
How They Lived: An Annotated Tour of Daily Life through History in Primary Sources is an excellent two-volume set to start upper elementary, middle-grade, and even early high school students on the path to discovering the excitement and value of primary sources. Ciment, an independent scholar, has crafted a tool that is fairly unique in the field: introducing younger researchers to primary sources from ancient times to the present day. How They Lived uses both objects and documents, which will grab the interest of younger students.

Entries are arranged chronologically, with the first entry a photo of Australian cave paintings from around 40000 BCE. Each entry opens with an image of the artifact and its provenance on the left, followed by interpretations on the next page. These begin with “What You Need to Know,” providing background information and a description, often including additional information on the maker or author and placing it in time and space. The second box is “A Closer Look,” which establishes a wider context, for instance describing how a mortar and pestle reflect the growth of agrarian societies and the development of agriculture, as well as human brain evolution. At the bottom of each pair of pages is a time line, indicating the time period of the subject under discussion.

The first volume covers sources from the ancient and medieval world, with the second volume beginning with 1500 CE. In addition to photographs, one-page documents lead readers to discover, among a host of other topics, how ancient Romans felt about being stood up for dinner (Pliny the Younger was not pleased), how estates were managed in England in 1280 CE, and how St. Petersburg, Russia, was constructed in 1703. The original sources are cited, allowing readers to locate the entire document. The index is extensive and very detailed. Egypt alone covers almost ten inches of column space and nearly an entire page is devoted to England.

Other titles on primary sources for the juvenile audience do exist, of course, but they lack the breadth and scope of this work. Most other works cover a specific time or topic, such as the Holocaust, the reign of Elizabeth I, or a region. How They Lived also notably devotes significant coverage to non-Western civilizations.

Teachers and librarians or media specialists could supplement How They Lived with websites from various museums and archives, such as the Library of Congress and the British Museum. The British Museum, for example, has a curriculum section which features “Teaching History with 100 objects” (www.teachinghistory100.org), which would work nicely with this title. This kind of pairing would enhance most lessons and assignments.

ABC-CLIO/Greenwood have other titles in the Daily Life through History series, such as Gregory Aldrete’s Daily Life in the Roman City (Greenwood 2004), and Claudia Durst Johnson’s Daily Life in Colonial New England (Greenwood 2002), but these cover specific times or events and only a very few are aimed at younger researchers.

This title is highly recommended for public libraries, school media centers, and university collections, where it would make a good starting point for undergraduates and non-history majors, as well as collections focused on teacher training.—Carla Wilson Buss, Curriculum Materials and Education Librarian, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia


From the genesis of the concept of manifest destiny in the 1840s, through the attainment of statehood for Alaska and Hawaii in 1959, and up to the present day as the world’s lone superpower, the locomotive that is our nation has barreled down the twin rails of physical growth and world influence. Powerful, but not omnipotent, America has also learned some hard lessons in playing the role of global policeman. As the editors state in their preface, this work “was conceived partly in response to increased attention to the costs and consequences of American interventionist policies and the nation’s position as the world’s dominant military force” (xvii). This four-volume set also fills a gap in the reference literature regarding the territorial expansion of the United States, as virtually nothing else has heretofore been published on this specific topic.

Contents are broadly arranged chronologically, from the section entitled “Seven Years’ War to the Annexation of Hawai’i” beginning volume 1, up through “The Lone Superpower, 1990–2014,” which concludes volume 4. Within each section, representing discrete historical periods of expansion and influence, topics appear in standard alphabetical order. The reader will find biographical sketches of major actors (Ottawa Chief Pontiac, President Andrew Jackson); statements of principle (Monroe Doctrine); wars and rebellions (Spanish-American/Philippine-American Wars); concepts (Dollar Diplomacy, Good Neighbor Policy); legislation (McKinley Tariff Act of 1890); events (Iran-Contra Scandal [1985–1987]); and even discussions concerning aspects of so-called cultural imperialism, such as the influence that American music, movies, and mass media have on foreign populations. The entries are signed by their respective writers and conclude with “see also” cross-references and a short further reading list of pertinent sources. Additionally, each section opens with a three- to four-page narrative historical overview that helps to place the topics of the individual articles into their proper context. Wrapping up each section is a representative sampling of primary documents, such as letters, speeches, essays, and photo-like, which, written in the
language of their own time, provide additional insight into the motivations and thought processes of those who “make” history. All four volumes are well illustrated with black-and-white photographs, maps, and historical prints. Special features include chronologies, a glossary, a smattering of sidebars, and a comprehensive bibliography.

The editors are well versed in their field of endeavor. David Bernstein is a visiting professor of history at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He received his PhD in history from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Chris J. Magoc is Professor of History at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he teaches courses in American history and directs the Mercyhurst public history program. Between them, they have numerous publications to their credit. As for the contributors, they consist of the standard academic types and the seemingly ubiquitous “independent scholars.”

As alluded to earlier, this work appears to be unique in that the only other reference set found concerning the history of American territorial expansion is James A. Crutchfield’s two-volume The Settlement of America: An Encyclopedia of Westward Expansion from Jamestown to the Closing of the Frontier (M. E. Sharpe, 2011). However, as the title implies, that work only covers the continental United States, whereas the present set under review is worldwide in scope. Aside from this, Imperialism and Expansionism is thoroughly researched, engagingly written, and very well documented. One would be hard pressed to find a relevant topic that has not been addressed by one of the 650+ articles or touched upon by the numerous excerpted texts. In short, this is an outstanding reference set on an important, though sadly neglected, aspect of American history. Therefore, this set is highly recommended for purchase by all public and academic libraries.—Michael F. Bemis, Independent Reference Book Reviewer


This new reference work brings together a wealth of information from more than thirty scholars hitherto available only in a widely scattered array of academic literature, journalism, and government reports dealing with various aspects of the intersection of Latina/o peoples and the US criminal justice system. In the editor's introduction, José Luis Morin states the need to fill this information void. While called “an encyclopedia,” this work is less a traditional A-Z reference source and more a collection of themed essays that thoroughly explore various subjects reflecting the most current research and analysis of issues that encompass scholarship in law, political science, ethnic and gender studies, as well as criminology and sociology. While the book includes an A-Z listing, in many cases the most thorough treatment of a given term or topic is provided in one or more of the nine in-depth essays at the beginning of the book. Cross-references from the A-Z section lead the reader to these essays, all of which provide extensive source bibliographies for the serious researcher. The thematic essays, for example—“Policing and Latina/o Communities,” “Incarceration and Latina/os in the United States,” “The U.S. War on Drugs and Latina/o Communities,” “Crime and the U.S.-Mexican Border”—are based on historic and current data sources and provide thoughtful, readable and critical overviews of complex topics. However, these characteristics also make the work less of a “look-it-up” ready reference tool—it is not the place to find fast facts or statistics.

Other reference works in law and criminal justice may mention Latina/os, Hispanics, or other related ethnic groups, but within the context of other topics. For example, Joshua Dressler's Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice (Macmillan Reference USA, 2002) is more of a technical treatment of the components of the criminal justice system (police, courts, jails, prisons) and is in need of updating. Volume 2 of The Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Social Issues, edited by Michael Shally-Jensen, (ABC-CLIO 2010) covers Criminal Justice in depth and includes relevant information but none of its articles are focused specifically on Latina/o communities. John Hartwell Moore's Encyclopedia of Race and Racism (Macmillan Reference USA 2009) includes articles on Latina/o and Hispanic peoples, but is focused on broader anthropological, sociological theories of race and racism rather than on concrete aspects of the criminal justice system in the United States. The unique focus, coverage, and currency of Latinos and Criminal Justice: An Encyclopedia make this a valuable addition to the scholarly and reference literature.

I recommend the new Latinos and Criminal Justice to all university and college libraries and to larger public libraries serving the growing population of Latina/os in all regions of the United States.—Molly Molloy, Border and Latin American Specialist, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico


This three-volume set includes 875 entries focused on six broad areas: mental disorders and conditions, treatment, tests and assessment methods, common psychological terms and concepts, individuals and organizations, and popular and classic books and movies. It includes a wide variety of entries such as “Addiction,” “Jeffrey Dahmer,” “Hip-Hop Music,” “Carl Jung,” “One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest,” “Support Groups,” “Transgender,” the “Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS),” and “Xanax.”

“Guide to Related Topics” arranges the entries for improved searching by topics such as “Books, Movies, Music, Internet, and Popular Culture,” “Concepts,” “Disorders,” “Drugs, Natural Remedies, and Other Substances,” “Legislation and Legal Issues,” “Mental Health Professionals, Positions, and Professional Topics,” “Organizations,” “People,”

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**Reference Books**