

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