

SOURCES

“the encyclopedia takes seriously the religious motivations for political action. That is, religion is not regarded simply or primarily as a sociological or psychological expression, but in terms of sincerely held religious beliefs” (xix). This phenomenological approach allows the reader to understand the religious and political topics presented from an insider’s viewpoint, and the discussion remains sympathetic and respectful. The writing is also clear and easy to follow, without jargon, and should be accessible to most readers.

There are a wide range of resources that cover politics and religion in the United States. This work, however, is unique in its scope and its format, presenting basic information on a broad variety of topics in one place. It is very accessible for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as general readers, who need basic information on the intersection of religion and politics in the United States. Recommended.—*Amanda Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri*

The Social Media Revolution: An Economic Encyclopedia of Friending, Following, Texting, and Connecting. By Jarice Hanson. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 441 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-61069-767-5). E-book available (978-1-61069-768-2), call for pricing.

As I began perusing this volume, I found myself falling into the assumption that this title would deal exclusively with the “how to” aspect of social media, as have many of the titles I have encountered. One word in the title, “economic,” should have tipped me off to the fundamental differences between this work and others contained in my own collections, and those being offered via Amazon and GOBI3, but I was momentarily blinded by the plethora of the didactic social-media-for-business style tomes. This work considers the larger impact of activities that the introduction and evolution of social media has introduced, particularly those of an economic, cultural, social, and communicative nature. However, I am most intrigued by the fact that Hanson has not endeavored to isolate social media, but has paid close attention to how this phenomenon mirrors previous technological advances and how people, business, policy, and society have adjusted in the face of those changes.

The volume is organized similarly to many encyclopedias with an alphabetical list of entries, introduction, time line, historical overview, guide to related topics, list of entries, bibliography, and index. I was particularly impressed with the guide to related topics, which is broken down into categories such as agencies, changing industries, concepts and social practices, economic models and concepts, political activities, and others. I anticipate students finding this grouping by concept particularly usable and thought provoking. While at first glance I was unsure whether this was an item I would select for my own collection as a result of a reservation about the sustainability of the information on such a topic, I have concluded that the scope of Hanson’s approach will make this volume worth retaining for years

to come. I recommend this title for any type of library, but it would be particularly useful in public, college, or university libraries.—*Anita J. Slack, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio*

Surveillance in America: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, and the Law. Edited by Pam Dixon. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 2 vols. \$189 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4054-8). E-book available (978-1-4408-4055-5), call for pricing.

Pam Dixon is founder and executive director of the World Privacy Forum, a nonpartisan research and advocacy organization which spotlights privacy issues in world affairs. As editor of the *Surveillance in America*, she brings together 115 entries written by 42 contributors. Topics covered by this resource include key court rulings, legislation, surveillance programs and initiatives, and efforts (such as encryption) to subvert snooping. A detailed chronology helps place issues in historical context, while bibliographies for each entry spur the reader to read further. The second volume of this encyclopedia showcases primary documents, intended—as Dixon puts it in the introduction—“to help readers understand how surveillance practices and priorities have changed since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on American soil” (xxvi). (Given their currency, then, most of the primary documents would be relatively easy to locate online.)

Only two comparable works have been published in the past decade. William Staples’s *Encyclopedia of Privacy* (Greenwood 2006) contains more than two hundred entries authored by more than one hundred contributors. However, its scope goes well beyond surveillance, with entries addressing the privacy issues involving health and family matters. Staples’s work is also now out of date. As Dixon notes in her introduction, the debate surrounding “government surveillance and its impact on privacy” was “intensified in 2013” when whistle-blower Edward Snowden revealed that the National Security Agency had been keeping tabs on millions of law-abiding Americans (xxv). Another broader work is *Civil Liberties and the State* (ABC-CLIO 2010), which is essentially an anthology of primary sources and contains no analytical essays. Therefore, *Surveillance in America* can boast of being more comprehensive and more current than similar works on the market.

One possible drawback to this resource is its lack of historical perspective. While the editor clearly states that the book focuses on “all the major issues” surrounding surveillance and privacy (xxv), some readers will want to see more entries dealing with the history of surveillance practices. To take one example, there is no entry exploring the impact of political surveillance carried out over decades by hundreds of local and state police “Red Squads.” This, despite the fact that by 1975 over three-quarters of FBI intelligence files contained information from such sources. Nor is there any reference to the landmark *Handschu* agreement (1985), which effectively reined in the intelligence-gathering practices of the New York City Police Department. While

incomplete coverage of the aforementioned areas may make it inappropriate for more advanced researchers, this book is recommended for public libraries and undergraduate collections.—*Seth Kershner, Public Services Librarian, Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Winsted, Connecticut*

Today's Economic Issues: Democrats and Republicans.

Edited by Nancy S. Lind, Erik T. Rankin, and Gardenia Harris. *Across the Aisle*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 387 pages. Acid free \$97 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3926-8). E-book available (978-1-4408-3937-5), call for pricing. ***Today's Social Issues: Democrats and Republicans.*** Timothy W. Kneeland. *Across the Aisle*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 388 pages. Acid free \$97 (ISBN 978-1-61069-835-1). E-book available (978-1-61069-836-8), call for pricing.

Here I get the unique pleasure of reviewing two separate books in one shot. They are the first two volumes in ABC-CLIO's *Across the Aisle* series, examining contemporary economic and social issues from the perspectives of America's two most prominent and increasingly polarized political parties. Both volumes adhere to the same format and structure, and entries are comparable in quality and depth, the only difference being that *Today's Economic Issues* contains a forward and introduction, whereas *Social Issues* has only a brief introduction. The former is an edited volume, whereas the latter is authored solely by Kneeland. As for the main content, the publisher is clearly going for uniformity throughout the series, so with my sincere apologies to the unique contributions of the authors and editors, I will for the most part be reviewing the two books together.

Alphabetical entries (totaling thirty-eight and thirty-seven, respectively) cover a wide range of issues such as "Financial Industry Regulation," "Minimum Wage," "LGBT Rights," and "Religious Freedom." All begin with an introductory "At a Glance" paragraph or two, then in short order, bullet-point out a couple of the broad, party-defining differences between how the Democrats and Republicans tend to view the issues. Then comes an overview that tracks the issue from its roots

to the present. This kicks off what is essentially a literature review, leading then into subsequent sections, examining the issue as seen and addressed by each party over the years. These sections also include a brief case study (usually two) to highlight a specific piece of legislation (or proposed legislation), speech or article excerpt, party platform stance, event, etc. to provide additional insight. One additional thing worth noting is that many of the sections make clear that neither party is wholly unified or monolithic regarding these issues, which is good because it would be disingenuous and oversimplifying to paint every party member with the same brushstroke for each.

The issues in these volumes have been explored ad nauseam in (I'm generalizing here) scores of reference books in recent years. They are, after all, "hot button" issues to which undergraduate students tend to flock when writing that quintessential expository writing paper early on in their college career. However, the only other reference that really explores the divergent philosophies of the two parties on various issues, albeit not side-by-side like the current title, are *The Encyclopedia of the Republican Party* and *The Encyclopedia of the Democratic Party* (two volumes each) published in 1996, followed by 2001 supplement (Sharpe Reference). These do a good job at outlining party stances in their "Issues and Ideologies" sections, but are by virtue of their publication date, très passé and would be inadequate for researching the contemporary state of affairs. Although not technically "reference," the *Opposing Viewpoints* series recently dedicated two volumes to *The Democratic Party* and *The Republican Party*, which also hash out some of the major social and economic issues from the party-specific standpoints (Greenhaven 2015).

The books being reviewed here are unique and timely. They are definitely written for a general audience of high school through undergraduate level students. I would (and will) gladly add them to my library's collection, but probably place them right in the main stacks as opposed to the ever-shrinking print reference area.—*Todd J. Wiebe, Head of Research and Instruction, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*