compiling information together into one location. While there are other works that compile sections of German military history into one edited work, this one covers a unique timeline others do not. One fault I have with this work is the alphabetical listing of the entries. It would have been more accessible had it been divided chronologically. The choice to divide it alphabetically means that information about World War II is mixed with information about Imperial Germany or the Thirty Years War. The work contains some pictures and illustrations that add to the readers' understanding of the topic.

The work provides a straightforward overview of the topic and the entries are enough to give the reader an understanding of the person, place, or event they are discussing. I would recommend this collection to community college libraries or high school libraries. A larger university will already have most of the material contained within these volumes so it will not be as useful.—*Michael Hawkins, Adjunct Reference and Instruction librarian, Kent State University*

Government and the Economy: An Encyclopedia. Ed. by David A. Dieterle, Kathleen C. Simmons. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 552 pages. acid free $100 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-2903-1). E-book available (978-1-4408-2904-8), call for pricing.

Government and the Economy explores the reciprocal relationship between the American government and the US economy. Oriented with respect to secondary school content standards, this work covers major economic events and policies in US history, with a specific focus on the twentieth century. This work functions as two reference works in one: an encyclopedic overview of major economic events, and an introductory macroeconomics biographical dictionary focused on American economic history. The interrelated and concurrent nature of major economic events is well served by this format choice, as the reader can easily move between essays on major economic events, and entries that outline and explain the economic topics at stake.

The extensive treatment of the relationship between Supreme Court case law and the economy is a noteworthy feature of this work. Citations point to multiple freely available access points for case transcripts, opinions, and facts on the case, simplifying content access to those who are unfamiliar with legal research. An appendix presents timelines of relevant Supreme Court cases for each of the Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics (K–12) from the Council for Economic Education. Other features are less helpful: for example, the list of "Legislative Acts with Economic Impact" is simply a list of popular names, many of which are not represented by entries in the encyclopedia, and the list lacks either full citations or suggested strategies for locating bill summaries.

While the encyclopedia is at some points inconsistent in language and tone, the entries are readable for high school and college students. The resources for teachers provide categorized citations to primary and secondary sources that are valuable resources for lesson planning. *Government and the Economy* would be a useful addition to collections supporting introductory coursework in economics and US government, and those supporting educators in the secondary school environment.—*Shari Laster, Government Data and Information Librarian, UCSB Library, University of California, Santa Barbara*

Literature and Politics Today: The Political Nature of Modern Fiction and Drama. Ed. by M. Keith Booker. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 377 pages. Acid free $89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-935-8). E-book (978-1-6106-9936-5), call for pricing.

The editor, M. Keith Booker, Professor of English at the University of Arkansas, has served as editor on many reference works in literature as well as many books on genres and literary movements, specific authors, and other critical works. Booker also edited the last reference work dedicated to literature and politics, *Encyclopedia of Literature and Politics: Censorship, Evolution, and Writing*, a three-volume set published in 2005 by Greenwood, which is surprisingly the only current reference work dedicated solely to examining the connection between literature and politics. There are many recent book-length critical works on literature and politics, but these monographs typically focus on a genre or other refined topic such as a literary movement or single author. The compact single-volume *Literature and Politics Today* is a welcome addition to reference work in literature and politics. Certainly, other reference works in literary criticism cover some of the topics related to the intersection of politics and literature, but do not have the political focus of *Literature and Politics Today*.

The coverage of *Literature and Politics Today* is intended to be "International in scope," with representation of "authors and literary phenomena from the beginning of the twentieth century forward, with a special emphasis on literature written in English, whether from Great Britain and the United States or from other parts of the world" (xiii). With any brief reference work, there are bound to be gaps in coverage, especially for expansive topics. However, some of the gaps in coverage present issues with the work's usefulness in a High School or beginning undergraduate setting, especially coverage past the end of the Cold War. The coverage of American literature could be stronger, as major events that affected literature and politics in the United States in the twentieth century and twenty-first century aren't covered; specific examples include: literature related to the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and September 11th. However, there are many entries on literary and cultural movements (i.e., Postmodernism, Harlem Renaissance, etc.), which are exemplary and extensive. The value of this work is multiplied if the available E-book edition is purchased, where entries as search results can help students further understand literature from a focused political perspective. An example is the entry on

Dr. Seuss, which does a fine job of establishing Geisel as a political writer, which is typically covered in other reference works, but is not the focus of the entry. Genres are also well represented, with a specific strength with the coverage of science fiction including representation of authors from well-established canonical figures such as H.G. Wells, but also including more obscure international writers such as Karel Capek and also contemporary authors such as China Mieville. Further strong points of *Literature and Politics Today* are the entries on national literatures and subsets of national or regional literatures such as difference between Francophone or Anglophone literatures.

The entries have brief bibliographies, which tend to list a few major primary or critical works. However, often these bibliographies are not current enough. For example, the Toni Morrison entry has no citations newer than 1997. Booker is the author for many of the entries, but many other experts, mostly professors of English, are also represented, resulting in reliably accessible and informative writing throughout. Overall, this work does an admirable job of representing Literature and Politics and will serve as a valuable supplement to other reference works in literature. Recommended for high school and college libraries.—*Shannon Pritting, Library Director, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica, New York*

Make 'em Laugh!: American Humorists of the 20th and 21st Centuries. Ed. by Zeke Jarvis. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 322 pages. acid free $89 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-2994-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-2995-6), call for pricing.

While books about comedy often strip all the life out of it, good books about comedy are a useful resource for learning about key performers, for analysis of comedy trends, and for discovery of little-known works one may have missed. Unfortunately, *Make 'em Laugh!: American Humorists of the 20th and 21st Centuries* is not one of those good books about comedy.

The volume's purpose is to examine "the issues of craft and technique found in each artist's work as well as the social significance of these artists and their work" (xvi). A lengthy introduction provides an essay on various cultural aspects of humor, though it is puzzling why the editor chose to include references to literary and cultural figures who do not have entries in the book (Edna St. Vincent Millay, e.e. cummings, W.C. Field, and Shirley Temple, to name a few). The book is organized in several sections: literature, popular writing (which includes comic strips), television and film, and stand up and performance. The entries in each section are alphabetized, include biographical and career information, and have a few sources for further reading. The introductory material does not address how or why the entries were selected for inclusion, which would have been very helpful in determining just what this reference book intends to do. It does say that the text "tries to take a very broad view of humor so as to see as many different aspects of humor as

possible," (xv) but that does not assist with identifying the book's purpose.

The entries contain mostly factual information (some of which, unfortunately, is incorrect) and little analysis or insight into the individual's humor. There is also an alarming lack of inclusion of minority humorists. Had the editor chosen a narrower focus, such as just stand-up comedians and actors, or a more limited date range (most of the entries are from the late twentieth century through current), this book would have had a clearer focus and purpose. As it is, it's exclusive, not nearly thorough enough, and just too broad to know what its purpose is.

Not recommended.—*Tracy Carr, Library Services Director, Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi*

Modern Genocide: The Definitive Resource and Document Collection. Ed. by Paul R. Bartrop and Steven Leonard Jacobs. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 4 vols. Acid free. $415.00. (ISBN: 978-1-61069-363-9) E-Book available (978-1-61069-364-6), call for pricing.

As a term, "genocide" is one of the more recent entrants in the English language lexicon, having gained currency only since World War II and that conflict's attendant pogroms of the Jewish and other peoples. As a concept and course of action, however, that of a methodical effort to eliminate an entire race or ethnic group, history shows that there have been numerous holocausts stretching back, probably, to the origin of our species. In fact, there have been so many concerted efforts on the part of People A to rid Planet Earth of People B, that the editors have limited the scope of their work to those instances that occurred during the twentieth century, hence the import of "modern" in its title.

Editors Bartrop and Leonard state in the "Introduction" that their purpose in creating yet another reference work on genocide studies—and there have been several other excellent titles of late—is to educate " . . . a new generation to what has transpired in the century just concluded [so that] we can break this cycle of violence, death, and destruction and move humanity forward positively" (xxxvii). The question of whether education, commendable goal that it is, will act as a deterrent to such baser human instincts as hate and greed, is one for the philosophers to grapple with, as this is beyond the capacity of a mere book reviewer. That being said, the editors and contributors have done a yeoman's job in laying out the facts regarding mass murder over the last hundred years. The bulk of these four volumes are taken up by ten substantial chapters, each one focusing on a discrete episode of genocide as defined by Article 2 of the United Nations Convention. In alphabetical order, they range from Armenia during World War I to Rwanda in 1994. Each chapter follows a standard format beginning with an overview essay that frames the occurrence in its cultural and historical context. Other aspects examined include "Causes," "Consequences," "Perpetrators," "Victims," "Bystanders" (witnesses), and "International Reaction." An interesting and useful feature that