

SOURCES

Government class (high school or undergraduate level).

The entire second half is comprised of chapter 4 where the real “reference” section begins. It is here where the many issues and controversies surrounding the judicial branch are discussed. It is not a chronology of events or rulings, but rather a compendium of some of the more complex and often controversial aspects of the courts, giving examples for each. Topics here include: “Judicial Review” “Public Access to Courts,” “Judicial Campaigns and the First Amendment,” and “The Role of the American Bar Association.” The final section of the chapter gives a rundown of the most polarizing issues that the courts have dealt with over the years. Included here are all the “hot topics” one would expect, such as: “Same-Sex Marriage,” “Religious Freedom,” “Gun Ownership,” “Capital Punishment,” “Abortion Restrictions,” etc. The currency is evident throughout, with examples drawn from cases as recent as 2016, and by the inclusion of “The Affordable Care Act” as one of the topics discussed. The “Further Readings” also include some very recent articles and reports along with seminal work. Back matter includes a “Glossary of Concepts, Laws, and People” and an “Annotated Bibliography.”

While there are many other reference works dealing with some aspect of the US courts, most often the Supreme Court, none are quite like this in its organization and content. I guess you could say that it is without “precedent,” primarily for its treatment of the state courts. For broader coverage of “landmark cases” at the national level, I would suggest either *Supreme Court Drama: Cases That Changed America*, 2nd ed (Gale, 2011) or *Landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court* (CQ Press, 2008), although both already suffer slightly from datedness. Other somewhat comparable reference works include *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court* (CQ Press, 2010) and *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States* (Gale, 2008), but again, these do not cover the state courts.

Overall, I would say that this book would make a nice addition to any high school or undergraduate library, especially if on a tight budget and in need of a concise single volume to fill a subject gap in the collection. Admittedly, one could achieve a pretty good grasp of the subject matter contained here in various places around the free web, but as a single stop location for introductory and supplemental material on everything “American courts,” this book does deliver the goods.—Todd J. Wiebe, *Head of Research and Instruction, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

We Did What?: Offensive and Inappropriate Behavior in American History. Edited by Timothy B. Jay. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2016. 458 pages. Acid free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3772-2). E-book available (978-1-4408-3773-9), call for pricing.

We Did What?: Offensive and Inappropriate Behavior in American History is a work that thoroughly covers topics in American history and culture that have at some point been a source of frustration or contention. Although there are

only approximately 150 entries that are between 500 and 1,000 words, the entries are organized alphabetically, well researched, and provide balanced coverage of each topic. It is intended for use by a variety of researchers, but would be best suited as introduction for students in history or social sciences.

To use this volume, it is important to understand how the editors defined “offensive” and “inappropriate.” They essentially defined it using two standards. First it is anything that causes “anger, frustration, resentment, displeasure, or they affront us” (xiii), but for it to meet the criteria of this work, it must also defy the cultural standards of the period that it was considered offensive. Students from a variety of disciplines would consider this a valuable tool when beginning their research because Jay has done an excellent job of balancing the factual information with the more interesting analysis of how these behaviors and the response they elicited have shaped our modern behavior. An example of this treatment can be seen in the entry for Slavery. Jay begins the section by providing historical context of the beginnings of slavery in the United States and continues by outlining the path from the abolishment of slavery all the way to *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. He ends the section by discussing how we are still fighting to eliminate the symbols of slavery in the United States by discussing hate crimes and the decisions to remove confederate flags from state facilities.

Although this volume is interesting and provides objective and thoughtful entries, it is not the only volume that covers this type of topic. However, it is difficult to compare this volume to them because the tone of this volume is academic rather than comedic and the format is encyclopedic. Overall, this work is an easy to use reference resource that provides an interesting perspective on offensive incidents in history and provides discussion on how these events still influence the present. Because this volume is relatively inexpensive and the topic has not been heavily covered in recent publications, I would recommend this work for community colleges and smaller universities with relevant majors.—Marissa Ellermann, *Head of Circulation Services Librarian, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois*

Women in American History: A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia and Document Collection. Edited by Peg A. Lamphier and Rosanne Welch. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 4 vol., 1828 p. \$415 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-602-9). E-book (978-1-61069-603-6) available, call for pricing.

To this day, high school and college students rarely learn about the role of women in American history, cultures, or politics. Teachers and textbooks still focus predominantly on the white Christian heterosexual males that continue to take most of the credit for building the United States of America. While it is fact that, for most of American history, only white men could own land, vote, and serve in government, women of all races, religions, and sexual orientations have done a

great deal to advance American culture, fight for justice, and impact the laws, businesses, scientific research, and education systems that have developed in the United States over time. Several women make an appearance in traditional American social studies classrooms: Sacajawea, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, and perhaps now Hillary Clinton—but there are so many stories and events left untold. An up to date encyclopedia about American women just might help those teachers, professors, and students who are searching for more. For those who wish to go beyond the typical American history curriculum, I highly recommend *Women in American History: A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia and Document Collection*.

Editors Peg A. Lamphier and Rosanne Welch are not the usual suspects for writing a women's history encyclopedia. While Lamphier integrates women's issues into the American history courses that she teaches at the California Polytechnical Institute of Pomona and Mount San Antonio College, her co-editor Rosanne Welch has a background in television and documentary film. Before working on this project, however, Welch edited the well-regarded *Encyclopedia of Women in Aviation and Space* (ABC-CLIO, 1998), which compiled the scattered bits and pieces of women's history in these male-dominated fields into one publication. This was no easy feat; the encyclopedia was praised for its comprehensiveness but critiqued for the structure of its entries. Welch appears to have learned from her first encyclopedia editing experience, and Lamphier and Welch worked together so well on *Women in American History* that they are working on another encyclopedia series together about technology and innovation for ABC-CLIO, which will also include the female impact on science and technology.

The main editors of this encyclopedia series, as well as the ninety four contributors from around the world, have done an extraordinary job capturing all things female-identified in American history, from berdaches to third wave feminism. The strength of this series lies in its attention to the diversity of women's issues, cultures, and histories within the United States. The four volumes, arranged in chronological order, contain more than 750 entries and over 195 primary source documents. Each volume is divided into three historical sections. Volume 1: Precolonial America to the Early Republic, covers precolonial North America (pre-1607), colonial North America (1607–1754), and Revolutionary America and the New Republic (1754–1819). Volume

2: Antebellum America through the Gilded Age, spans the Antebellum Era (1820–1860), the Civil War and Reconstruction (1861–1877), and the Gilded Age (1878–1899). Volume 3: Progressive Era through World War II, surveys the Progressive Era (1900–1929), the Great Depression and the New Deal (1930–1941), and World War II (1939–1945). Finally, Volume 4: Cold War America to Today, addresses Cold War America (1946–1962), Second-Wave Feminism (1963–1989) and Third-Wave Feminism (1990–Present). The first volume of the series begins with a timeline of major events accomplished by or impacting women, and each section begins with a well-researched historical overview of entries associated with the featured period.

Primary source documents, including speeches, cookbooks, and laws that have impacted women—including sodomy laws and slave codes—accompany a significant percentage of the entries. It would have been terrific if the series had included a resource list for those interested in searching for more primary source documents about American women, or at least a credited source for each document. This could motivate someone to do more research outside of the encyclopedia. The breadth of the entries, however, and the sensitivity to multiculturalism, religious diversity, and recognition of women and movements from Native American, African American, Latina, Asian American, Jewish, and queer populations in every volume, however, more than make up for that omission.

While other strong encyclopedias on women in the United States exist, most are now at least fifteen years old. *The Encyclopedia of Women's History in America* (Facts on File, 2000) has over 500 entries for significant women, laws, court cases, organizations, and publications with some omissions of more controversial topics. A frequently praised work, *Handbook of American Women's History* (Garland, 1990), is now nearly thirty years old and only focuses on the 19th and 20th centuries. *Great Lives from History: American Women* (Salem Press, 2016) covers the lives of prominent, diverse American women from colonial times to the present, but does not include the historical background, laws, and other information included in *Women in American History*. Yes, librarians, it is time to update that moldy reference collection and add this volume, whether in print or as an E-book.—Rachel Wexelbaum, Associate Professor/Collection Management Librarian, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota