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


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


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 Frankenburgh 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 Frankenburgh 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

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himself to different gases and monitor his responses, at times relying on his children to see if he was still breathing” (38). Many researchers throughout history risked death by experimenting on themselves to advance medical knowledge.

Writing style is clear and direct with a minimum of medical jargon. Editor Frankenburg holds a medical doctor degree from University of Toronto. She is currently a professor of psychiatry at the Boston University School of Medicine and chief of inpatient psychiatry at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts. She has been ably assisted here by nine contributors, all of whom hold doctoral degrees, although only one, Jack McCallum, MD, has a background in medicine. The others, interestingly enough, are historians.

This title fills a void in the reference literature. Multi-volume works such as Bioethics, 4th ed., (previously titled Encyclopedia of Bioethics [Macmillan, 2014]), are bulky, expensive and have a much broader scope than the work under review here. On the other hand, a WORLDCAT search using LCSH “Human Experimentation in Medicine,” yields a plethora of narrative works, but no other compact encyclopedic publications.

Overall, this is an engaging, informative book that is well written and well researched. It is recommended for purchase by all public libraries and should be a core collection item for medical libraries and academic institutions having strong ethics/medical collections.—Michael F. Bemis, Independent Reference Book Reviewer, Oakdale, Minnesota


This book offers an overview and analysis of the twenty-one powers of the US Congress as enumerated in the Constitution. It is organized by the powers of Congress in the order that they appear in Article I Section 8, Article II Section 2, and the enforcement provisions in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments. Editor Brien Hallett (University of Hawaii, Manoa) introduces the book with historical background on how the American colonies developed the concepts and structures that led to the Constitution. Most important are social contract theory and the influence of the European commercial revolution in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that had an impact on the original design of colonial government in America. Each of the nineteen chapters focuses on powers to legislate and enforce federal laws on issues such as taxes, commerce, immigration, bankruptcies, civil rights, advise and consent of appointments and treaties, and regulation of militia. Chapters begin with definitions of key terms followed by sections on historical development, future implications, and further readings. The strength of the book lies with the analysis of historical development of each Congressional power. It surveys how the powers have been interpreted or used by legislative and executive branches and the federal courts based on precedent from the colonial period to the present time. Relevant federal court cases, legislation, and debates (e.g., Federalist Papers) before the signing of the Constitution are cited to explain the development of the Congress's constitutional powers, particularly as they relate to powers of the President and the states. The volume provides the text of the Constitution and amendments, and a subject index.

Hallett states that this book is the first one volume guide to the congressional powers in the Constitution. A similar guide (Powers of Congress, Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1976) appeared in the wake of the Watergate scandal as Congress sought to use its constitutional powers more vigorously compared with the historical increase in the powers of the president. Compared with Hallett’s new book, coverage of historical development is, of course, not as up to date, and it does not offer systematic and thorough coverage of each enumerated power for Congress in the Constitution. The seventeen contributors to the new work are mainly academics in the social sciences and law. Their essays are clearly written and together form a useful reference volume designed for scholars, students, and the interested public. The new book, available in print and e-book, is highly recommended for academic and public libraries.—David Lincove, History, Public Affairs, Philosophy Librarian, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio


Here we have an interesting idea for a monograph that is instead presented as a reference book and leaves a reviewer unsatisfied. In his short introduction, Tucker acknowledges the thirty entries are a small sample of all history, but says he has tried to strike a representative balance across time and geography. He further says the selections “have much to teach us about interpreting historical events.”

Yet, where is the teaching? The entries are accounts of events followed by assessments of their importance, without comparative analysis or drawing of lessons. There is no essay to tell what can be learned from events as diverse as the Taiping Rebellion and the twenty-first century Libyan Civil War.

Nor is there discussion about the relationship of civil wars and revolutions and why the two subjects are combined in a relatively small volume. For instance, are civil wars just internal revolutions that failed? (Would the American Civil War be called the Confederate Revolution today if Lee had succeeded?) How does a revolution against a foreign power (America’s, Hungary’s) compare to one against domestic power (France’s, Iran’s)?

To add quibble to complaint, how were the Peloponnesian Wars between famously independent Athens and