

## SOURCES

of horses for transportation, and the relationship of people to animals such as cattle, chickens and pets. Also, the essay has an excerpt from a fifteenth century book on hunting. In another example, a fifteenth century woodcut shows a cog, a small boat with a single sail. The cog is compared with other vessels used at the time, and the author describes life on ships and changes in boat design. Included is a photo of two ship anchors but no print primary source.

The essay topics do not always give an indication of the direction taken by the author. In the essay on the Prague Jewish Cemetery the author shows a photograph of a cemetery with graves dating back to 1439. He writes little about medieval Jewish burial practices, focusing instead on burial among various religions and also includes information on the place of Jews in medieval Europe. There is a text document from St. Bernard requesting that the people of England improve their treatment of Jews. In the essay on bone ice skates that appears in the entertainment section, the author examines the use of animal bones as skates in winter and offers an excerpt from textual source that refers to this use of bones. This leads to a discussion on weather changes in medieval times, a topic the reader might not expect.

This book is a very basic, introductory reference source for learning about medieval life through artifacts. The writing is engaging and clear, and students can browse the artifacts and subject index. A brief chronology of events and a section on how to evaluate artifacts accompanies the work. This book is recommended for secondary school students and general readers.—*David Lincove, History, Political Science, Public Affairs, Philosophy Librarian, Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus, Ohio*

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***Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Mary Yu Danico. Los Angeles: Sage Reference, 2015. 4 vols. Alkaline \$595 (ISBN: 978-1-4522-8190-2).

*Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia* is a comprehensive four-volume reference work that consists of 315 in-depth entries discussing many aspects of Asian American culture. Editor Mary Yu Danico, a past-president of the Association for Asian American Studies and currently a professor at California State Polytechnic University, states in the introduction, “We recognize that it is impossible to discuss every facet of Asian American society, but we have put forth our best efforts to examine the historical, social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of our society through the lens of multiple disciplines and voices” (xxv).

Danico’s introduction insightfully summarizes Asian American immigration history and the growing field of Asian American Studies. A chronology in volume 1 provides a solid overview of significant events in Asian American history.

The alphabetically arranged entries are written and signed by international scholars, and each entry concludes with cross-references and citations for further reading on the topic. There is a helpful reader’s guide in volume 1 that

organizes articles into fourteen topical categories, such as “Asian American Literature,” “Family, Generations, and Youth Culture,” “Identities,” and “Social Problems.”

There are many lengthy and in-depth entries covering the social and historical cultures of twenty-one ethnic groups, some of which include Cambodian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pacific Islander, and Thai Americans. This encyclopedia also contains informative essays about the LGBTQ Asian American identity, community, and issues. A significant number of entries are quite unique and focus on current and pop culture topics like “Beauty Pageants,” “Bollywood,” “Harold and Kumar Films,” “Helicopter Parents,” and “YouTube Performers.”

One of the most impressive features of this encyclopedia is the collection of primary documents which are the content of volumes 3 and 4. There are 213 primary documents spanning 1849–2013. Readers can examine the full-text of many landmark cases, letters, and legal acts. Some of the more memorable documents are the text of an 1880 pamphlet titled “Chinatown Declared a Nuisance” and the 1977 document “The Forgotten Minority: Asian Americans in New York City.” Another useful feature included in the appendix of volume 4 is the “US Census Bureau: 2010 Census Briefs—The Asian Population,” which is full of many rich statistics and analysis.

*Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia* would sufficiently supplement Xiaojian Zhao and Edward J. W. Park’s three-volume *Asian Americans: An Encyclopedia of Social, Cultural, Economic, and Political History* (Greenwood, 2014). Zhao and Park’s encyclopedia contains many more biographical sketches and only the excerpts of a handful of primary documents. There is not a lot of overlap of content aside for entries about the various Asian American groups which are written by different contributors. Danico wrote essays for both encyclopedias about the “1.5 Generation Asian American.”

Since Asian American Studies is a widely growing discipline, *Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia* would be a valuable addition to any academic library.—*Megan Coder, Associate Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***The Civil Rights Movement in America: From Black Nationalism to the Women’s Political Council.*** Edited by Peter B. Levy. Movements of the American Mosaic. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 427 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-761-3). E-book available (978-1-61069-762-0), call for pricing.

In light of several reference works on the Civil Rights Movement having been published in the past decade, selectors may not be inclined to purchase a new offering on the topic. Nonetheless, recent publications should be carefully considered for content that has been previously overlooked or has gained resonance in recent years. The work under review is a well written, basic window into the African American Civil Rights Movement appropriate for high school and beginning college level research. As part

of the *Movements of the American Mosaic* series, it complements volumes on the Latino and Indian rights movements. Besides the 120 encyclopedic entries, there is a section of primary documents, including the text of the *Civil Rights Act* (1964) and letters and addresses from the period, as well as a well-crafted index, some illustrations, and a bibliography after each entry.

Another reference book, *Historical Dictionary of the Civil Rights Movement* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014), edited by Christopher M. Richardson and Ralph E. Luker, was published last year and may be more useful for a broader range of college level research. While having nearly the same number of pages, Richardson and Luker provide roughly five hundred entries, over four times the number in the work under review. Librarians would need to decide whether they prefer a smaller number of entries explored in some depth or a much larger number of topics with more concise write ups. Another factor to consider is that Levy took a mostly biographical approach with some ancillary entries on places, events, and organizations. The other work is more even regarding type of subject matter covered. Based on the small number of entries, Levy's book has notable omissions. For instance, Marian Anderson is excluded and despite the ubiquitous threat from the Ku Klux Klan during key parts of the Civil Rights Era, there is no entry for the organization. Other features that would have furthered the work are a chronology and a more extensive introduction. With such a brief introduction, the reader would have to have some familiarity with the topic before using this volume. While Levy's work is relatively solid, the selector will need to decide whether this book is the right fit for their collection based upon existing needs as well as other books available in the marketplace.—Brent D. Singleton, *Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino*

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***Contemporary Immigration in America: A State-by-State Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Kathleen R. Arnold. Santa Barbara, Calif: Greenwood, 2015. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-0-313-39917-6). E-book available (978-0-313-39918-3), call for pricing.

*Contemporary Immigration in America* distinguishes itself through its organization by state and its focus on the post-war period. The introduction explains the significance of both of these choices. The case for organizing by state is most compelling, particularly as states have taken on more authority in the arena of immigration policy beginning in the 1990's. Further, it is not difficult to imagine diverse scenarios that would benefit from immigration information for a particular state or states. Limiting the historical period allowed the editor to compile a concise two volume set with short chapters averaging roughly twenty pages. Some authors were more successful than others in keeping within the historical parameters.

Each chapter is separated into four sections: chronology, historical overview, topical essays, and bibliography. The

chronologies and historical overviews are particularly useful and cover the entire state history. Topical essays vary in treatment from author to author, making it difficult to create connections from state to state. Bibliographies were also uneven, ranging from concise and helpful to unwieldy and less than authoritative. The index is particularly useful for researchers interested in where different immigrant groups have settled.

The index in James Ciment and John Radzilowski's *American Immigration: An Encyclopedia of Political, Social and Cultural Change* (Sharpe Reference, 2013) also makes researching immigration by state possible by using the index. It takes a bit more effort but the results pay off. While this isn't a replacement for *Contemporary Immigration in America*, if an institution has a limited budget *American Immigration* has a more comprehensive approach to the topic and the entries are of consistently high quality. It's interesting that Michael C. LeMay's *Transforming America: Perspectives on U.S. Immigration* (ABC-CLIO, 2013), which examines immigration through a historical lens does provide limited geographical treatment of immigration in America. However, geography falls off in volume 3, which covers the period of 1945–present. These two ABC-CLIO publications complement each other, perhaps by design.

*Contemporary Immigration in America* makes easy work of quickly coming up to speed on immigration at the state level. It is appropriate for public, high school and undergraduate libraries as a complement to a more comprehensive reference work regarding US immigration.—Anne C. Deutsch, *Reference and instruction Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***The Crusades to the Holy Land: The Essential Reference Guide.*** Edited by Alan V. Murray. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 330 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-779-8). E-book available (978-1-61069-780-4), call for pricing.

Murray has pulled together an accessible and informative reference guide to the crusades from the Council of Clermont in 1095 until the final surrender of Christian-held territories in Palestine and Syria at the end of the thirteenth century.

Essays range from one column to six pages in this textbook-sized, single volume. They cover topics including the various crusades, sources from the various ethnic and national groups involved in the crusades, important people, tribes, places, and discussions of subjects such as "Castles" and "Preaching and Sermons." Essays include suggestions for further reading.

The work includes both Christian and Muslim subjects, and it maintains an objective voice throughout, but the focus gravitates toward the European history of the crusades. Because of its fairness and accessibility, it would work well in a collection limited to one reference volume specifically about the crusades, and would be preferable in this role to a work such as Carole Hillebrand's *Crusades: Islamic Perspectives* (Edinburgh University Press, 1999). However, Hillebrand's