

women's rights; however, we own nothing quite as sweeping in scope while still being focused on women in the United States. Ursuline recently acquired *Women's Rights: Documents Decoded*, also published by ABC-CLIO (2014). While at first I was concerned that there might be excessive overlap in content between the two, I happily discovered that these two resources will be a nearly perfect complement to one another. For example, while *Women's Rights in the United States* provides much information on Margaret Sanger and her birth control activism as well as primary documents including some treatises she wrote, *Women's Rights: Documents Decoded* provides her original statement on birth control to the US Senate subcommittee in 1932 along with commentary and discussion.

Each of the four volumes covers a time period: 1776–1870, 1870–1950, 1950–90, and 1990–present. Each volume includes an introduction that highlights important events, controversies, and changes, including those encompassing political, social, and popular culture spheres, occurring during the period. I anticipate that the introductions will prove useful to students who are looking to situate a particular incident or figure into the historical period that shaped it. Necessarily, feminism takes center stage in volumes 3 and 4. When I first began surveying this resource, I must admit that I was concerned that this may not be accessible for undergraduates. I discovered that the introductions provide enough information about the “waves” of feminist thought and the theories and theorists that exemplify each yet they never cross the line into unnecessary specificity that would only serve to confuse a student only just becoming familiar with feminist thought.

Individual entries range from one to five pages, depending on the complexity of the topic. At the beginning of each volume, readers will find a list of the alphabetically organized entries labeled by page number, and a list of primary documents labeled by date. This will make the set particularly easy to use, even for students with little to no library experience. Each volume's introduction and each individual entry also includes a generous further reading section that will prove useful for outside research. I find this set so useful, easy to use, and surprisingly thorough that I believe that it will become popular with any and all students doing research on women's rights in the United States. This set would be a good addition to libraries serving high school, undergraduate, and possibly even graduate populations.—*Anita J. Slack, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Ursuline College, Pepper Pike, Ohio*

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***World War I: The Definitive Encyclopedia and Document Collection.*** Edited by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 5 vols. Acid free. \$520 (ISBN: 978-1-85109-964-1). Ebook available (978-1-85109-965-8), call for pricing.

This past summer marked the one hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. It is likely not a complete coincidence that numerous publishers are taking

this opportunity to publish various monographs and reference sets to coincide with this occasion. The boldly titled *World War I: The Definitive Encyclopedia and Document Collection* has recently come to publication and achieves the lofty proclamations of its title.

One of the most obvious features of this set is its impressive size. Spanning five volumes and much more than two thousand pages, the depth of coverage is staggering. Tried as I might, I simply could not stump this reference set. Everything from lesser-known skirmishes, like the Battle of the Drina River, to essential topics, like the Schlieffen Plan, are included. Most entries run two to four pages in length, but entries of particular importance can expound for upwards of ten pages. Each entry features a short bibliography of further readings that can easily connect scholars to additional, relevant sources, which is an always-coveted feature of a quality reference set. Entries are well written, easy to understand, and are often enriched with illuminating black and white images.

The entire fifth volume in this set is made up solely of primary documents related to the conflict. This volume of documents, of which there are more than two hundred, is organized chronologically into eleven sections. Each document is preceded by an introduction to the source, where the source is given historical context and how it is relevant to the study of the Great War. Most impressive of all is the comprehensive timeline that encompasses the documents. The first section of documents, for example, includes documents dating back to the mid-nineteenth century, while the last section includes documents that date well into the 1920's. This reference set's ability to thoroughly frame the study of the First World War with significant primary documents both preceding and following the conflict itself is quite exceptional, and will serve as near essential reading for any scholar looking for a deeper understanding of the war.

While its title may set lofty expectations for itself, it by no means goes over the top. The scope of topics covered is remarkable. The readability of each entry, combined with the ever-useful and always-included bibliography, impresses. That the entire fifth volume, dedicated solely to primary documents that span many years both before and after the war, is both exceptional and one of this set's most impressive features. The appeal of this set for scholars of the Great War will surely be limitless. This encyclopedia should be considered essential for any academic library.—*Matthew Laudicina, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***The World's Population: An Encyclopedia of Critical Issues, Crises, and Ever-Growing Countries.*** By Fred M. Shelley. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 407 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-506-0). Ebook available (978-1-61069-507-7), call for pricing.

The introduction to *The World's Population* states that its purpose is “to address population-related questions in hopes

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of shedding light on relationships between population issues and other major problems of contemporary and future global concern" (xv). The preface, which provides an overview of traditional demography, presents questions: "How many people live on the earth today? How has this number of people changed in the past? Will the number of people currently living on the earth continue to rise as it has in recent decades? How many people can the earth support? Why do people move from place to place?" (xi). The preface also notes that the entries reflect "the basic questions associated with demography, including measurements of births, deaths, and changes in numbers of births and deaths historically as well as in the present day" (xii); "how many people move from place to place and the reasons underlying this movement" (xii); "how natural disasters, famines, and means of economic production affect populations" (xii); "well-known individuals who have made important contributions to the study of demography" (xii); "organizations that deal with population-related questions" (xii); individual places, including countries and large metropolitan areas or megacities; "texts of statements made by leaders of organizations and excerpts taken from the work of scholars whose research is important to the history of demographic thought" (xiii); and "links to numerous demography-related websites as well as to books and articles that provide further insight" (xiii). While all of this is undoubtedly important, it proves ambitious for one volume.

The *Encyclopedia* is divided into four parts: Entries, Countries, Cities, and Documents, followed by a select bibliography and an index. After each of the entries in parts 1–3 is a "see also" section as well as lists of further readings,

many of which are web addresses. The entries in part 1 range from the very general, such as "Natural Resources and Population," to the very specific, such as "The Berlin Wall." Relevant organizations are included, as are key demographic terms. Well-known individuals in the field of demography, primarily historical, also appear. Despite the broad range of intended topics, most are covered in part 1, although some of the more complex ones just superficially. The national entries in part 2 include "all of the more than 30 countries around the world with populations of more than 40 million" (xii). They are presented in descending order of population, both in the contents as well as in the body of the text. The same is true for the thirty large metropolitan areas or megacities in part 3. While the actual content of these entries is useful, an alphabetical list somewhere in the text would have been helpful. Part 4 the documents section, contains just thirteen items, and the selection criteria are unclear. The selected bibliography, with just nineteen citations, is too brief to be particularly useful.

Comparing this publication with other population encyclopedias proves challenging because this volume spans such a variety of disciplines: demography, geography, health policy, history, etc. Demeny and McNicoll's *Encyclopedia of Population* (Macmillan, 2003), for example, is narrower in scope yet the entries have more depth. Given its broad range and concise entries *The World's Population: An Encyclopedia of Critical Issues, Crises, and Ever-Growing Countries* is recommended for secondary school collections, colleges serving undergraduates, and public libraries.—Joann E. Donatiello, *Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey*