

work will lose some relevance and currency. Nonetheless, it provides a solid introduction to the major players, events, and ideologies that led to the development of ISIS, its rapid military successes, and the beginning of the group's unraveling. It is recommended for undergraduate serving academic and public libraries.—Brent D. Singleton, *Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino*

Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Supernatural Events from Antiquity to the Present. Edited by Patrick J. Hayes. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 478 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-598-5) E-book available (978-1-61069-599-2), call for pricing.

We live in a world with incredible diversity, and the stated goal of *Miracles: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Supernatural Events from Antiquity to the Present* (MEPPSEAP) is “to approach the concept of miracle from different perspectives” (xvii). Specifically, the editor notes ethnic traditions, geographical locations, periods, writings of theologians and philosophers, and modern science as frameworks that are mined for the material included in this one volume reference resource.

Working with eighty-five contributors from a dozen countries with positions in academic settings, different religious training centers, and independent settings, the editor, an archivist for the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has taken on a large task. Pointing to Ebenezer Cobham Brewer's *A Dictionary of Miracles Imitative, Realistic, and Dogmatic* (Lippincott 1894) as his example, the editor states that “it has been well over a century since the last attempt at assembling a similar volume (xvii).” Hayes admits a kind of “pride of place” for Christianity due to the volume of Christian-related issues covered in MEPPSEAP. He also recognizes a need to look at “how other faiths” see miracles, and this work does provide a wider range of content than the work of Brewer. For MEPPSEAP, outside of Christendom, miracles are discussed as evident in Judaism, Sufism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism.

To provide an initial framework, as discussed further below, the editor's introductory essay includes “Defining Miracles: Theology, Philosophy, Science.” A short history of miracles, and sections on hagiography, people and miracles, and the literature on miracles rounds out the essay. Following the essay an interesting Timeline begins with the Hindu Vedas (ca. 1500–500 BC) and concludes with the canonization of Pope John Paul II.

In the front matter the 204 entry titles are listed both alphabetically and in a topical guide under the broad categories of “Era,” “Geographic Location,” and “Religious Community.” An alphabetic arrangement is also used for the encyclopedia entries which cover a wide range of issues, topics, and phenomena. The collection opens with a general essay “Africa, Miracles in,” and ends by discussing a critic of miracles “Woolston, Thomas.” Understandably, the entries vary in length. A paragraph covers the “Georgetown

Miracles,” and five and a half pages with twenty-four further reading references addresses “Latin America, Miracles in.” Every entry has “further reading,” with “see also” references for some. The sample of entries read by this reviewer were informative, readable and suggestive. A twenty-two-page index, and fifteen-page bibliography are also provided.

In comparison, a recent work with lengthier overview essays by eighteen contributors on key related subjects is *The Cambridge Companion to Miracles*, edited by Graham Twelftree (Cambridge 2011). David Weddle's *Miracles: Wonder and Meaning in World Religions* (New York University Press 2010) is sole-authored.

An example of related coverage in MEPPSEAP and Twelftree is how each presents an opening framework on the meaning of miracles. Hayes introductory essay (noted above) lists a variety of questions, and it looks at reports of miracles with one page describing those performed by Saint Francis Xavier. The essay also considers how miracles function, especially in the Roman Catholic faith, and notes skeptical treatment, for example that of the magician Harry Houdini. In contrast, in Weddle the fourteen-page chapter “What is a Miracle?” authored by philosophy professor David Basinger involves an explication of arguments focused on the meaning of the concept of miracle, with notes and references dominated by recent publications in philosophy. The following fifteen-page chapter looks at “The Meanings of Miracle.” Also, compared to the two-page entry with eight further reading references for “Islam and Miracles” in MEPPSEAP, the essay “Miracles in Islam” in the Twelftree work is fifteen pages with twelve references. Conversely, three pages on Lourdes in MEPPSEAP compare to one sentence in Twelftree, and the range of entry topics in MEPPSEAP is more extensive.

For a different set of critical perspectives potentially relevant to some of the topics covered in MEPPSEAP, readers could consider the *Encyclopedia of Unbelief*, edited by Tom Flynn (Prometheus 2007), for example finding there three entries and further reading for Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. The entry and further reading for “Faith Healing” in Flynn could be also considered next to that for “Healing” in MEPPSEAP.

The editor recognizes that this new encyclopedia is not “a comprehensive guide” (xxviii). His intent is that it can be a ready reference tool. As a basic resource for quick reference this work could be useful for school, public, and academic libraries.—Paul Fehrmann, *Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

The Persian Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia. By Mehrdad Kia. Empires of the World. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-61069-390-5). E-book available (978-61069-391-2).

This encyclopedia is the first English language reference source to focus exclusively on ancient Iran during the period of its great empires before the arrival of Islam from 700 BCE to 651 CE. The major empires were the Medes, the Achaemenids,

the Seleucids, the Arsacids (Parthians), and the Sasanians. Ancient Iran covered a geographic area that varied over time. At its greatest expanse the Achaemenid Empire (559–330 BCE) ruled territory continuous from Thrace in southeastern Europe to the Indus River in India. Almost as large was the Seleucid Empire (305–125 BCE) which was not Iranian or Persian but Macedonian, founded by one of Alexander the Great's generals after his death. With the expansion of the empires through military conquests and the administrative control of vast geographic areas, Kia emphasizes that languages, ethnicities, religions, and cultures of the Persian empires were very diverse and that Persia itself was actually a southern province of Greater Iran.

This work provides 241 essays ranging from a few paragraphs to several pages on important places, events, ideas, cultures, people, and state organizations and institutions. The essays are written for high school and college students and also general readers who may not have knowledge of the period. As a research tool the essays are clearly written and provide good descriptions and historical narrative. Each essay is followed by cross references to other entries and a list of sources for further reading. These sources include primary source collections such as Persian documents and histories written by Greek and Roman authors. Secondary sources range from histories and archaeological studies from the 18th century to recent years. The entries are arranged into several thematic sections. This allows readers to examine related information in sections about cities and archaeological sites, kings and queens of each dynasty, military and administrative organizations, general overviews of each empire, and people who contributed to military and political leadership, culture, and religion. Both volumes provide an index covering the set. There are thirty-eight selected primary source documents, each introduced with explanatory text and the source for each document. Also, Kia introduces the work with a historical narrative of Ancient Iran, and he provides a chronology, outline of the dynasties, glossary of terms, and selected bibliography. Excellent photographs and a few small maps enhance the work, although more space for larger maps would have been helpful to readers.

Among the sources listed after each entry, the most prevalent is the *Encyclopaedia Iranica* available in print and freely available online at www.iranicaonline.org. Although it is much broader than Kia's work, it is a major scholarly source of information for all aspects of the Persian empires. It offers much longer, more detailed essays and bibliographies on topics compared with Kia's encyclopedia, but Kia's work is intended for a broader audience. More general reference sources for ancient history in English are also helpful for the history of ancient Iran but may not offer the same detail as can be found in Kia's work or iranicaonline.org. These include *Brill's New Pauly* (Brill, 2007–) and *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Wiley Blackwell 2012).

Kia's work is highly recommended as an important contribution to the reference literature on ancient Iran accessible to a wide range of users.—David Lincove, *History, Public*

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Resisting the Holocaust: Upstanders, Partisans, and Survivors. Edited by Paul R. Bartrop. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 445 p. Acid free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-878-8). E-book available (978-1-61069-879-5), call for pricing.

It is common for researchers of the Holocaust and Holocaust resisters to encounter initial roadblocks when embarking on this journey. Being able to offer scholars, especially those looking to establish a foundation of knowledge on these topics, a reference source that is both approachable for the less experienced researcher, while at the same time provides detailed information and a launch pad to delve deeper into these topics, is an enticing proposition. *Resisting the Holocaust: Upstanders, Partisans, and Survivors* looks to provide such versatility and value to academic reference collections.

Between the Introduction and the actual encyclopedia entries that provide information for each resister are three critical sections that provide crucial context and detailed definitions of an Upstander, a Partisan, and a Survivor. While brief at only two pages each, this information is invaluable, especially for the novice scholar who may not be well-versed in the Holocaust and the various ways in which people resisted. As an example, part of the introduction to the section describing upstanders during the Holocaust states, "upstanders during the Holocaust were those who resisted the murderous actions of the Nazis, or went out of their way to rescue Jews" (xxiii).

Each entry, approximately two to four pages in length, focuses on a resister and provides details pertaining to the specific resistance actions taken by the resister, as well as geographical context as to where the resistance took place. Resistance took many forms, and this reference work excels at illuminating the multitude methods of resistance deployed by resisters. Information includes where the individual took action, how they took action, and context as to the eventual outcomes of their actions. Sprinkled throughout this volume are reproductions of photographs of many of the resisters covered in this work, which brings this work to life. While there is a separate bibliography located just before the Index, the lack of a selected bibliography at the end of each entry is a very minor gripe.

At the conclusion of the final resister entry, the encyclopedia provides a detailed chronology of events that starts with the appointment of Adolf Hitler as chancellor of Germany in 1933 and continues through the signing of surrender documents in Berlin in 1945. There is also the aforementioned bibliography, which provides citations to dozens of relevant sources for scholars interested in continuing their research beyond this reference work. The chronology further enhances the accessibility of this work, and the bibliography provides easy pathways for researchers to continue their work in additional, non-reference sources.