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Anita J. Slack, Editor

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*9/11 and the War on Terror: A Documentary and Reference Guide*. By Paul J. Springer. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 339 p. Acid free \$86.40 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4333-4). E-book available (978-1-4408-4334-1), call for pricing.

In the nearly sixteen years since the terrible events of September 11, 2001, nearly 13,000 non-fiction books have been written about that day. Topics range from first-person accounts to memorials to collections of documents. A new addition to the crowded field is *9/11 and the War on Terror: A Documentary and Reference Guide*. The author, Paul J. Springer, is a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute and Professor of Comparative Military History at the Air Command and Staff College in Alabama. His work presents excerpts of declassified documents, chosen to illustrate the effects on and between terrorism and counterterrorism. The selected material is freely available elsewhere, but in this collection the author provides a useful chronology and a short analysis of both the impetus to create the document and its effects. The documents are divided into four sections: "Documents Prior to September 11, 2001," "Documents from 9/11 and the Immediate Aftermath," "Documents from the Presidency of George W. Bush," and "Documents from the Presidency of Barack Obama." In addition to standard indexing, there is a further grouping of documents by similar subjects, such as Al Qaeda Communications and Congressional Testimony. Each entry is documented with the full title, date and place of creation, its significance, and complete source information.

Scattered throughout the entries are sidebars entitled "Did You Know?" which provide snippets of information on topics such as "World Trade Center Complex," "Sunni," "Anthrax Attacks of 2001" and so on.

It is both fascinating and chilling to read "Mohamed Atta's Letter to Fellow Attackers," which provides detailed instructions on how they should prepare on the Last Night, directing them to prepare spiritually and practically, including how to bathe and dress. There is a sobering effect when reading "The President's Daily Brief from Central Intelligence Agency" dated August 6, 2001, which warns that Bin Laden is intent on attacking, but fails to provide anything more specific than "a vague threat of an airliner hijacking to negotiate a hostage exchange" (78).

There are other works which focus on documents relating to this event. Many, however, do not include the actual text of the documents and are now rather dated, as they exclude more recent events such as the emergence of ISIL. One of these earlier works is Paul Thompson's *The Terror Timeline: Year by Year, Day by Day, Minute by Minute: A Comprehensive Chronicle of the Road to 9/11—And America's Response* (Regan/Harper Collins, 2004). The complete citation for each document is provided, but not the text, although there is an explanation as to the significance of the item. Other sources that Springer's work complements include *America Confronts Terrorism: Understanding the Danger and How to Think about It* by John Prados (Dee 2002), the CD-ROM set *September 11, 2001: Comprehensive Reference Resource* (United

States National Guard Bureau 2002), and *September 11, 2001* by the Poyner Institute (Andrews McMeel 2001), which is a collection of front pages of local newspapers, foreign and domestic, from 9/11/2001. The *Digital National Security Archive* from ProQuest is a subscription database and does include essays and other enhancements, in addition to the full text of 93,000 declassified documents.

The full-text excerpts and essays combine to make *9/11 and the War on Terror: A Documentary and Reference Guide* useful to researchers at many levels, from middle school students and college students to the general public. Recommended for school, undergraduate, and public libraries.—Carla Wilson Buss, *Curriculum Materials and Education Librarian, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia*

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***The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four.*** By Kenneth Womack. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 621 p. Acid free \$30 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4426-3). E-book available (978-1-4408-4427-0), call for pricing.

The Beatles were indisputably towering figures in twentieth-century popular culture. Consequently, much has been written about the lives, work, and influence of the Fab Four. The title under discussion here is a unique entry into that body of literature. *The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four* is a condensed (and more affordable) version of a two-volume hardcover encyclopedia with the same title. While the larger edition aims to be a comprehensive resource, the condensed version aims instead to hit the highlights.

While numerous other titles may offer much of the same information, *The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four* is unique primarily due to its reference book format. The title provides the reader with a wealth of in-depth Beatles history one would expect from a narrative account, but conveniently arranges that information in easy-to-access alphabetical entries. The entries dealing with specific compositions (which comprise the bulk of the volume) identify the author(s) of the song, provide details about the origins of the song, the recording sessions, the performers and their instruments, and the album(s) on which the song appeared. Entries devoted to albums provide similar information as well as cover art and chart performance. Additionally, readers will find biographical information on not only the individual Beatles, but also spouses, relatives, collaborators, and producers. Notable events in Beatles history, such as the *Ed Sullivan Show* performance and the Shea Stadium and Rooftop concerts, are also included. Other helpful features are a chronology and discography.

The entries are written in an accessible style and provide details ranging from the technical aspects of recording certain songs to excerpts from interviews in which individual Beatles provide their own accounts of the song writing and recording process. The result is a collection of vivid accounts of the band members and their creative processes.

In his preface, author Kenneth Womack states that the title is aimed at “readers of all levels, from the general public

and students at the secondary and postsecondary ranks through advanced scholars and dyed-in-the-wool Beatle-maniacs” (xv). *The Beatles Encyclopedia: Everything Fab Four* is indeed suitable for such a diverse audience. It is therefore recommended for public, high school, and academic libraries. If your budget allows, you may want to consider purchasing the expanded two-volume edition, which also provides entries on the band members’ post-breakup solo efforts.—Edward Whatley, *Instruction and Research Services Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, Georgia*

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***Chronic Diseases: An Encyclopedia of Causes, Effects, and Treatments.*** Edited by Jean Kaplan Teichroew. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-4408-0103-7). E-book available (978-1-4408-0104-4), call for pricing.

This two-volume set organizes an array of chronic diseases and disorders into 323 concise entries, clearly described in lay language. Topics related to prevention, therapies, and societal factors such as poverty and health disparities are also included. Entries are mostly two to three pages long and are divided into categories such as “Overview,” “Symptoms,” “Causes and Risk Factors,” “Diagnosis,” “Prevention,” “Prognosis and Outcomes,” and “Future.” Entries are signed and contributor credentials are provided. Many authors are educators or writers experienced in communicating health information to the general public; some are medical professionals. “Further reading” lists at the end of each entry reference books and articles, many of which are freely available online. There is also a “Recommended Resources” section listing numerous books and websites for researchers seeking reputable sources that are relatively free of medical terminology and scholarly language.

One notable shortcoming of *Chronic Diseases: An Encyclopedia* is its complete lack of photographs, drawings, or other illustrations. While statistical data in print resources is of limited use since it quickly becomes outdated, some entries in this encyclopedia would have benefitted greatly from a few illustrative charts. For example, the articles entitled “Men’s Health” and “Women’s Health” would be far more useful if they included comparative data tables showing readers the impact of certain chronic diseases across these populations. Such enhanced content would help set this work apart from free online resources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website ([cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)) and the US National Library of Medicine’s MedlinePlus database ([medlineplus.gov](http://medlineplus.gov)), which are also designed with non-professional users in mind.

While there are more comprehensive medical encyclopedias, such as *Magill’s Medical Guide* (Grey House, 2014) and *The Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing and Allied Health* (2013), there is no other print resource for non-professionals focusing exclusively on chronic illness and related issues. *Chronic Diseases* is intuitively organized and clearly written, so users looking for a straightforward source to help them untangle this complex phenomenon will likely appreciate its brevity.