

Sources

Reference Books

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Abolition and Antislavery: A Historical Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic. Edited by Peter Hinks and John McKivigan. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 447 p. Acid-free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-827-6). Ebook available (978-1-61069-828-3) call for pricing.

This encyclopedia covers the rise and proliferation of abolitionist movements in the United States and the subsequent consequences of the emancipation of the former slaves. While outside international influences on American slavery existed—particularly Great Britain—the focus here is on both the Northern and Southern United States. Of course, banishing slavery did not lead to immediate social equality, and in fact many abolitionists did not ever desire this type of equality. This work also traces the subsequent controversial issues that emerged following abolition, such as new forms of labor exploitation, the right to own land and to vote, and the use of violence and intimidation to keep African Americans in inferior social and economic positions.

The book is organized alphabetically with entries ranging from one to ten pages. Most are around a page and a half, and they are succinctly and precisely written. Each entry is followed by “see also” references and a list of further readings. A selected bibliography of the most important works on abolition and emancipation appears at the end of the volume. Starting off the work are a brief introduction providing context and a detailed ten-page chronology. This chronology is quite comprehensive, beginning in 1441 with the first kidnapping of Africans by Portuguese sailors and ending in 1881 with the publication of Frederick Douglass’ third autobiography. The volume ends with forty pages of excerpts from seminal primary resources, from slave narratives, to the Emancipation Proclamation, to the Thirteenth Amendment. Though interesting, the full-text of nearly all of these included primary resources can be easily found on the web.

Is this encyclopedia anything new or unique? There are a number of reference resources and encyclopedias devoted to slavery in the United States. There are fewer focusing specifically on abolition and emancipation. In fact, the main reference works on abolition over the past ten years are the *Encyclopedia of Emancipation and Abolition in the Transatlantic World*, edited by Junius Rodriguez (Routledge 2007), and an earlier edition of this same *Abolition and Antislavery*. Interestingly, there is no mention in this edition of the earlier, two-volume set of *Abolition and Antislavery*, by the same authors, and also published by Greenwood. Half the length of the previous volume, and with half the number of entries, this new edition has to be seen as a condensed version. The intention, although not stated anywhere, seems to be to have a “quick and dirty” version of the earlier resource. In any case, it is fair to say that Routledge’s *Encyclopedia of Emancipation* is a more comprehensive resource. With close to 1,400 pages over three volumes, this larger work trumps *Abolition and Antislavery* in nearly every way. The only advantage *Abolition and Antislavery* has over the larger *Encyclopedia of Emancipation* is that this newer, briefer work may be more appropriate for high school and public libraries. Its overall coverage is broad if not deep,

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ranging from escaped slaves and violent insurrections to landmark legislation, to influential national movements and organizations. It is certainly only a starting point for research in this area, but not a bad one at that.—Mike Tosko, *Subject Librarian, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio*

Asian American Religious Cultures. Edited by Jonathan H. X. Lee, Fumitaka Matsuoka, Edmond Yee, and Ronald Y. Nakasone. *American Religious Cultures*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. Acid-free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-59884-330-9). Ebook available (978-1-59884-331-6) call for pricing.

Asian American Religious Cultures (AARC) is an encyclopedic collection of essays and entries aimed at high school students, college undergraduates, and nonspecialist readers. This collection, written by a variety of experts, touches upon specific elements of Asian American religious cultures.

While the nineteen essays vary in length, their focal point is distinct: critical topics related to Asian American religious culture. The editors' selection of critical topics is notable; for example, two topics: religion, race, and orientalism and interpretation stand out as issues that require a thoughtful and comprehensive response, which AARC provides.

The more than 200 entries in AARC supplement the essays by providing information related to specific elements of Asian American religious cultures. For example, a brief entry on dragons discusses the role that dragons have played both historically and currently in Asian American religion. Another excellent example is the entry on Mormons. With Anglo-American roots, one does not often consider Mormonism to be a topic for discussion among Asian Americans. However, the contributor of this article, Garry Trompf, differs. Trompf provides a brief but excellent introduction to the impact of the Mormon Church in Asian countries and segues into an overview of Mormonism today among Asian Americans. Even though both of these entries are brief, the contributors provide bibliographic information providing resources for further reading. This is an invaluable asset. These two entries serve as examples which the remainder emulate.

There are several topics that a potential student may pursue in relation to Asian American religious culture that were not included in AARC. To accommodate these scenarios, the AARC includes brief references to refer the reader to related topics. For example, AARC does not have an essay or an entry on Baptists, however, it does have "Baptist" listed in the entries and it simply says "see Morikawa, Jitsuo." Jitsuo Morikawa, a Baptist minister of Japanese ancestry, played a critical role in the American Baptist Churches, and this entry provides a brief snapshot of Baptist work in Asian American culture. These references abound in the AARC and they add tremendous value to this work. AARC also includes an index which serves as an invaluable tool for patrons desiring to do research on Asian American religious cultures.

An earlier work by the same publisher, ABC-CLIO, and edited by two of the editors of AARC, is titled *Encyclopedia*

of Asian American Folklore and Folklife (EAAFF). While these works do sound similar, they do have distinctions. The objective of EAAFF is to answer the question "What is Asian American Folklore and Folklife?" The answer to that question will involve religion and religious institutions, but it also entails customs, traditions, languages, and other cultural aspects of Asian Americans. The EEARF provides a broader, but still valuable, perspective, whereas AARC provides more depth information on one particular aspect: religion.

While AARC is a notable and unique source, one must remember that the intended audience for this work is high school students, college undergraduates, and non-specialist readers. It would be a good starting point for undergraduate students, but it would not provide the resources needed for detailed research or analysis. Because of that, AARC would be a welcome addition to any library lacking content in this area and looking for a good place where patrons can start their inquiries on these topics.—Garrett Trott, *Librarian, Corban University, Salem, Oregon*

Encyclopedia of Constitutional Amendments, Proposed Amendments, and Amending Issues, 1979–2015. 4th ed. By John R. Vile. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-931-0). Ebook available (978-1-61069-932-7) call for pricing.

Amending (pun totally intended) such works of reference on a semi-regular basis is key to staying current. In this fourth edition author John R. Vile has again made the necessary revisions to reflect the enduring engagement and discourse pertaining to the practice of amending the US Constitution. It should be noted that if you are looking for a straight-forward, chronological overview of the amendments in their historical contexts, this would probably not be the go-to source. Instead, Grey House Publishing Inc.'s *Constitutional Amendments: An Encyclopedia of the People, Procedures, Politics, Primary Documents, Campaigns for the 27 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States* (2012) or Gale's *Constitutional Amendments: From Freedom of Speech to Flag Burning* (2008) would be the preferred choice. Vile's contribution takes a more nuanced approach to the study of this specialized field by including entries on related (unresolved) issues, influential people and organizations, Supreme Court decisions, and as noted in the title, proposed amendments that failed to pass Congress and ratification. In light of this diverse content, one can see how releasing new editions of the work every so often is indeed warranted.

As for its organization, entries are alphabetic, and listed only as such in the front matter. Because of the varied content, I would have also liked to have seen a thematic clustering of entries somewhere up front, as is often present in such works, but no such luck with this one. There is, however, a "List of Cases" with corresponding page numbers in the back, just before the index. Entries are generally quite concise and to-the-point, with suitable cross-references and