

literature about media freedom. This work brings this information together into a useful format.

Whitten-Woodring and Van Belle provide entries for a comprehensive number of nations worldwide. Each entry provides year-by-year chronology that identifies the type of government in place in that year, such as democracy or autocracy, and a rating of the media as “free,” “imperfectly free,” or “not free.” Along with this, the work provides a two-page essay for each country, summarizing the developments in media freedom over that country’s history. Each essay ends with a paragraph about the present state of the media in that country and useful bibliographic notes.

A number of free Internet resources, such as Freedomhouse.org and World Press Freedom Index, provide reports about media freedom in various countries at present or in recent history. These resources lack the historical perspective provided by *Historical Guide to World Media Freedom: A Country-by-Country Analysis*.

Another difference from the Internet resources is that Whitten-Woodring and Van Belle attempt to define media freedom positively, rather than defining it based on various kinds of infringements and restrictions on media freedom. As they point out, every country has a large number of exceptions to media freedom, if such freedom is granted, such as military secrets or privacy laws protecting individual citizens. Instead, Whitten-Woodring and Van Belle define media freedom as the ability to openly criticize the government or government officials.

According to their definition, in a country with “free” media, criticism is protected. In a country with “imperfectly free” media, criticism may take place, but there may be a direct cost for that freedom. Media that is “not free” is likely controlled by the government or is otherwise prohibited from criticizing the government. Even so, the authors allow for some degree of variation within these categories. For example, the United States’ media is rated as free, but the authors acknowledge that media freedom groups have expressed concern about efforts to extradite and punish Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and National Security Administration whistleblower Edward Snowden.

Whitten-Woodring and Van Belle strive to maintain a broader understanding of media that transcends the traditional formats of print and broadcast journalism. Their positive definition of media freedom as the ability to criticize the government and public officials prevents the focus of this work from expanding too far into free speech more broadly, while allowing for coverage of newer information formats that emerge with technology.

The work includes three introductory chapters and one concluding chapter that come across as a concise textbook about the historical development of media freedom and some of the issues related to studying media freedom. These chapters go well beyond the usual depth and complexity of a standard introduction to a reference work. These essays are as interesting as they are informative, and they even provide boxes with interesting asides and grayscale photographs.

The work provides a useful index of people, places, and significant events. It is published in a single, attractive, hard-cover volume.

Historical Guide to World Media Freedom belongs on the shelves of academic libraries, particularly those supporting undergraduate programs in journalism or mass communication. It is readable and accessible enough to warrant inclusion in secondary school libraries and public libraries.—Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Latin Music: Musicians, Genres, and Themes. Ed. by Ilan Stavans and Joshua Stavans. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 3 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-0-313-34395-7). E-book (978-0-313-34396-4) available, call for pricing.

Latin Music: Musicians, Genres, and Themes is a two-volume encyclopedic work edited by Ilan Stavans and Joshua Stavans that comprehensively covers the historical, traditional, cultural, and thematic topics of Latin music. With entries from nearly fifty contributors from Spain, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States and almost 1,000 pages of information in total, these two volumes took approximately eight years to complete. Through these expansive entries that are both highly informative and interesting, the editors and contributors also manage to highlight the beauty of Latin music and its impact over the course of the five centuries covered in this publication.

The topics covered in these volumes range from biographies of famous musicians such as Plácido Domingo to the traditional Spanish dance the Flamenco. However, the editors also make an effort to provide information on less well-known figures and topics within Latin music history that nonetheless had an impact. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this work that sets it apart from other publications is its coverage of ideas like societal countercultures or historical institutions, such as slavery, and how they have affected Latin music as a whole. It is reflections like this one on the topic of slavery from contributor Ruthie Meadows that take these volumes from being merely informational to academic: “In regions such as the Caribbean, northern South America, and Brazil, music and culture strongly reflect the fusion and syncretization that occurred within the context of European colonialism and African slavery” (735).

Another positive attribute of this work is that it is the rare volume that covers the topic of Latin music as a whole as opposed to examining it from the perspective of a single culture. Many works that are of a comparable size and content level fall short in terms of scope. However, one area of weakness with the set is that there were very few companion photographs to the entries. In several of the entries, the authors discuss unusual musical instruments such as a twelve-stringed guitar called a *tres* that non-musicians may have never seen. An accompanying visual aid in these instances would only enhance this already excellent resource.

Overall, this work provides thorough and thought-provoking information that is useful not only in reference

SOURCES

situations but would also be valuable to researchers as each entry provides a list of further readings. Given these volumes reasonable price, I would recommend them for purchase as the coverage is expansive and the information could be applicable to multiple disciplines.—*Marissa Ellermann, Public Services Librarian, Shake Library, Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana*

Mexico at War: From the Struggle for Independence to 21st Century Drug Wars. By David F. Marley. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 615 p. Acid free, \$100.00 (ISBN 978-1-61069-427-8). E-Book (978-1-61069-428-5) available, call for pricing.

This title is the latest in a series of one-volume encyclopedias from ABC-CLIO concerning the military history of various nations, others being *Japan at War* (2013) and *China at War* (2012). In this vein, the 275 alphabetically arranged entries cover important personalities (“Villa, Pancho [1878–1923]”; “Santa Anna, Antonio Lopez de [1794–1876]”), battles (“Alamo, Siege of the [1836]”; “Mexican-American War [1846–1848]”), weapons (“Madsen Light Machine Gun”), articles of clothing worn by Mexican troops over the years (“Blusas,” a blouse or tunic, for example), and paramilitary operations (“Drug War [1980s–Present]”).

Author David Marley does a fine job of detailing both well-known and obscure facets of Mexican military life and history. His writing style is clear and concise, while the liberal use of quotations from contemporary sources adds punch and clarity to the discussion. The volume is well illustrated with maps, prints, and black and white photographs. Special features include a topical guide to entries by era, an introductory essay giving an overview of Mexican military history, a section of primary documents, chronology, bibliography, and a glossary of terms, many of which, understandably, are in the Spanish language.

Marley is well suited for a project of this nature. Having lived in Mexico City for over thirty years, he carried out research and teaching at the Colegio de Mexico and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia. Among his many published works with a concentration on military and naval history are *Wars of the Americas: A Chronology of Armed Conflict in the New World, 1492 to the Present* (ABC-Clio, 1998) and *Historic Cities of the Americas: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (ABC-Clio, 2005).

Overall, this volume is an excellent tool for research into Mexican military history, but beyond that, it is also a browser's delight. One learns of the innovative methods employed by those in desperate circumstances, to wit: “During the Mexican Revolution, lightly armed irregulars would sometimes commandeer a train, fill it with explosives and combustibles, then unleash it to careen unmanned down a track and smash into an oncoming enemy train or plunge destructively into a crowded railyard or siding” (under the entry for “maquina loca,” 206). This volume is recommended for purchase by all public and academic libraries and highly recommended

for purchase by those of the latter that support curricula in Hispanic or military studies.—*Michael F. Bemis, Independent Reference Book Reviewer*

Penguins: the Ultimate Guide. By Tui De Roy, Mark Jones, and Julie Cornthwaite. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014. 240 p. \$35 (ISBN 978-0-691-16299-7).

This copiously illustrated guide comprehensively elucidates all the penguins of the world. This labor of love, compiled over a number of years, encompasses all eighteen species of penguins, from emperors and kings to the little-known blue penguins. Of all penguin species, only two of them actually live and breed in Antarctica (emperors and adelies). Many others congregate on specific islands in the Southern Oceans and the Australian, New Zealand, or South American coasts, but an African penguin and a tropical Galapagos penguin also exist. One section of the book contains excellent species profiles, with close-up photographs of each kind of penguin, and delineates names, descriptions, colorations, size and weight, voice, a map of its distribution, breeding habits, food, and principal threats to the species.

The authors provided the breathtaking photographs, over four hundred in all. Partners at Roving Tortoise Worldwide Nature Photography of New Zealand, the authors created natural photographs of rare and exotic wildlife. All photographs were taken “in wild and free conditions,” mainly by the three co-authors. The pictures include swimming and diving penguins, overhead and panoramic shots of penguin colonies and habits, and close-up photos of penguin families. Tui De Roy authored the first part, “Life Between Two Worlds,” discussing each family of penguins and their similarities and differences. Jones wrote a long section on both his personal experiences and a quick historical overview, and he followed this with a number of two-page essays by various experts in the field. These essays concentrated on “Science and Conservation” and highlighted current research on penguins, specific problems being addressed, and penguin history and evolution. Some of the pieces include personal stories and adventures experienced by the authors while studying specific species of penguins. Cornthwaite's section addresses detailed species profiles with many pictures, also several pages of “Fascinating Facts,” and a large chart summarizing penguin ranges and population statuses. A similar title, Wayne Lynch's *Penguins of the World* (Firefly Books, 2007), wrote more from a personal viewpoint, aimed for a younger audience, and offered much less specific species information, providing short paragraphs on each species, found in the appendix.

A short list of references and pertinent websites appears, as well as a small section on “Where to see penguins.” An index completes the work. Penguins being one of the best-loved birds in the world, this volume will be welcomed by many. Reasonably priced and suitable for public libraries, it provides an excellent source of information on all penguin species, suitable for upper middle-school students and