SOURCES

Sparta either civil wars or a revolution? Presumably the notion is that they were sort of cultural civil wars because both city states spoke Greek, but the argument is not made and would be hard to sustain. As for the Thirty Years War, Prof. Tucker notes it was started by a Bohemian religious revolt, but the monster became Europe’s first continental conflict.

On the plus side, the prose is straightforward, as is to be expected from this prolific author/editor. The promise to roam the world across a long span of time is fulfilled, leading to a few entries on such obscure subjects as the Boshin Civil War. (Bet you have to Google that one!) Each entry is completed with a chronology and bibliography. Maps, tables and black and white images are sprinkled throughout.

Tucker’s latest work arrives close on the heels of David Armitage’s monograph Civil Wars: A History in Ideas (Knopf, 2017), which, in part, uses history to examine the muddy relationship of the terms “civil war” and “revolution.” A much smaller but still analytical historical assessment is Jack A. Goldstone’s Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Reference works comparable to Roots include James V. DeFronzo’s three-volume Revolutionary Movements in World History: From 1750 to the Present (ABC-CLIO, 2006) and Goldstone’s The Encyclopedia of Political Revolutions (Congressional Quarterly, 1998). DeFronzo’s project covers a much shorter span of time than Tucker’s, but addresses 108 post-Enlightenment revolutionary movements with chronologies, histories, assessments, and biographical sketches. Goldstone, who has made a career focusing on revolutions, used his conventionally formatted encyclopedia to address not only revolutionary movements since the Renaissance, but also revolutionary ideas and actors.

Perhaps the seemingly synchronized arrival of the Armitage and Tucker volumes is the serendipitous answer for someone seeking to understand the nature of civil wars; Armitage for the overview, Tucker for some blow-by-blow details. On its own, Roots works for a library filling gaps in accounts of certain conflicts, but as a necessary resource for its subject, it is not well realized.—Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Through content and scope, editors and contributors to The Routledge Companion to Digital Journalism Studies clearly conceive of digital journalism as a field distinct from traditional print journalism and broadcast journalism. This sets the work apart from virtually all other journalism reference works. For comparison, the six-volume Encyclopedia of Journalism (Sage, 2009) has discrete essays such as “Digital Media Tools” and “Social Network Websites” among topics about journalism more broadly. To be fair, the Routledge Companion represents an additional eight years of development in a rapidly changing field.

This brings up a concern about this work that is acknowledged by the editors. The Routledge Companion to Digital Journalism Studies risks becoming outdated quickly in such a quickly evolving field. Still, it is reasonable to think that digital journalism is more crystallized as a field and more standardized in practice than it was a decade ago. Franklin and Eldridge have taken the opportunity to boldly create the first work of its kind.

The essays in this work are detailed enough to provide more than a conceptual overview. They approach the ability to serve as secondary, scholarly sources rather than purely tertiary sources. Each essay provides a “further reading” section and a fairly extensive list of references. For example, the essay “Digital Journalism and Tabloid Journalism” lists thirty-five references, and this is fairly typical throughout the work.

Voice throughout is scholarly enough that it might prove moderately thick to beginning undergraduates, but is readable enough to aid in the acquisition of journalistic terminology and habituation to scholarly reading. A thorough index includes people, places, publications, and relevant topics such as “community journalism.” As usual, Routledge binds the work in an attractive, but not pretentious, hard cover. The work contains occasional figures and graphs, but not photographs.

One can imagine The Routledge Companion to Digital Journalism Studies serving as a textbook in a course about digital journalism, and it could serve as a starting point for advanced undergraduate, graduate, and professional researchers in digital journalism. It certainly belongs on the shelves of any library supporting an academic program in journalism or wherever developments in digital journalism will be an interest.—Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

The Routledge Companion to Digital Journalism Studies.

This work contains fifty-seven scholarly essays, averaging more than ten pages in length that approach digital journalism as a discrete field of study. The work includes ten major topical divisions that include “Conceptualizing digital journalism studies,” “Investigating digital journalism,” “Strategic digital journalism,” “Digital journalism studies: Issues and debates,” “Developing digital journalism practice,” “Digital journalism and audiences,” “Digital journalism and social media,” “Digital journalism content,” “Global digital journalism,” and “Future directions.”
globalization has been with us since complex ancient societies first developed. In her introduction, Hodos discusses the idea of globalization, and defines it as "processes of increasing connectivities that unfold and manifest as social awareness of those connectivities" (4). Globalization, therefore, is not necessarily modern, Western, or a homogenization of cultures, but instead is a “development of shared practices and values that contribute to the idea of the world as one place, while recognizing cultural and other differences” (5).

Unlike many “handbooks,” this volume is not linear in timeframe nor is it a synopsis of scholarship. Instead, scholars studying various cultures are geographically divided into continental areas, and each article discusses a particular case study of globalization within a particular culture. Most articles address cultures of the past, such as the Olmec of Mesoamerica or Iron Age Asian societies, but some focus on more modern phenomena such as cell phone use in Africa. Five introductory chapters discuss basic theory and definitions, and a final chapter summarizes the evidence and makes the case for globalization as an ongoing process from the Bronze Age forward. The end result is a resource that is wide-reaching and thoughtful in its discussion of how societies and individuals both adapted and redefined their culture due to globalization processes, and how they maintained their own unique identities within the “complex connectivities” that resulted from it.

This resource is highly recommended for any library supporting an anthropology, archaeology, world history, or sociology program, and is most useful for upper level undergraduates, graduate students, and scholars.—Amanda K. Sprochi, Cataloger, The University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri


Although a small, fractured kingdom during the fifteenth century, Spain’s interest in exploration and expanding resources led to a more unified kingdom and later the largest Empire in the world. This early history has shaped the world significantly. The exchange of foods, animals, and natural resources throughout the world, the introduction of diseases to new territories, and the blending of indigenous and European cultures continues to shape our world in unique ways.

The Spanish Empire is both its own work and part of the Empires of the World series which looks at influential empires that have defined history. While other works have addressed the Spanish Empire, this one balances the variety and larger scope of James Olson’s Historical Dictionary of the Spanish Empire (Greenwood, 1991) with the longer, more detailed entries of Merriman’s Rise of the Spanish Empire (MacMillan 1925) while updating key issues and concepts.

Also, in contrast to the traditional alphabetical format of Olson or the chronological format of Merriman, this set is organized into seven areas of significance: Government and Politics; Organization and Administration; Individuals, Groups and Organizations; Key Events; Military; Objects and Artifacts; and Key Places for more integrated research studies. Each category includes an overview essay that provides a summary of key issues and ideas covered, and the glossary at the end of the second volume clarifies key terms.

While using a topical focus could detract from the historical understanding, the early timeline and the chronological organization of more than thirty primary documents provide a structure for placing the various sections and ideas within the historical context. Furthermore, cross-referencing at the end of entries provides connections to additional internal resources while “further reading” guides the researcher to additional resources. Also, the selected bibliography offers important works for research based on geographical regions, and the extensive indexing allows research on topics that cross various sections.

Following each section introduction, several entries are presented in alphabetical order. These individual entries are about two to three pages long with strong overviews and insights from a variety of specialists and scholars. The addition of black and white photos and illustrations provides both information and visual appeal to the overall layout, and inset boxes add further specifics on key ideas, people, and locations related to the section texts.

Overall, while students can find resources that discuss the Spanish Empire and its various impacts around the world, few resources can provide the same currency of information and scope of time, depth of content, and broad geography with the primary and secondary resources combined in this two volume work. Therefore, this set would be an asset to larger public libraries as well as high schools, community colleges, and undergraduate programs that include coursework in Spanish history, colonialism, or Latin American studies.—Donna Church, Reference Librarian, Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri


This volume provides a very matter-of-fact overview of the American judiciary system at both the state and federal level. The first half is comprised of three “regular” book chapters covering the history and structure and fundamental roles, functions, and powers of the courts—not exactly quick reference material, but these considerable reads could actually make for suitable course material for an American