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


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 Radziłowski’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


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
work would complement this work as a conscious step away from default western perspectives.

Such a role as a sole reference work in the area is especially enhanced by three longer, introductory essays titled “Overview,” “Causes,” and “Consequences.” Anyone needing a historical refresher, an introduction to the crusades, or to their lingering effects would benefit from these interesting and readable essays. A thorough chronology toward the end of the volume is also useful for orientation.

The index is quite thorough, listing all people, places, structures, and tribes mentioned in the essays in addition to main entry topics, which enhances accessibility, as does the readable content. The work contains an unobtrusive number of interesting grayscale images of appropriate artwork and maps. The hardbound cover is interesting and attractive, but not pretentious.

The Crusades to the Holy Land: The Essential Reference Guide lives up to its subtitle. The work could indeed be an essential starting point for a researcher who is not already an expert on the crusades. It points the researcher farther down the road as well. This work belongs in collections supporting undergraduate and secondary educational programs, or graduate programs that might tangentially require a refresher about this period of western history that still haunts us today.—Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma


The evolution of the human experience over the past ten millennia is truly remarkable. Humans began their existence huddled over a fire, living in dark, dank caves. Today, we have the ability to construct towering skyscrapers in sprawling metropolises where countless millions of people call home. A Day in a Working Life aims to provide information on how our trades and professions evolved over time and led us to where we are today.

Author Gary Westfahl has done an admirable job of collecting and synthesizing the key information associated with each profession, making each entry pithy, yet rich in essential information. While he readily admits in the Preface that, “its coverage is necessarily selective, since no work of this size could possibly examine every single occupation in every single culture” (xv), Westfahl covers many key professions. Highlights include Hunters and Gathers, Blacksmiths, Musicians and Dancers, and Web Site Designers.

Each of the more than three hundred entries in this set range from one to three pages in length. Every entry concludes with a fairly lengthy “Further Reading” section containing numerous citations for additional sources on the profession. Also included at the end of each entry is a “Document” section, where the citation and text of a relevant primary source document is provided for the corresponding occupation. As a result, each entry has an excellent flow to each entry; users are first given the essential overview information on the profession, then led to a list of additional resources to explore for further information, and then they are provided with a copy of a primary source material to further enhance their understanding of the profession.

If there is one critique to levy against this set, it would be the somewhat clunky method of tracking the evolution of a single profession over time. This set does contain a traditional, alphabetical index of professions at the end of its third volume, which is the only way users can track a profession over time. They can look up a profession in the index, and then refer to the corresponding sections in each of the three volumes to gather the information. This set is predominately organized by period; users first navigate to their desired period, and then alphabetically browse the professions contained within said period. If there were a more graceful way to browse first by profession, and then track how that profession changed and/or evolved throughout time, that would make this encyclopedia set even better.

While some of the indexing/organization of this set are less than ideal, overall, this is a high-quality encyclopedia rich with useful information. This encyclopedia set would be a welcome addition to any academic library.—Matthew Laudicina, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz


Authors Joyce Quinn and Susan Woodward combine their decades of research, teaching, and knowledge in Earth’s Landscape: An Encyclopedia of the World’s Geographic Features. The entries in this two volume set focus on 460 of the natural geographic features of the earth. The introduction provides a wealth of useful background information, including a table of the geologic time scale, a table of major climate types and descriptions of the earth’s major surface features. The authors state, “this work fills a common gap in physical geography education, the absence of details about specific examples of topics typically covered in the classroom. It also assembles in one place information that usually requires a search through many disparate sources to find” (xxvii).

The organization of the individual entries demonstrates the interdisciplinary approach that the authors mention in the preface, and allows users to quickly identify discrete bits of information from associated disciplines. Entries are organized under bolded subheadings, with the majority of information contained within the “Description” section. Additional details about each natural feature are included under such subheadings as “Geographic Coordinates,” “Geologic History,” “Biota,” “Protected Areas,” and “Environmental...