

Historic Sites and Landmarks That Shaped America: From Acoma Pueblo to Ground Zero. Edited by Mitchell Newton-Matza. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-749-1). E-book available (978-1-61069-750-7), call for pricing.

This new work explores 260 celebrated locations of historical import in the United States. A unique publication, the only similar undertaking in the recent past is Thomas W. Paradis's *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of American Landmarks* (Lorenz 2011). This older Lorenz edition is not widely held in American academic or public libraries, focuses more on the visual, and also highlights seemingly less-compelling sites such as state capitol buildings, marketplaces, and warehouses. Newton-Matza's book, on the other hand, hones in on places more widely acknowledged as historically significant, such as the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and the Grand Canyon. Other locations included here may be closely associated with major battles or well-known figures of the American past—US presidents, writers, and inventors, for example. The latter type of entry tends to be largely biographical (e.g., the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Virginia) while others focus chiefly on whatever significant event took place there, such as Woodstock or Ground Zero.

The entries, generally about one thousand words long, explain how and why we remember these places today, and also contain cross-references and lists of further reading. Cogently written by scholars from many disciplines, entries explain the history, background, and historical significance of the location, as well as its current condition. Some of these sites can certainly be considered controversial, or at the very least, how we remember them can be complicated and open to differing interpretations. Entries on such sites attempt to take as neutral a stance as possible, leaving ultimate conclusions up to the reader. The shooting of Kent State students in 1970 is one such example. While the entry is unbiased, it only contains about one hundred words on the actual shooting, against about eight hundred devoted to the history of Kent State as an institution and its growth over the years. While this history is interesting and well presented, it actually has nothing to do with the reason the Kent State entry is in the encyclopedia in the first place. It seems that more background information on other events at Kent that fateful weekend that led up to the confrontation, if not a summary of the student protest movement as a whole at that time across the entire nation, would have made for a more appropriate entry. Such a history could certainly be offered without taking sides or making moral judgements. The fact that no attempt whatsoever was made here to do so is a bit disappointing. To be fair, other entries on possibly contentious issues do a better job of confronting conflicting sides—the entries on the Wounded Knee massacre, the Andersonville prison camp of the American Civil War (where many Union prisoners died of disease and starvation) and the Stonewall Inn in New York City, (often

considered the birthplace of the gay rights movement)—provide a more focused and satisfying approach.

Other special features of the set include a handful of black and white photographs, a general bibliography of relevant print and electronic resources, thirty-eight primary documents ranging from the First Charter of Virginia (1606) to the USA PATRIOT Act (2001), an appendix listing sites by state, and a detailed subject index.

Overall, this publication sets out to “explain and maintain the importance of specific sites on U.S. history” (xxvii), and it mostly does so. The stated audience here is high school and undergraduate students. In the end, the entries are somewhat cursory to fit a lot of sites in, making this encyclopedia seem most appropriate for public or school libraries, and perhaps too limited for academic libraries.—*Mike Tosko, Subject Librarian, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio*

Natural Resource Conflicts: From Blood Diamonds to Rainforest Destruction. Edited by M. Troy Burnett. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-61069-464-3). E-book available (978-1-61069-465-0), call for pricing.

This two-volume set explores nearly seventy international case studies related to the environmental and political aspects involved in natural resource management. As the title suggests, the focus is on geographic areas where conflict has ensued as a result of the scarcity or abundance of natural resources in the area. Each case study is framed as a question, and includes an overview of the topic, as well as two essays that are often points of debate surrounding the topic. The volumes are divided geographically, and volume 1 covers, international conflicts, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific, while volume 2 covers the Americas and Europe. Additionally, volume 2 contains 120 pages of key concepts that provide descriptions and details which range in length from one paragraph (“Endangered Species Act”) to four pages (“environmental ethics”). The introduction contains a useful table, “Recent Conflicts Fueled by Natural Resources”; although the table is not extensive, it includes the country, duration of the conflict, and the resources at the heart of the conflict. This could be useful for students who want to quickly identify resources and countries that are at the center of these international conflicts.

Comparable works that deal with the environmental and political aspects of natural resource management often deal with a single country or a single natural resource. However, Pichler and Staritz's *Fairness and Justice in Natural Resource Politics* (Routledge 2016) also includes case studies and has an international focus. The demand for resource justice is a common theme that runs throughout both *Fairness and Justice in Natural Resource Politics* and *Natural Resource Conflicts*, but the latter covers a greater number of conflicts and provides two viewpoints on each topic.

In the preface, the editor states that “the primary purpose of this project is to take to heart the observations of

Our Common Future—to provide a reference for students of geography and conflict studies that evaluates and debates the role of natural resources as either sources of dissension and violence or stability and peace” (xxvi). This writer believes that this purpose has been met, and that this set would be useful for students and scholars studying geography, environmental sciences, and conflict studies. This writer highly recommends adding it to academic library collections.—*Lisa Presley, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

Pop Culture in Asia and Oceania. Edited by Jeremy A. Murray and Kathleen M. Nadeau. Entertainment and Society Around the World. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 444 pages. Acid free \$97 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3990-0). E-book available (978-1-4408-3991-7), call for pricing.

Pop Culture in Asia and Oceania provides readers with a broad but surprisingly detailed overview of popular culture in Asia (excluding the Middle East), Australia, and New Zealand. Though the geographic focus of coverage may be somewhat narrow, the forms of pop culture covered in the single volume are quite varied and reveal a rich cultural tapestry that may be unfamiliar to many Western readers. Pop culture is of course intended for mass consumption, and the mediums and entertainments covered in *Pop Culture in Asia and Oceania* reflect that intent. They include: popular music, books and contemporary literature, film, television, radio, Internet and social media, sports, video games, fashion, and couture. Within each of these fields, readers will find in-depth articles on a wide range of specific art forms and genres. For instance, the literature chapter offers entries ranging from the esoteric Dalit literature of India to the more familiar Japanese manga (comics). Each chapter opens with a broad introduction that provides an overview of the particular art form or pastime.

Although the volume is quite broad in scope and the entries often brief, the authors manage to provide surprisingly thorough discussions about their topics, covering notable individual artists and personalities as well as the broader societal impact pop culture has made in specific regions. This reviewer found no comparable reference works to *Pop Culture in Asia and Oceania*. While there are many resources that provide more in-depth coverage of specific pop culture mediums such as manga, television, and cinema, this title will serve as a useful starting point for researchers. Readers seeking additional sources of information will be well served by the further-reading recommendations that conclude each entry. Libraries that purchase *Pop Culture in Asia and Oceania* may also want to consult the further-reading sections for additional resources that would strengthen collections in the pop culture field.

This title is recommended for public, K–12, and academic libraries with the condition that libraries supporting more advanced research should consider purchasing additional titles from the further-reading sections.—*Edward Whatley,*

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Religion and Politics in America: An Encyclopedia of Church and State in American Life. Edited by Frank J. Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-59884-435-1). E-book available (978-1-59884-436-8), call for pricing.

Religion and Politics in America: An Encyclopedia of Church and State in American Life provides an overview of the relationship between politics and religion in the United States. Smith, president of Tyndale International University, history instructor at Georgia Gwinnett College, and Presbyterian minister, with his collaborators, has created a resource that spans the history of the United States from the colonial era to the present day. The 360 entries in the encyclopedia are arranged alphabetically by topic and are signed by the contributor, and each article includes references for further reading. Cross-references, a chronological time line, and a comprehensive index help to identify particular topics and to facilitate further reading.

Dr. Smith in the introduction states that this work “deal[s] with the religious diversity in the United States . . . and at the same time does not lose sight of the still predominantly Christian orientation of the nation” (xix). The articles bear this position out, as much of the diversity of religious experience in the United States has happened within the last century or so. Topics which span the history of America, as in the essay “Race in America,” for example, generally include at least a mention of Islam and Judaism. Other topics, many historical in nature, such as the entries for the “Great Awakenings” in American Christianity, are more obviously Christian in viewpoint. That being said, there are some topics that are lacking. There is no mention of the Treaty of Tripoli, from 1797, in which it was affirmed that “the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion.” The Christian eschatological idea of the rapture is covered in the Millennialism entry, but the index term for “rapture,” which is probably more well known by most readers, does not reference Millennialism but rather the entry for the Left Behind book series. And while the section on Islam in America is fairly long, the section on Jews in America is much shorter and does not adequately describe the different denominations of Judaism or explain their tenets. Other religions, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, have entries but rarely find their way into other essays dealing with broader topics such as race, immigration, or political participation. This in undoubtedly a consequence, in part, of the encyclopedia format, which emphasizes breadth of information over depth. The ample further-reading section after each entry and the more comprehensive bibliography at the end of volume 2 should, however, point readers to more in-depth resources should they be required.

The writers do an admirable job of maintaining a neutral and balanced tone. Smith, in the preface, emphasizes that