
Sources

Reference Books

Anita J. Slack, Editor

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50 Events That Shaped American Indian History: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic. Edited by Donna Martinez and Jennifer L. Williams Bordeaux. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$189 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3576-6). E-book available (978-1-4408-3577-3), call for pricing.

Eschewing the conventional alphabetical arrangement of entries, this set is organized chronologically, with subjects ranging from the prehistoric mound builders, circa 1500 BCE, to more current concerns like native protest movements and contemporary laws that strongly affect native peoples. Early entries tend to focus on disease, war, revolt, and other violent outcomes of initial contact between indigenous peoples and encroaching Europeans. Later entries explore issues of cultural assimilation, self-determination, and sovereignty, particularly court cases and legislation.

Entries are authored by scholars in various fields—Native Studies, Anthropology, History—whom are often tribal members themselves. Each entry begins with a chronology to provide context for the period. The narrative body of the entry follows, punctuated by sidebars, biographical sketches of notable people, the occasional black and white picture, and finally, a detailed list of Further Reading resources. The latter is especially helpful for further exploration, and numerous online and government resources are usually included. Users quickly learn the background and context of the events, receive a succinct description of the event itself, and ultimately get a feel for how the event has resonated up to the present day. Particularly helpful for historians, entries contain Document Excerpts, allowing users a glimpse into important primary resources, ranging from eyewitness accounts and personal letters to the actual text of laws, legislation, judicial rulings, and congressional hearings.

While some of the entries focus on predictably well-known historical events, many focus on important subjects likely unknown to most users. For example, the entry on the Violence Against Women Act (2013) is illuminating for the fact that it gave tribal law agencies the right to pursue domestic violence cases on reservations without the permission of the federal government for the first time, allowing for swifter pursuance of presumed culprits. Another entry focuses on the recent Catholic canonization of Junipero Serra, a missionary whose sainthood is considered highly controversial, mainly due to the perceived oppressive tendencies of the mission/conversion model. The entry here clearly outlines the points of contention. Other notable features are a fifteen-page introduction, concisely summarizing ancient to contemporary Native American history, a final list of overall recommended reading, and a detailed index to assist users in finding specific information within entries.

These two volumes ultimately accomplish their goal of serving as an "authoritative and comprehensive resource" on the events covered (ix). Not attempting to cover the entire gamut of Native American history allows a tighter focus on these seminal fifty events.

There are other recent encyclopedia sets focused on

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American Indian History. A few of them are organized differently—for example, the *Native America: A State-by-State Historical Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2012) speaks for itself by title. The Facts on File *Encyclopedia of Native American History* (2011) uses the more common alphabetical ordering of entries/topics. ABC-CLIO has previously published the *Encyclopedia of American Indian History* (2008), which is also organized chronologically. All three of these check in at over 1,000 pages, and cover a wider breadth of material, while *50 Events* is able to cover fewer topics in more depth. Even if your library owns one of these other sets, the new *50 Events* is worth considering as a helpful complement.

One of the most prominent strategies utilized by native peoples that is highlighted in this resource is education—both of American Indians and non-Indians. Ultimately, *50 Events* is a continuation of that education, informing the world of the ways in which they have struggled to maintain their land, resources, culture, religion, and dignity. Because of the scholarly nature and detail contained here, this resource seems best suited for college and university libraries.—Mike Tosko, Associate Professor, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

Food in America: The Past, Present and Future of Food, Farming and the Family Meal. By Andrew F. Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 3 vols. Acid-Free \$235.20 (ISBN 978-1-61069-858-0). E-book available (978-1-61069-859-7), call for pricing.

This three-volume set explores the landscape of America in the context of food. The author describes this set as an introduction to thirty current food controversies for undergraduates and general readers. The volumes are divided into three themes: the environment, health and nutrition, and the economy. Each volume is further divided into sections offering a rich history of the given theme, controversies surrounding key issues, and perhaps most interesting, a section of primary source documents highlighting landmark cases that frame each theme in a political and social context. The primary documents are meant to encourage critical thinking of the writer's perspective, biases, and intentions. A useful chronology of landmark events (that do not necessarily coincide with the landmark documents) is also included so that readers and researchers can quickly track the developments of food issues in America. Provided at the conclusion of each section are extensive bibliographies.

There is no shortage of monographs on the social, political, cultural, and historical aspects of food and food production, but this three-volume collection sets out to offer a concise explanation of a wide variety of food issues from a multidisciplinary approach making for an easy to use reference. The entries are written in plain language, which makes it accessible to researchers just getting started. Each chapter includes a helpful section on ideas for the future, which is an objective that turns up frequently in student writing assignments. A strength of this set is the inclusion

of primary documents: it allows researchers to view how the controversies and issues described in the book reflect the legal and political landscape. However, the inclusion of these documents also has a drawback; while the described controversies are outlined in the table of contents, the landmark documents are not, which makes them slightly more difficult to refer to, instead requiring the reader to browse. Overall, this reference would be a fine addition for two- and four-year undergraduate libraries that support curriculums in Environmental, Food or Agricultural Studies as it provides broad but clear and descriptive entry points for beginning researchers to start exploring topics while not overwhelming them with information.—Amanda Babirad, Instructional Services Librarian, Morrisville State College, Morrisville, New York

Human Medical Experimentation: From Smallpox Vaccines to Secret Government Programs. Edited by Frances R. Frankenburg. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 322 pages. Acid free. \$89.00. (ISBN 978-1-61069-897-9). E-book available (978-1-61069-898-6). Call for pricing.

Tests involving the living human body is a topic with a long and troubling history, yet without these trials, we would all still be living in medical dark ages. In her "Preface," editor Frankenburg states that "This encyclopedia covers some of the key events and people involved in the history of experimentation on humans. The goal is to provide a readable reference for those wanting to learn more about the experiments themselves as well as the researchers who explore health and illness by carrying out tests on human subjects" (xi).

Taking a chronological approach, the editor divides the text into six historical eras: Pre-nineteenth century, nineteenth century, twentieth century to World War II, World War II, Cold War, and post-Cold War to the present. Each section opens with an "Introduction," which provides historical context and background information. This is followed by a "Timeline" of important dates covering medical discoveries, publications, and the like. The bulk of each section is comprised of alphabetically arranged entries concerning physicians/scientists (William Harvey, who first accurately described the circulation of the human bloodstream), documents (Declaration of Helsinki, "the first attempt of the international research community to regulate itself" [185]), events (polio vaccine trials), and organizations (Institutional Review Boards). "Documents" presents a smattering of excerpts from books, diaries, and other primary sources that offer the reader a firsthand account of what has been previously discussed. Lastly, "Further Reading" concludes each section with a bibliography of relevant sources.

It should be noted that Frankenburg is evenhanded in her coverage of personalities and occurrences. There are the expected entries on such well-known incidents as the Tuskegee Institute studies of untreated syphilis in black men and the German experimentation on prisoners-of-war during World War II. However, there are also entries on men such as John Scott Haldane, a Scottish physiologist who would "expose