

## 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

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**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

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**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.

While one would expect entries on the historical aspects of the Roman Empire to be in this encyclopedia, one may not expect entries of movies and video games that are related to Julius Caesar. *AJTC* has a number of entries on movies (*Spartacus* and *Cleopatra*), television shows (HBO's *Rome*) and even video games (*Caesar I–IV*) related to Julius Caesar. These additional entries add tremendous value to this work.

Primary source documents lie at the end of *AJTC*. Their inclusion is a bonus allowing users to go straight from an article to a primary source. The value of their inclusion could be increased dramatically if more references were made to them in individual entries.

While they are several ways that *AJTC* could improve its value, its combination of being focused on a very specific topic yet providing an incredibly broad look at that topic, make it a reference set worth having in any undergraduate university library.—Garrett B. Trott, *Reference/Instruction Librarian, Corban University, Salem, Oregon*

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***Antarctica and the Arctic Circle: A Geographic Encyclopedia of the Earth's Polar Regions.*** Edited by Andres J. Hund. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-392-9). Ebook available (978-1-61069-393-6), call for pricing.

Although calling itself a geographic encyclopedia, the scope of this two-volume set is broader than such a designation suggests. Hund has attempted to encompass a large range of information about a vast area, perhaps a bit much for a modest two-volume set. Attempting to address in a meaningful way topics in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and applied sciences for both poles in approximately 350 entries and fewer than 800 pages is ambitious. His stated “central feature . . . the original inhabitants of the Arctic region” (xi) would, alone, merit a work of this size. John Stewart's larger, two-volume *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (McFarland, 2011) is more limited in both geographical and topical scope.

A significant strength of this set is as a starting place for research. The entries are significantly more in depth than those in Stewart's work or in David McDougal and Lynn Woodworth's single-volume *The Complete Encyclopedia: Antarctica and the Arctic* (Firefly, 2001). The entries most often present a cohesive and reasonably in-depth discussion of a topic, essentially reading much like journal articles, with less direct citation and a less complete list of references. Beyond this, most entries are followed immediately by a further-reading section composed largely of scholarly articles and books, government and nongovernmental organization documents, and other authoritative sources. This differs from the placement of references at the end of the two volumes, as in Stewart's set, and the seeming entire omission of citations, as in David McDougal and Lynn Woodworth's work. The latter seems almost impossible without violating intellectual integrity and undermines the substantial value of encyclopedic works as sources of research leads and direction.

In contrast to the “direct entry” organization adopted in *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*, the signed, article-length entries in Hund's work rely on an index and cross references to enable readers to locate related topics and information on a more granular scale than the major articles, as well as under alternate terminology. The indexing is in volume 2 only and, unfortunately, is somewhat inconsistent. Animal species may be indexed by common name, scientific name, or both; common names may be indexed at different levels such as “elephant seal” versus “southern elephant seal”; and the variant or variants used in the entry do not seem to be a very good guide to what will be indexed. In notable contrast to the indication given by the subtitle, geographic locations are not described in this encyclopedia at as fine a level as in Stewart's set, nor as comprehensively.

The sparse illustrations are entirely black-and-white and often seem to do little to enhance the informational value of the content. They do add some interest and some do contribute to the entry. The set clearly lacks the impressive visual appeal of McDougal and Woodworth's work, but has more visual elements than Stewart's, which has not so much as a map or a table.

These three major reference works on the polar regions complement each other well. However, if you must limit your selections, for the most comprehensive geographical information, John Stewart's *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia* would be preferred. McDougal and Woodworth's volume would be the clear choice for visual appeal. As a broader scope research resource for undergraduate or graduate students, or for the strongest presentation in natural, social, and political sciences, Hund's work would be an excellent choice and is recommended.—Lisa Euster, *Reference Librarian, Brooks Library, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington*

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***The Brain, the Nervous System, and Their Diseases.*** Edited by Jennifer L. Hellier. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 3 vols. Acid free \$294 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-337-0). Ebook available (978-1-61069-338-7).

Jennifer L. Hellier's *The Brain, the Nervous System, and Their Diseases* fulfills its purpose as a single, comprehensive resource that covers all aspects of the brain, nervous system, and the diseases effecting these organ systems. The text is easy to navigate: entries are listed alphabetically and by topic. A detailed index is also provided at the end of volume 3. The 333 entries vary in length from several paragraphs to multiple pages and include “see also” references and lists of further readings. Images, tables, charts, and graphs are provided when available. A list of recommended resources at the end of the encyclopedia provides only eight resources; however, each entry's own list of further readings makes up for the brevity of this list. The encyclopedia covers a wide range of topics, from the anatomy of the nervous system to the diagnostic tests and treatment for various diseases of the nervous system. Though the encyclopedia is easy to use, the entries are written at a level that may be challenging for