

above.—Marion S. Muskiewicz, *Science Librarian emerita, University of Massachusetts Lowell*

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***Pop Culture Places: An Encyclopedia of Places in American Popular Culture.*** By Gladys L. Knight. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 3 vols. Acid free \$310 (ISBN 978-0-313-39882-7). E-book (978-0-313-39883-4) available, call for pricing.

The American landscape offers an abundance of places that are enshrined in American cultural memory. Places such as Area 51, surrounded by mystery and intrigue, and Coney Island, arguably America's most historically famous amusement park, have achieved lasting cultural prominence and remain important places in America's collective imagination. Gladys L. Knight's *Pop Culture Places: An Encyclopedia of Places in American Popular Culture* seeks to inform readers about America's most prominent and historically significant popular culture places. This three-volume encyclopedia contains an alphabetical and topical list of entries, a useful preface and introduction, over 350 entries, images, a select bibliography, and an index.

Arranged alphabetically, *Pop Culture Places* offers readers an overview of popular culture places from actual places such as Salem, Massachusetts, home of the Salem witch trials, to more conceptual places such as the American diner and barbershops. This broad array of culturally significant places is among this work's most appealing features. Equally important is Knight's preface, in which she frames the scope and purpose of the encyclopedia. Applying a broad definition to popular culture, *Pop Culture Places* focuses on providing the reader with information on how and why a place entered into America's collective memory and why a particular place's cultural appeal has sustained or why its significance has waned. All entries in this work are structured in a useful and easy to follow format, with each entry containing "historical perspectives" and "images in popular culture" sections.

Most popular culture reference works, such as the *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* (St. James Press, 2013), focus largely on popular culture personalities, films, and music. With almost no comparable works addressing popular culture places or spaces, *Pop Culture Places* is a relatively unique reference work. While *Pop Culture Places* offers insightful perspectives on American popular culture, the encyclopedia has several shortcomings. From a conceptual perspective, Knight's work is grounded largely in a historical framework in which the historical importance of a place dominates. As an encyclopedia addressing the importance of place, this work would have benefited from a cultural geography framework in which the importance of place and space come more to the fore. Additionally, readers may be disappointed to learn that very few entries contain photographs or images. While cost and copyright were the likely barriers, one would expect more images of the places highlighted in the three volumes.

*Pop Culture Places* is an informative and useful reference work for general audiences. It provides readers with a less

common perspective on familiar places in the American historical and cultural landscape. With its diverse selection of places, *Pop Culture Places* will appeal to large audiences interested in American popular culture, cultural geography, and cultural history. *Pop Culture Places* is recommended for high school and academic libraries and medium to large public libraries.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Interim Director, Collaborative University Research and Visualization Environment (CURVE), Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

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***Race and Racism in the United States: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic.*** Ed. By Charles A. Gallagher and Cameron D. Lippard. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 4 vols. Acid free \$399 (ISBN 978-1-4408-0345-1). E-book available (978-1-4408-0346-8), call for pricing.

This new four-volume set purports to be a definitive source on race-related topics in the United States, both historically and in the present. Not focusing exclusively on black and white race relations, the scope of the set is extensive. The cover images of the handsome print edition give a good representation of the variety of issues covered. A drawing of a slave in chains entitled, "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?" from a broadside edition of an 1835 poem is the oldest image, while a photograph from a Los Angeles May Day rally in 2012 is the most recent. In between chronologically are a black-and-white photograph of Japanese Americans under armed guard at an internment camp, black and white college students holding hands and singing while working to register black voters in the American South, a cross burning at a KKK rally, and a contemporary protest of the Washington Redskins team nickname. These represent some of the typical entries in this encyclopedia, portraying the complex reach of racial issues across American society and history.

Entries cover noteworthy figures and personalities, memorable events, and other sundry race-related topics. Alphabetically ordered, they typically contain "See Also" references and usually at least ten resources for further reading. While relatively brief—usually only a few pages—the entries are also complemented by sidebars providing additional information and context for users. For example, the entry on the Nation of Islam contains side boxes on both the Million-Man March on Washington in 1995 as well as the Reverend Louis Farrakhan. Other features are an index that refers users both to main entries and persons and subjects within entries. Additionally, a topical list of entries, a chronology, preface, and an introduction on the history of American racial issues are also presented. Most of volume 4 of this set consists of primary documents, many representing legal and codified racism, ranging from the old—the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Slave Codes of the State of Georgia, 1848—to the new—Arizona Senate Bill 1070 of 2010, which allows law enforcement to detain suspected illegal immigrants.

There are other current and similar encyclopedia sets on the market. The *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism* (Macmillan, 2007), edited by John H. Moore, and the *Encyclopedia*

## SOURCES

of *Race, Ethnicity, and Society* (Sage, 2008), edited by Richard T. Schaefer, are two of the most popular. In truth, there is little significant difference between the slightly older set and the new Greenwood edition other than the obvious fact that the newer is more up-to-date. Many of the same topics are covered in both sets, and the differences are minor—Moore has entries on Boxing and Buffalo Soldiers, Schaefer on the Amish and Glass Ceiling, while Gallagher and Lippard cover al-Qaeda and Amos 'n' Andy. A similar point could be made about the primary sources in each resource. Yet with the variety of subject matter, these sets could be seen to complement each other as much as compete with each other.

It is difficult for any one resource on such a nebulous topic to be truly definitive, but this set does an excellent job exploring multifarious aspects of racism and its permutations. It certainly provides some valuable background information and serves as a solid starting point for further research. The diversity of subject matter emphasizes the prominent place race still has in American society, even if it seems to be a more subtle presence than in the past. Well-suited for academic and high school libraries.—*Mike Tosko, Associate Professor, Research and Learning Services, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio*

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***The SAGE Encyclopedia of Action Research.*** Ed. by David Coghlan and Mary Brydon-Miller. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2014. 2 vols. \$315 (ISBN 978-1-84920-027-1).

“Action research” has always been one of those broadly defined terms I would come across when perusing a more general research methods encyclopedia or textbook, until now. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Action Research* devotes eight hundred plus pages to exploring all aspects of this topic, from methods and methodologies to theory, settings, and philosophical underpinnings—even spirituality! The definition provided in the introduction is all-encompassing, noting the “global family of related approaches”; however, the breadth

and diversity of contents within these volumes evinces the myriad layers of how, where, when, and why action research is used (xxv).

Entries, listed alphabetically (not clustered by theme, etc., except in the Reader's Guide), vary in length, most of which span several pages and contain enough substance to be broken down into four to five (or more) sections. Where appropriate, tables and other figures or charts are included to supplement the text. Front matter is brief, and there are no appendices. Many of the entries would, at first glance, appear to be generic and not necessarily unique to action research (for example, “Authenticity,” “Conflict Management,” “Data Analysis,” “Quantitative Methods,” etc.) but, as would be expected of any decent, specialized reference source, the editors have done their due diligence to ensure all contributions have been contextualized in a manner appropriate to the book's focus. All entries end with further readings, some of which are quite thorough.

To my knowledge, there are no reference sources comparable to this title. Libraries thinking of acquiring this set may also want to consider having *The Action Research Planner: Doing Critical Participatory Action Research* (Springer, 2014) or *The SAGE Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice* (SAGE, 2008, 2013) on-hand as companions for anyone looking to put action research into practice. This title would be appropriate for academic libraries of all types, as well as public libraries. Unless specifically requested by a faculty member, however, I would not go out of my way to acquire an entire encyclopedia dedicated to action research for the reference collection at the small liberal arts college library at which I work—I just don't think it would see much “action” here (pun intended). I will, however, proceed to add my reviewer's copy and see what happens!—*Todd J. Wiebe, Head of Research and Instruction, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*