. These topics also include those more interesting to the general public, such as ethics in testing and IQ testing. Most entries include suggestions for further reading. Additional material includes appendixes for Internet sites, critical values, a glossary, and master bibliography. The set is appropriate for undergraduate and large public libraries.—*Sara Parsons, Reference Librarian, Oregon, Ohio*

The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History. Ed. by Gregory Fremont-Barnes and Richard Alan Ryerson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2006. 5 vols. acid free \$485 (ISBN 1-85109-408-3).

[Ed. note: Also see the review of *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia*, ed. by Gregory Fremont-Barnes and Richard Alan Ryerson (ABC-Clío, 2006), page 81.]

This encyclopedia demonstrates the value of books in the Internet age. It comprehensively and authoritatively presents the people, battles, and issues of the American Revolution,

plus scores of primary sources, in an attractive and highly usable format.

The first four volumes contain more than one thousand signed entries on subjects as expected as a biography of John Adams and as obscure as the fight at Tarrant's Tavern, North Carolina. Coverage includes creation of the U.S. Constitution four years after the war. These volumes each provide an alphabetical list of all the encyclopedia's entries, a list of maps, a set of general maps, and an index. The first volume includes a preface, "Putting the American Revolution in Perspective," and two essays on the origins of the revolution and the military operations in it. At the end of the fourth volume are a comparison of army ranks, a chronology, a glossary, a list of editors and contributors, and a long general bibliography. Each subject entry also includes a bibliography.

The last volume is a treasure, especially for students learning how to do research in primary sources. It has 154 original documents as varied as "Letter of a Boston Loyalist (1774)" and "Nathanael Green's View on Quaker Pacifism (1775 and 1777)," and as momentous as the "Stamp Act (1765)" and the "Virginia Declaration of Rights." The documents are preceded by introductions.

The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War: A Political, Social, and Military History should be compared with the student version of the same material, *American Revolutionary War: A Student Encyclopedia*, from the same publisher and editors (see first review in this section). *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War* is, in many respects, similar to *The American Revolution 1775–1783: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Richard L. Blanco, (Garland, 1993). The new set does have numerous black-and-white illustrations lacking in the older work, but libraries with tight budgets that own Blanco's wide-ranging encyclopedia can get by with it. More to the point these days may be comparisons to Wikipedia. Some of the less-famous subjects found in *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolutionary War* are not included in the popular Web-based encyclopedia. On more famous subjects, Wikipedia's strengths include color illustrations and the links it provides to related subjects, but the paper encyclopedia holds its own with longer articles, as well as with the bibliographies and the authority of authors. All in all, the new encyclopedia is a worthy project and, if they can afford it, deserves purchase by librarians looking for a good resource about the birth of the United States.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450. Ed. by Thomas Benjamin. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006. 3 vols. alkaline \$395 (ISBN 0-02-865843-4).

This new reference work focuses on the colonial empires of West European nations and the United States, but it also gives space to the colonial expansion of Japan, the Ottomans, and Russia. The editors, led by historian Thomas Benjamin, organized an international corps of scholars to contribute more than four hundred articles on a broad range of topics

SOURCES

that illustrate the impact of colonial activities on the economic, political, legal, cultural, and social lives of the affected peoples and places. The encyclopedia offers a range of users, including students, researchers, and the general public, a guide to current scholarship in this broad-ranging field.

Important commodities, people, concepts, and specialized and broad subjects are covered by the articles, which range from a few paragraphs (“Cinnamon”) to about ten pages (“Empire, British” or “Religion, Roman Catholic Church”). Particularly important are general survey articles on the empires of western countries; these articles usually include a map and brief chronology. The bibliographies following the articles can be extensive, and some include Web sites and works in western languages. The work is enhanced with a glossary of terms, illustrations, maps, and twenty-nine key primary source documents.

Although the articles are arranged alphabetically, a helpful thematic outline groups most of the article titles by broad subjects, such as ideologies, industries, organizations and institutions, empires, concepts, and ideas. Also useful is the detailed subject index. All three entry points, along with see-also references following each article, are important tools for finding all relevant articles or parts of articles because of the sometimes specialized article themes and the way they are arranged in the alphabetical sequence. Many article titles are inverted, although some related titles are not, such as articles entitled “Empire, French,” “French Colonialism, Middle East,” and “France’s African Colonies.”

A helpful feature is that the editors grouped some related articles together with titles beginning with the same word, such as several articles beginning with “Religion.” All article titles with a religion theme are also listed in the thematic outline.

There are some inconsistencies in the organization and thematic conception of the work. For example, there are articles on many countries, regions, and cities, but it is odd that there are articles on Havana and Mexico City but not on Cuba and Mexico.

Despite the problems, the authors and editors produced a work that is interesting and stylistically well written. Taken together, the articles offer a huge wealth of knowledge and information to help readers understand the complex interactions in projecting western power during the development and breakdown of colonialism, the continuing influence of western nations in the affairs of former colonies, and post-colonial concepts.

This new work is one of two recent reference encyclopedias on colonialism. *Colonialism: An International Social, Cultural, and Political Encyclopedia* (ABC-Clio, 2003), edited by historian Melvin Page, is much simpler in organization and thematic construction. Articles do not have the complex themes found in *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450*. Instead the articles and bibliographies are shorter and do not have as much depth of information and coverage of topics such as postcolonialism and women. The primary source documents and empire chronologies provided in *Colonialism* are much more extensive. Both encyclopedias serve

a wide audience, but *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Since 1450* will have more appeal to upper level students and researchers.—David Lincove, *History, Political Science and Philosophy Librarian, Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus*

Encyclopedia of World Poverty. Ed. by Mehmet Odekon. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 2006. 3 vols. acid free \$395 (ISBN 1-4129-1807-3).

Mehmet Odekon, a professor of economics at Skidmore College, has authored several books on Turkey’s economy and is the editor of this three-volume reference set containing approximately eight hundred articles from more than one hundred contributors. Volume one starts with the Reader’s Guide (acting like a table of contents), which is arranged alphabetically by broad topics such as antipoverty organizations, causes of poverty, countries, and history of poverty. Under each broad topic is a list of entries related to that topic. The first volume also includes a chronology of poverty that starts with the tenth century BC (the first use of the word *poverty* in the biblical world) and ends with 2005 and the United Nations declaring Burundi as the poorest nation. Following this is a list of contributors and their affiliations, then a complete alphabetical list of all the articles from the three volumes. None of the lists give page numbers, so the user needs to browse the volumes or use the index to find the appropriate page for the entry.

The introduction states that the source “is intended for use as an authoritative and rigorous source on poverty and related issues” (vii). The editor describes how poverty is tied in with social, political, and economic freedoms, not merely a lack of income. With this definition, one can start to understand why poverty exists not only in developing countries but in wealthy countries as well. The editor goes on to say that the articles in the encyclopedia cover both the variety of statistical ways to measure poverty as well as the nonquantifiable ways, such as stigmatization and powerlessness.

The articles are set alphabetically and range in length from a few paragraphs to several pages. All articles are signed and have bibliographies, most of which offer only a handful of references; there are some with more extensive listings. There are see-also references. For example, under Libya, the see-also includes famine, Islam and Poverty, Niger, Socialism, and Women and Poverty.

One hundred ninety-one countries are covered. Most of the entries are only a page or so long, and all country entries end with their rankings from the Human Development Index and the Human Poverty Index. Both of those rankings have their own entries in the source as well. Countries may be referred to in other articles, so it is helpful to use the index to see where else a country may be discussed. There are a number of individuals covered, ranging from Mahatma Gandhi and Karl Marx to John Rawls (social philosopher) and Karl Polanyi (Hungarian political economist). A number of U.S. presidents and administrations and their work with poverty issues are also included.

A strength of the source is found in the voluminous list-