

ings of measurements and definitions of poverty. The entries include such topics as the “Arab Definition of Poverty,” “Deprivation Index,” “The Luxembourg Income Study,” “Relative Welfare Index,” and “World Bank Poverty Lines.” Other areas covered in the encyclopedia are antipoverty agencies such as Better Safer World, Food First, and Second Harvest, and poverty relief initiatives such as Head Start, Microcredit, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regional project for overcoming poverty.

The extensive index is included at the end of each volume. Volume three contains a glossary of terms and a resource guide, which lists books, journals, and Internet sites for reference. Rather than a compilation of all the sources listed in the bibliographies of each article, the guide is a separate list of resources. There are two appendixes: appendix A contains U.S. state economic data from the Bureau of the Census; appendix B has country economic profiles taken from the *CIA World Factbook*.

Any number of sources can be used to research specific topics covered in this encyclopedia. However, the editor does a nice job of bringing all this information together in a readable format. Otherwise, to get all the information covered in these volumes, one would have to consult several sources. As with many multivolume reference sets, the cost may be prohibitive for smaller libraries; however, this source is well worth the price. Recommended for all libraries.—*Stacey Marien, Business and Economics Librarian, American University Washington, D.C.*

Great Lives from History: The 19th Century 1801–1900. Ed. by John Powell. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2006. 4 vols. alkaline \$360 (ISBN 1-48765-292-7).

The sixth installment of an ambitious Great Lives series includes biographies of noteworthy individuals dating from the ancient world through the twentieth century. The four volumes of *Great Lives from History: The 19th Century* are made up of 737 essays on the lives of 757 people from the 1800s who have, according to the editors, made important contributions to civilization. Although there are representatives from numerous countries, the volumes are mainly geared to Western achievement; 83 percent of the entries cover residents of North America (301 entries), the United Kingdom (182), France (seventy-seven), and Germany (sixty-five). There are 123 sketches of women.

The Great Lives series revises the ten-volume *Dictionary of World Biography*, which was published by Salem in 1998 and 1999. For these, the nineteenth-century volumes, 120 new entries were written and added to those that had originally appeared in the *Dictionary*, 189 new sidebars were incorporated, maps were included, and updated and annotated bibliographies were compiled for the older essays. Each entry is between fifteen-hundred and three-thousand words long and invariably includes basic tombstone information about its subject, sketches of the person's early life and life's work, an evaluation of his or her overall significance, a bibliography, and see-also notes. In addition, there are references to related

articles in the publisher's companion set, *Great Events from History: The 19th Century 1801–1900* (Salem, 2006).

The editors have included a complete list of contents in all four volumes, which is very helpful to the reader. Also, all of the maps are in each volume; unfortunately, their clarity and comprehensiveness leave something to be desired. Back matter in volume 4 features lists of nineteenth-century rulers and heads of state, a chronological list of entries, a category index in which people are listed by their occupations and avocations, a geographical index, a personal name index, and a subject index.

Because people do not necessarily fit neatly into one century or another, readers of *Great Lives from History: The 19th Century* should know that some of the biographical sketches include information from both the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. For instance, the essay on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who lived thirty of his seventy-one years in the twentieth century, notes his contributions in literature, war reporting, political life, and the Spiritualist movement, 1901–1930.

It is always puzzling why some people are included in these kinds of compilations, but not others. There is no sketch of Thomas Jefferson, president from 1801 to 1809, or his successor, James Madison, president from 1809 to 1817, but there is one on Madison's wife, Dolley. There is a sketch of actor Edwin Booth, but not his younger brother, John Wilkes, the latter arguably more important in the general scheme of things. Why are Impressionist artists Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Édouard Manet included, but not Claude Monet?

Users of compilations such as the Great Lives series benefit from the convenience of having numerous and diverse biographical sketches in one source. They need not consult the venerable *Dictionary of American Biography (DAB)* (Scribner, 1928–1935, supplements 1944–1977) and the esteemed *Dictionary of National Biography (DNB)* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 1885–1900, supplements from 1901 to 1996, updated by *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* in 2004) plus other reference books, for example, if they are interested in finding information about a number of different Americans and Britons associated with a particular event that transcended national borders. What they lose, however, is the kind of comprehensiveness that works like the *DAB* and *DNB* offer.—*E. Richard McKinstry, Andrew W. Mellon Senior Librarian, H. F. du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware*

International Encyclopedia of Adolescence: A Historical and Cultural Survey of Young People around the World. Ed. by Jeffrey Jensen Arnett. New York: Routledge, 2006. 2 vols. acid free \$375 (ISBN 0-415-96667-1).

There are several fine encyclopedias on adolescence that approach the topic from different points of view. *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence* from Routledge offers the unique perspective of looking at youth (ages ten to twenty-five) in the context of the larger culture in which they live as well as the historical and geographic settings that inform their worldview. The approach is a global one, with a glimpse of youth and family life set in the framework of each country's

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historical and political situation. This concept presents a fascinating opportunity to compare the life, work, outlook, and attitudes of young people all over the world. Because most of the 141 contributors to this work are native to the countries about which they are writing, the viewpoint is authentic and authoritative.

Another reference work concerned with this topic is edited by Shirley Steinberg et al., *Contemporary Youth Culture: An International Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2005). This two-volume title, however, approaches the subject from a sociological and psychological point of view and is organized by subject rather than by country. In spite of the term “international,” *Contemporary Youth Culture* focuses on North America, Europe, and Japan and does not deal with South America or Africa.

An older reference work, edited by Richard M. Lerner, Anne C. Petersen, and Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, is the *Encyclopedia of Adolescence* (Garland, 1991). This title takes a subject approach. Although the two hundred articles are well researched and indexed, the work is limited to the American adolescent.

The Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence, edited by Jerome Kagan and Susan Gail (Thomson Gale, 1997) covers the entire spectrum of child development through seven hundred entries of multidisciplinary information. Again, the focus is American children and the age range is wider than that of the *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence*.

Adolescence in America: An Encyclopedia, edited by Jacqueline V. Lerner, Richard M. Lerner, and Jordan Finkelstein (ABC-CLIO, 2001), is a two-volume work emphasizing the social, psychological, and physical development of American teens. It has the advantage of being available online and is aimed at general readers.

None of the previously mentioned reference sources take the approach of the *International Encyclopedia of Adolescence*, which offers an important contribution to the field of human development scholarship with its overview of the socio-political-cultural climate of youth the world over. As inclusive as this work is, (twenty-eight African countries, eighteen Asian countries; twenty-seven European countries, fifteen American countries) there are some areas missing (Korea, Cuba, Bolivia, among others). But the work is truly unique in gathering detailed information on the context in which young people from every part of the world are growing up and finding their places in society. This title is recommended for libraries in high schools, community colleges, four-year liberal arts colleges, and public libraries.—Betty Porter, Assistant Director for Education Services, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Praeger Handbook of Adoption. Ed. by Kathy Shepherd Stolley and Vern L. Bullough. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2006. 2 vols. alkaline \$275 (ISBN 0-313-3335-1).

The two-volume *Praeger Handbook of Adoption* aims to be a “comprehensive overview of adoption” and a “basic reference for anyone interested in the history and practice

of adoption or involved in the adoption process” (xxv). The entries, varying in length from a few paragraphs to several pages, draw from a wide variety of disciplines in the humanities, the sciences, and the social sciences (both scholarly and applied). Coverage ranges from the treatment of adoption in literary works and religion to adoption laws and adoption medicine. Although adoption outside the United States is addressed, coverage of adoption and foster care in this country is more extensive. Interspersed throughout the two volumes are excerpts and reprints from primary documents “to illustrate particular perspectives as well as highlight notable events in the history of adoption in the United States” (xxv). A nice feature is the “General Topical List of Original Content” for each volume, which is helpful even if incomplete. Cross references are utilized throughout the volumes, although not as extensively as they could be, and each entry has a further reading list at the end. The volumes conclude with appendixes containing lengthy primary documents that “highlight themes in the history or current arena of U.S. adoption” (675) and that supplement the excerpts found throughout the *Handbook*, as well as a selected bibliography of adoption and foster care and related issues, although the selection criteria are not listed.

The two publications that most closely resemble the *Praeger Handbook* in purpose and scope are Christine Adamec and Laurie C. Miller’s recently updated *Encyclopedia of Adoption* (Facts On File, 2003), a single-volume reference covering the social, legal, economic, psychological, and political issues surrounding adoption, and Barbara Moe’s now-dated *Adoption: A Reference Handbook* (ABC-CLIO, 1998), intended primarily for students writing research papers. Although there is some overlap in content, the *Praeger Handbook* provides deeper coverage, particularly historical, for those desiring an in-depth understanding of the topics related to adoption.

While the content of the *Praeger Handbook* is unique and quite comprehensive, the volumes are somewhat difficult to navigate for a few reasons. The most glaring is that the index appears only in the second volume, requiring the user to jump back and forth between the two when searching for topics in the first half of the alphabet. The second is that the entries tend to run into one another due to the small font size of the headings and the fact that the sidebars and excerpts are not always indented or set off from the rest of the text with a shaded background. Somewhat confusing is the choice of terms for, and lack of consistency in, the entry headings. For example, “adoption rituals” are listed as “rituals, adoption,” yet “adoption insurance” is listed in that order rather than “insurance, adoption.” Also, despite the effort to cover the field broadly, there are some omissions—“toddler adoption,” for example.

Despite its weaknesses, the *Praeger Handbook* fills a niche unmet by any other reference work. For the researcher looking to gain a deeper understanding of adoption from multiple perspectives, and a historical one in particular, the *Praeger Handbook* is a valuable tool. It is most suitable for academic and special libraries that serve scholars and practitioners in