

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). Hodos and her contributors argue that globalization theory, therefore, partnered with material culture studies, can be used to discuss and better understand connections between people and cultures in the past as well as the present.

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*

The Spanish Empire: A Historical Encyclopedia. Edited by H. Michael Tarver and Emily Slape. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 2 vols. Acid free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-61069-421-6). E-book available (978-1-61069-422-3) call for pricing.

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*

The State and Federal Courts: A Complete Guide to History, Powers, and Controversy. Edited by Christopher P. Banks. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 513 pages. Acid free \$105 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4145-3). E-book available (978-1-4408-4146-0), call for pricing.

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