

SOURCES

strong “Further Reading” suggestions. To give you an idea of what I mean by “concise,” the entry on the “Federal Marriage Protection Amendment” takes up more than two and a half pages (approximately five columns).

The four appendices are nice additions, but only one, I think, is really exceptional. Appendixes A, B, and C consist of the text of the Constitution itself, the dates amendments were proposed and ratified, and a list of the number of proposed amendments by decade—good to have, but all just a Google search away. Appendix D, “Most Popular Amending Proposals by Year and Key Events, and Publications Related to Constitutional Amendments,” however, is a very helpful piece of supplemental material. Lastly, the bibliography is truly a work of art. Vile has had a long and distinguished career as scholar of the US constitutional amendments, and this compilation of important works would be the first place I would look if starting to help a student on any related research endeavor. I would recommend this reference to students from high school through college undergraduate, although the above-mentioned bibliography would be a score for students/researchers at any level.—*Todd J. Wiebe, Head of Research and Instruction, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

Foods That Changed History: How Foods Shaped Civilization from the Ancient World to the Present. By Christopher Cumo. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 451 p. Acid-free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-1108-3536-0). Ebook available (978-1-4408-3537-7) call for pricing.

Foods that Changed History: How Foods Shaped Civilization from the Ancient World to the Present, is an expansive work with almost 100 entries that cover a wide range of foods that have had a major historical impact. The entries summarize the origin of the foods and then cover the periods in time that they were culturally significant to different societies for a variety of reasons.

It is important to note from the start that this work is intended as an introduction for students to the food studies field. Arranged in an encyclopedic format with alphabetic entries, it is easy to navigate and the entries receive equal treatment throughout. Students from a variety of disciplines would consider this a valuable tool when beginning their research because Cumo has done an excellent job of balancing the dry factual information with the more interesting analysis of how the different foods helped shape different cultures and at times served as the catalyst for major change or discovery. An example of this would be Cumo's entry on cinnamon that details its role in the spice trade that led to greater exploration on other continents by Europeans. He treats the topic objectively and describes both the positive effects these developments had on European society and the terrible injustices many of the native groups in the new world suffered at the hands of the European explorers.

While this work is interesting and does an admirable job of covering a large number of foods, it is certainly not the

only book to cover this topic published in recent years. *Fifty Foods that Changed the Course of History*, by Bill Price, was published in 2014 (Firefly Books), and covers several of the same foods as this book. The major difference between the two works is that Price uses a chronological format to frame his work, he has a lighter tone throughout, and he covers fewer foods. Each has its strengths, and selection should be based on your patron groups, potential audience, and budgetary constraints.

Overall, this work is an easy to use reference resource that provides an interesting historical overview of a wide range of foods that have directly impacted the development of modern day civilization. Considering the cost and the number of books recently published on this topic, I would recommend this work only for community college or university libraries supporting relevant majors.—*Marissa Ellermann, Head of Circulation Services Librarian, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois*

Ghosts, Spirits, and Psychics: The Paranormal from Alchemy to Zombies. Edited by Matt Cardin. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 409 p. Acid-free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-61069-683-8). Ebook available (978-1-61069-684-5) call for pricing.

Producing a reference book about the paranormal presents a unique challenge. Various aspects of the phenomenon—under the rubric of “the supernatural”—have been and remain common to virtually all religions. Furthermore, as this work's “Introduction” notes, “the idea of the paranormal is ubiquitous and inescapable in American culture” and “is entrenched” (xix) throughout most of the rest of the world. Yet the actual existence of the paranormal is in very serious doubt, and authorities in most mainstream disciplines reject it as pseudoscience. As the “Introduction” suggests, however, a new paradigm that sidesteps this “skeptic/believer dichotomy” (xxiii) seems to be emerging.

To tackle this slippery topic, editor and college English instructor Matt Cardin has assembled 121 alphabetically arranged entries by 57 contributors, most of whom work in academia. Subjects range from individuals (Edgar Cayce, Carl Jung, and so on) to important institutions such as the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry and the Rhine Research Center and from paranormal “powers” such as telepathy to treatments of the paranormal in the arts and the media. Most entries run from two to four pages, are objective in approach, and are clearly written without being simplistic. Each concludes with “See also” references and a short bibliography, and some include short timelines and excerpts from key documents as well. Additional features include a “Guide to Related Topics,” a twenty-one-page chronology, a general bibliography, and an index.

Only two generally comparable works have been published in the last decade. Patricia D. Netzley's *The Greenhaven Encyclopedia of Paranormal Phenomena* (Greenhaven Press/Gale, 2006) contains nearly 300 entries, some of them

quite short, and is written in a popular style appropriate for young adults as well as adults. Netzley presents the views of both skeptics and believers, but her book is now somewhat dated. Brian Regal's *Pseudoscience: A Critical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood 2009) has 116 entries of varying lengths but devotes relatively little coverage to the paranormal, as it includes such subjects as Atlantis, cryptozoology, and gay repair therapy.

Given its currency and its thoughtful, even-handed approach to the field, *Ghosts, Spirits, and Psychics* is highly recommended for undergraduate and larger public library reference collections.—Grove Koger, *Retired Reference Librarian, Independent Scholar, Boise, Idaho*

Iconic Mexico: An Encyclopedia from Acapulco to Zocalo. Edited by Eric Zolov. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. Acid-free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-043-0). Ebook available (978-1-61069-044-7) call for pricing.

Historian Eric Zolov writes about rock music, the “global sixties” and other pop culture topics in Mexico and Latin America. As editor of *Iconic Mexico* he and seventy-three other scholars present 100 “of the most iconic elements of Mexican history, culture and politics” (xi). The topics range from the globally familiar (Tequila, Bullfighting, Chile Pepper, Gringo) to the exotic and *muy mexicano* (*Lucha Libre*, Malinche, Superbarrio, Jesus Malverde). The choice of subjects is designed as a kaleidoscopic window into Mexico and Mexican-ness for many different readers. Each article provides historical context and analysis as to the deeper socio-cultural meanings of the “icon” over time. Illustrative sidebars include photographs and/or documents that detail aspects of the main topic or expand to include a related anecdote or story that did not seem to warrant a full entry. Suggestions for further reading accompany each article. A lengthy introduction gives an overview of Mexican history and a timeline ranges from the cultivation of maize in 8000 BCE to the disappearance of forty-three teaching college students in the state of Guerrero in 2014. A well-constructed index provides additional access points into the one hundred main entries, however, the index would be much improved if it included the names of the seventy-three contributors with page references to their articles in the body of the book. The authors are listed, but without links to their specific contributions.

Michael S. Werner's *Encyclopedia of Mexico: History, Society and Culture* (Fitzroy Dearborn 1997) is a comprehensive and academically rigorous reference work, but its coverage ends before the tumultuous political changes signaled by the “iconic” defeat of the PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) in 2000 and its return to power in 2012. Though different in focus and more limited in scope, the new *Iconic Mexico* is a much needed update. Two other titles make unique contributions to the Mexico reference shelf. David Dent's *Encyclopedia of Modern Mexico* covers most of the twentieth century and focuses more on the political context of Mexico in the world. *Mexico: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Culture and*

History by Don Coerver, Suzanne Pasztor and Robert Buffington (ABC-CLIO 2004) covers much of the same territory as *Iconic Mexico* but it lacks the popular culture emphasis of the newer work.

No single reference work can adequately cover the complex world of the “many Mexicos” made famous by historian Lesley Byrd Simpson (1891–84). The new *Iconic Mexico* is an excellent and unique addition to the available reference works in English and I would recommend it for public, school, and college libraries.—Molly Molloy, *Border and Latin American Specialist, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico*

Ideas and Movements That Shaped America: From the Bill of Rights to “Occupy Wall Street.” Edited by Michael S. Green and Scott L. Stabler. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 3 vols. acid-free \$294 (ISBN 978-1-61069-251-9). Ebook available (978-1-61069-252-6) call for pricing.

This three volume encyclopedia offers more than 200 key concepts in American history from “Abolition” to “Zionism” similar to the earlier *Encyclopedia of American Social Movements* edited by Immanuel Ness (Sharpe 2004). While Ness uses sixteen larger groupings, Green and Stabler present more than 200 discrete ideas in alphabetical order in 1,000-3,000-word commentaries coupled with related excerpts of primary documents including laws, speeches, essays, and interviews that highlight significant voices and moments in American history. A timeline in the first volume situates the ideas in their historical context.

The focus on ideas rather than the history allows for the exploration and connections between early concepts to current outcomes. For example, the entry on “Consumerism” juxtaposes a vintage Chevy advertisement with an excerpt from “Wealth Against Commonwealth” by Henry Damarest Lloyd, showing the tension between the idealism and reality of capitalism. The commentary further elucidates these tensions with an analysis of early trade with Great Britain, the Protestant Work Ethic, industrialization, the Roaring Twenties, and more modern permutations of ethical consumerism and post-consumerism.

While the items are presented as discrete, some of the breakouts aren't intuitive or consistent. For example, there is no entry dealing with abortion. Instead, this issue appears in three sections across two volumes: “Birth Control,” “Pro-Choice Movement,” and “Right to Life” requiring cross-referencing and creating significant repetition. Finally, the primary documents hint at a political bias, especially the inclusion of *Roe v. Wade* as the Right to Life document instead of a more obvious statement by a leader within this group.

Each entry also includes a further reading section with additional resources on the topical focus. However, these are also somewhat inconsistent. Some entries such as “Abolition” cite a significant, focused reading list of more than a dozen books and journal sources, yet the reading list of Jim Crow offers only three books in spite of significant scholarship in