

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

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this area. Again, the authors and editors seem to struggle with the “Right to Life” reading list which appears substantial, but looks more at democracy and constitutional law than the actual movement.

The editors clearly state their objective to be “thorough” over “comprehensive” (xx). Although there are some inconsistencies, in many of the entries the editorial goal is achieved with strong, balanced commentary, important connections to primary resources, and additional titles in the area. Therefore, the work as a whole provides a good foundation for high school and lower level undergraduates in gaining a brief overview of key concepts in American history.—*Donna Church, Reference Librarian, Webster University Libraries, St. Louis, Missouri*

Instruments of War: Weapons and Technologies That Have Changed History. By Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 428 p. Acid free. \$89.00. (ISBN 978-1-4408-3654-1). E-Book available (978-1-4408-3655-8), call for pricing.

Experienced reference librarians will immediately recognize the byline of Spencer Tucker, one of our nation’s pre-eminent military historians. Having written or edited more than fifty books covering numerous aspects of this subject, his name on the cover may well be considered an imprimatur of authority and solid scholarship.

This latest tome from his prolific pen is essentially a catalog of weapons in all their deadly and destructive variety. Entries are encyclopedic in nature, giving the researcher a concise yet informative snapshot of the who, what, where, when, and why of everything from the aircraft of World War I to the Yamato-class battleships of the Japanese Navy. Interestingly, Tucker has opted for a chronological arrangement, which has the advantage of showing how weapons have evolved over time. Therefore handheld items such as the club, spear, sword, etc., make up the initial articles, giving way to those regarding mechanical means (crossbow, catapult), through chemical (poison gas), electronic (sonar, radar) and so on, up to the ultimate destructive force of nuclear fission/fusion (atomic and hydrogen bombs, respectively). Tucker discusses the impetus for creating this listing in his Introduction, noting that “Weapons can have a profound impact on society” (xxi), as when the invention of gunpowder spelled the end of the knight and his age of chivalry.

Ever the thoughtful sort, Tucker has provided the reader with a dual table of contents. The first lists the 270 entries chronologically, as they appear in the text, while the next provides the same articles listed alphabetically. The volume is well illustrated with black and white photographs and contains twenty-five sidebar articles that provide additional details, such as how individual weapons altered the strategy and tactics of warfare.

While one might be inclined to think that such a volume as this would make for dreary reading, what with its emphasis on new and better ways of killing off one’s fellow

man, it should be noted that several of the entries concern life-saving technologies adapted for civilian use (penicillin, helmet) or have otherwise made our lives more productive and convenient (telephone, global positioning system).

Overall, this work represents an interesting and informative compendium supported by impeccable scholarship by an acknowledged master of the topic. Therefore this volume is strongly recommended for purchase by all public and academic libraries.—*Michael F. Bemis, Independent Reference Book Reviewer*

Jesus in History, Legend, Scripture, and Tradition: A World Encyclopedia. Edited by Leslie Houlden and Antone Minard. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-803-0). Ebook available (978-1-61069-804-7) call for pricing.

This encyclopedia is a revision of *Jesus in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Leslie Houlden and published in 2003. The 2003 introduction, included and written by Houlden (then emeritus, Kings College, London), notes an intended focus on “as many aspects as possible of the phenomenon of Jesus” (xxv). The 2015 introduction, written by Minard (Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia) notes intent to respond to “curiosity that comes from the intersection of religion with other avenues of enquiry: science; other religions; or interests in anthropology, comparative religion, folklore, history, literature, and the social sciences.” He also points to a shift in focus towards “interests of a more general American and international audience” (xxxv–xxxvi). The editors observe that “fascination” with Jesus “continues to keep him relevant even as the overall religiosity of the West declines” (xxxvi). There clearly is ongoing interest in Jesus, and there are similar reference resources. Among others, Evan’s four-volume edited work *The Historical Jesus* (Routledge 2004) seeks to show “how study of the historical Jesus took shape, how it has evolved, and where we are today” (2). More recently, another very large four-volume work, *Handbook for the Study of the Historical Jesus*, edited by Holmen and Porter (Brill 2011), states its aim to serve “not only as a historical encapsulation of the topics” of the past, but as a “worthy expression of the range of viable thought currently available in historical studies” (xvii).

The current volumes have a total of 170 topical entries. The alphabetically arranged content runs from Adoptianism, Alexandrian Theology, and Anabaptists in volume 1 to Wittgenstein, Work, and World War I in volume 2. Topics more specific to Jesus in volume 1 include his death, family, miracles, parables, and teaching; an essay on his resurrection is in volume 2. About sixty entries were dropped from the previous edition, and thirty new were added. Many of those dropped discussed scholars such as Auden, Barth, Bonhoeffer, Harnack, Macquarrie, Meier, Pannenberg, Tillich, and Wright. Others dropped covered Irish, German, French, English, and Chinese Christianity. Buddhism and Hinduism are not included this time, though Islam and Judaism