

## SOURCES

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*

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***A Day in a Working Life: 300 Trades and Professions through History.*** By Gary Westfahl. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 3 vols. Acid free. \$310 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-402-5). E-book available (978-1-61069-403-2), call for pricing.

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 Gatherers, 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*

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***Earth's Landscape: An Encyclopedia of the World's Geographic Features.*** By Joyce A. Quinn and Susan L. Woodward. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. acid free \$205 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-445-2). E-book available (978-1-61069-446-9), call for pricing.

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

Issues.” The entries are well written and typically lack jargon; however, in cases where more complicated terminology is used, there is a glossary for consultation. The entries are complimented with various tables, black and white photographs, and sidebars containing additional facts. For researchers seeking further information, the authors provide a wealth of additional resources in multiple places throughout the volumes. In addition to the further reading section at the end of each entry, the authors also highlight relevant resources at the conclusion of the “Introduction,” as well as in bibliographies associated with each opposing viewpoint in appendix 2; and additionally, there are three full pages of recommended resources listed in the second volume.

A search in OCLC’s WorldCat database reveals that many of the physical geography encyclopedias published in the last decade are geared toward a juvenile audience or have a narrower scope. In comparison with McColl’s *Encyclopedia of World Geography* (Facts on File, 2005), which has a broader scope, entries in *Earth’s Landscape: An Encyclopedia of the World’s Geographic Features* omit topics related to human geography and focus on the earth’s physical features specifically; additionally, the entries contain information about some of the environmental concerns currently plaguing the earth (for example, the entry for the “Pacific Ocean” includes information about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch). Also, Quinn and Woodward’s set includes highly valuable teaching and learning resources in three appendixes. The first appendix provides quick statistics and top ten lists of the earth’s geographic features. The second appendix addresses six contemporary issues related to natural features, and provides two opposing perspectives about each issue. One of the questions listed is, “Can damage to natural landscapes in time of war be minimized? Who is responsible for rehabilitation or recompense, the victor or the vanquished, at the close of the war?” (789). Each of the six issues is framed in a way to encourage critical thinking and would be useful for faculty in the classroom.

This unique set fills a gap in the literature and would be an excellent resource to support curriculum in geography and the environmental sciences, and is highly recommended for academic library collections.—*Lisa Presley, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

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***The Encyclopedia of Central Banking.*** Edited by Louis-Philippe Rochon and Sergio Rossi. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2015. 510 pages. \$245 (ISBN: 978-1-78254-743-3). E-book available (978-1-78254-744-0).

Rochon is an Associate Professor of Economics, at Laurentian University, in Ontario, Canada, where he is Director of the International Economic Policy Institute. His areas of research include monetary theory and policy, financialization, and post-Keynesian economics. Rossi, is a Full Professor of Economics at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, where he holds the Chair of Macroeconomics and Monetary

Economics, and Senior Research Associate at the International Economic Policy Institute at Laurentian University in Canada. The two editors have co-authored several articles together and now have edited this reference work.

In this encyclopedia Rochon and Rossi state the aim to be “providing a critical understanding of central banking, based on a plural perspective on several issues at both theoretical and policy-oriented levels” (xxviii). The title work intends to “explain the complexity of monetary-policy interventions, their conceptual as well as institutional frameworks, and their own limits and drawbacks” (xxviii).

The encyclopedia starts with a table of contents that lists each entry, the author of the entry and the page number. After the table of contents comes this list of contributors with their affiliation. There is no index and the last page of the volume is the last entry.

The entries are all about two pages long and contain “See Also” referrals as well as references for further reading. Most of the entries cover concepts in banking. One can read about central bank credibility, financial instability, money creation, price-level targeting and more. There are entries that discuss historical and contemporary people such as Keynes, Marx, Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) and Mario Draghi (President of the Central European Bank). Information is given on individual banks such as Norges Bank (central bank of Norway) and the Reserve Bank of India. The entries are clearly written so that someone who has no knowledge of the topic can understand.

Unfortunately, there is no visual depiction of how the central banking system works. There is no text to try and connect the information presented in the encyclopedia, and there is nothing to help the reader understand how all the concepts fit together. It would be useful for a user who is just starting research on central banks to get a feel for the subject area. The editors could have tried to include value-added material, such as an essay that explains the history of the central banking system and its challenges in light of recent economic problems of countries such as Greece and Spain. As it is, this is a straight forward reference book of banking-related terms and concepts. Recommended for general readers, public libraries and undergraduates.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

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***Environmental and Natural Resource Economics: An Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Timothy C. Haab and John C. Whitehead. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 372 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-0119-8). E-book available (978-1-4408-0120-4), call for pricing.

*Environmental and Natural Resource Economics* is a single volume, general reference encyclopedia that presents information on more than 140 topics relevant to understanding environmental and natural resource economics. Key concepts, historical events and movements, and biographies are included. Each entry is signed, provides see also references and brief lists of resources for further reading.