

SOURCES

of business or economics may understand, but general readers may require additional help.

The 100 Most Important American Financial Crises is a unique reference resource that straddles a difficult line. While not as comprehensive as similar multivolume sets like *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2008), it is, however, more accessible to general readers. The language can sometimes become too technical but in no way insurmountable. Because of these hurdles this work is recommended for college-age readers. It would make a good addition to large libraries with similar items in their stacks or for smaller institutions looking for an affordable treatment on the topic usable by students in many disciplines.—Edward Anthony Koltonski, Graduate Student Reference Assistant, Kent State University Libraries, Kent, Ohio

500 Great Military Leaders. Edited by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-59884-757-4). Ebook available (978-1-59884-758-1), call for pricing.

If the title were *500 Important/Noteworthy Military Leaders*, that would sound awkward, so instead we have “Great,” but listing the important/noteworthy is what Tucker says in his preface he was striving to achieve. That helps explain his selections, many of whom are portrayed as capable men who played significant roles in major wars—perhaps as trainers or planners or theoreticians. Others were outstanding subordinate leaders or “great” within their times and locales.

There just haven't been five hundred Cyruses or Alexanders or Genghis Khans, who could aspire to glory by combining military brilliance, outstanding resources, and absolute political power. Modern military leaders are now almost always directed by civilians, so their opportunity for personal “greatness” in the classical sense is lost.

The latest project from the prolific Tucker comes off as an uninspired response to the unceasing public demand for lists. A third of the entries are from other ABC-CLIO products, but it's commendable that this is noted up front.

The format is similar to that of Trevor Dupuy, Curt Johnson and David L. Bongard's *Harper Encyclopedia of Military Biography* (HarperCollins, 1992) and to Alan Axelrod and Charles Phillips's *The MacMillan Dictionary of Military Biography* (MacMillan, 1998). All three have alphabetical entries as well as either source notes or suggested further readings. Tucker offers a larger type face, and both he and Axelrod provide a few portrait illustrations. Both the Axelrod and Tucker works have prose more readable than some of the densely composed entries in Dupuy.

In looking over the five hundred in Tucker, the only one I saw who rose to prominence in the period since Dupuy or Axelrod were published is David Petraeus. I did not make a formal comparison, but it does appear there are a lot of leaders who appear in only one or two of the works, so Tucker offers some variety to a library that already owns one of the others.

Public librarians looking for something more visually informative will want to consider R. G. Grant's *Commanders: History's Greatest Military Leaders* (DK, 2010) or Jeremy Black's *Great Military Leaders and Their Campaigns* (Thames and Hudson, 2008). Both oversize books include hundreds of color illustrations as well as enough text to satisfy the needs of casual readers.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

All Things Julius Caesar: An Encyclopedia of Caesar's World and Legacy. By Michael Lovano. All Things. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2014. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-0420-5). Ebook available (978-1-4408-0421-2), call for pricing.

All Things Julius Caesar (ATJC) is part of a series of encyclopedias titled All Things. This series looks at a topic—in this case, Julius Caesar—from a variety of angles, including cultural, religious, and architectural. This provides the reader with ability to understand the larger historical context for a specific topic. While there are several reference works related to the Roman Empire, there are none that provide such a broad perspective on a narrow topic.

ATJC provides excellent overviews on a variety of topics related to Julius Caesar. For example, an article titled “Slavery and Slaves” begins by providing an overview of what slavery was like and how slaves were treated throughout the Roman Empire during the reign of Julius Caesar. The brevity of the article (about three pages) and the references at the end, make this an excellent resource for a first- or second-year undergraduate beginning research on this topic.

At the end of each article there is a “see also” feature, providing more articles in ATJC that might be of use when doing research on a particular topic. While this is a nice feature, it would be of greater benefit if terms used in an entry that had individual entries were simply emboldened. Many twenty-first-century students are more familiar with the concept of linking than they are with a “see also” feature. While the full features of linking cannot be utilized in a print resource, mimicking linking (i.e., emboldening words in individual entries that have their own entries) may have been a resource to the reader.

ATJC also provides articles on geographic elements that were critical under Julius Caesar's reign. For example, there is a great article on the Adriatic Sea, providing not just an overview, but also connecting it back to Julius Caesar and his reign in the Roman Empire. However, a question may arise for a novice reader, to whom this work is aimed, regarding the location of the Adriatic Sea. Where is it? While there are some maps in the introduction to this work, they are very small and articles that make reference to geographical entities make no reference back to these maps. While one cannot expect a map to be at each geographic entry, it would help the reader if the article could make reference back to a map so that one can see where these geographical entities are located.