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. Crutfield’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,”