

SOURCES

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