

## SOURCES

In this encyclopedia Altman states the main point of the encyclopedia is “to provide a comprehensive set of definitions and explanations of key concepts in behavioral economics” (xiii). The title work was conceived to be “easily understandable to scholars from across the disciplinary divide, students at different stages of their education, as well to public policy experts, journalists, politicians, and members of the general public” (xiii).

The encyclopedia starts with a table of contents that lists each entry alphabetically and the page number. After the table of contents comes the preface and introduction, the list of contributors and their affiliations is at the end of the last entry, along with an index. The index provides page numbers and bolds those numbers for the main entry of the term. The introduction is written by Altman and aims to give the lay reader an overview of behavioral economics. This reviewer did not find the information in the introduction to be easily approachable. Certainly a background in economics would be beneficial in using this reference work.

The entries are all about two pages long and contain “see also” referrals as well as references for further reading. One can read about calendar effect, dictator game, neuroeconomics, prisoner’s dilemma, trust game and more. It was interesting to read about “Buffet: All-You-Can-Eat Behavior.” Understanding this behavior can help public policy makers combat obesity. There are entries that discuss historical and contemporary people such as; Herbert Simon, a major contributor to the field of behavioral economics; John Maynard Keynes; and James March, an original proponent of behavioral theory. The entries are clearly written although some entries are quite technical for someone who may not know economics.

This is a traditional reference work that contains a list of terms and their definitions. It would be useful for those just starting out in the field for background information. There is an alternative online encyclopedia at [www.behavioraleconomics.com](http://www.behavioraleconomics.com). The site was founded by Alain Samson, a scholar in the field of behavioral economics as well as a business consultant. The mini-encyclopedia included on this site contains a selection of terms related to the topic but is not nearly as comprehensive as the resource being reviewed here. However, it is a good resource for those libraries that may not be able to afford to purchase the print.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

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***Reconstruction: A Historical Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic.*** Edited by Richard Zuczek. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 435 pages. acid free. \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-917-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-918-1), call for pricing.

The Reconstruction Era is often considered to be one of the most tumultuous time periods in American History. This era, which encompasses the twelve or so years immediately following the American Civil War, was a time of great social,

economic, and constitutional strife. Here to provide a concise reference work on this era is *Reconstruction: A Historical Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*.

While this encyclopedia consists of a single, 435-page volume, it is proof that good things do in fact come in small packages. Organized alphabetically, each entry ranges in length from one to five pages. Entries are well-written, clear, and concise; a testament to the exceptional work done by Editor Richard Zuczek. At the end of each entry, users will find a “see also” section that links users to additional, related entries. This, combined with the encyclopedia’s single volume structure and alphabetic organization, make it very easy for users to discover a wealth of information related to their specific research interests. Entries also feature a further reading section that provides full citations for additional outside sources, which is always a desirable feature of any encyclopedia.

Rounding out the list of features for this encyclopedia is a guide to related topics to help users find topical groupings of entries, a Chronology that spans more than thirty years beginning at the start of the Civil War and ending near the turn of the century, and a collection of ten primary documents integral to the study of Reconstruction. Each primary source document is preceded by a brief editorial synopsis that helps clarify to readers the significance of the document to the study of the Reconstruction Era. Despite the single-volume format, this encyclopedia contains all of the features one would expect from an expansive, multi-volume set.

When evaluating the potentiality of adding this encyclopedia to a library’s Reference Collection, it is important to note its scope and intended audience. According to the Preface of this encyclopedia, “this volume seeks to provide an introduction to Reconstruction by focusing on the most significant individuals, events, and issues . . . condensed and edited specifically for the high school student and lower-level college student, this new volume presents both the basics of Reconstruction and the most useful resources for further study” (xix). As such, high school libraries and colleges that offer lower-level undergraduate coursework on the Reconstruction Era will find this encyclopedia to be, on its own, an excellent resource for their students. Colleges and Universities with upper-level and graduate level coursework on the Reconstruction Era will still find value in this encyclopedia, but more so as a supplement to larger, more comprehensive in scope reference sources that cover the Reconstruction Era.

While there are minor nitpicks one could raise regarding this encyclopedia, namely its more focused scope of coverage when compared to larger and more encompassing reference sets that cover the Reconstruction Era, this is an encyclopedia that is easy to recommend. High school and lower-level undergraduate students will find this encyclopedia to be an asset when studying this turbulent era in American history.—*Matthew Laudicina, Reference Program Coordinator, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*