

SOURCES

sists of a geographic description, the origin of the city name, and a discussion of its historical, political, and socioeconomic importance in the local area and the wider region. Articles do vary somewhat in content; and relevance, rather than a strict adherence to format, determines any given article's inclusion. A list of further readings follows each entry, and the volume includes basic maps, showing the location of each city included in the text. There is also a glossary of terms, a timeline, and an index, which aids comparative analysis.

There are other works that discuss cities and urbanization, including the *Encyclopedia of Urban Cultures* (Grolier, 2002), *Cities of the World* (Gale, 2002), and Emmanuel Ness's *The Encyclopedia of World Cities* (M. E. Sharpe, 1999). However, this is the sole resource concentrating exclusively on the cities of MENA and on the historical and socio-economic context in which they existed. The concise, yet thorough, articles are lively and well researched. They offer a solid, scholarly introduction to the cities of these regions, and even researchers familiar with MENA will find much of interest. Because a certain amount of basic knowledge about MENA is required before consulting this volume, *Cities of the Middle East and North Africa* is best suited for large public, college, and research libraries. It is highly recommended for these collections.—Amanda K. Sprochi, *Health Sciences Cataloger, J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, The University of Missouri-Columbia*

The Crusades: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by Alan V. Murray. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2006. 4 vols. alkaline \$385 (ISBN 1-57607-862-3).

Given the abundance of existing popular and reference works written about the Crusades, any new entry must prove its worth against heavy competition. To that end, the editors of *The Crusades: An Encyclopedia* have created the best reference resource in existence regarding this critical historical event.

The aim of the set is “to reflect the state of knowledge in the crusade movement as it is understood in historical scholarship at the beginning of the twenty-first century” (vol. 1, xxxi). That scholarly approach is reflected in the list of almost 150 well-qualified contributors from around the world, and is evident in the entries themselves, which are written clearly and objectively. Despite the length of this set, there are few wasted words.

The entries are arranged alphabetically. Their scope covers five types of entries as defined by the editor: names of individuals, families and dynasties, anonymous works, places and countries, and subjects. The entries range in length from about a quarter of a page for lesser-known individuals to several pages for important people or topics. As an example of how thorough coverage of certain topics can be, the entry for “Art of Outremer and Cyprus” fills ten pages. Each entry is signed by its author, and is accompanied by a bibliography. Because many source texts are written in languages other than English, information on translations is listed when possible.

With more than one thousand entries, the scope of the encyclopedia may be its greatest strength. It's not surpris-

ing to find entries for the individual Crusades or critical figures such as Urban II, topics that are likely to be studied by many a general student or interested reader. However, it's the inclusion of individuals such as the author Baldric of Dol or the cleric William of Puylaurens—the quieter or less important figures—that separates this set from other works on the Crusades.

Besides an alphabetical list of entries at the front, each volume also includes a cumulative index and general bibliography. The final volume also includes a “Texts and Documents” section that contains documents written at the time regarding the Crusades, as well as some German Crusade songs.

There have been other first-rate recent works on the Crusades. In 2003, Greenwood published Alfred Andrea's excellent single-volume reference work, *Encyclopedia of the Crusades*, and Thomas Madden's updated *New Concise History of the Crusades* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2005) is an impressive general work on the topic. For those libraries looking for a thorough reference work on the topic, however, *The Crusades: An Encyclopedia* is a worthwhile purchase. This set should prove of value in high school, public, and college libraries, both for those new to the topic and those looking to further their knowledge.—Craig Shufelt, *Director, Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta, Canada*

Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties. Ed. by Paul Finkelman. New York: Routledge, 2006. 3 vols. alkaline \$595 (ISBN 0-415-94342-6).

As editor Paul Finkelman observes in the introduction to *Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties*, concern with civil liberties has been a part of the nation's history from the time of the first colonists. In a period when the “war on terror” threatens many of our constitutional rights, it is important to be reminded of what a long and rich history these rights have held in the United States. With 1,423 clearly written entries ranging from 250 to six thousand words in length, this three-volume set provides a concise overview of the key issues relating to civil liberties throughout the country's history.

The articles fit into six broad thematic groups: “Biography”; “Cases”; “Historical Overview”; “Legislation, Legislative Action, Statutes, and Acts”; “Organizations and Government Bodies”; and “Themes, Issues, Concepts, and Events”; with cases and themes each making up about a third of the set. Articles are all signed, and each contains a list of references for further reading.

Navigation throughout the set is fairly easy, with multiple points of access to the alphabetically arranged articles. Blind entries throughout the set send users to the correct entry, with “Blue Laws” pointing to “Sunday Closing Cases and Laws,” for instance. Alphabetical and thematic lists of entries at the front of each volume make it simple to scan for topics. The index, too, is repeated in each volume, allowing users to take a single book from the shelf without needing to lug around a separate index volume. The tradeoff to this convenience is quite a few additional pages and likely a related increase in cost.

There are some weaknesses to the set. In the index, main