

SOURCES

freedom of speech or represented national tests to the limits of freedom of speech.

Hudson opens his volume with a concise introduction that frames the complexities of free speech in the United States and immediately provides the reader with a clear sense of the importance of the topic. Hudson concludes his introduction by noting that the volume “aims to strengthen public debate and provide a greater awareness and appreciation of First Amendment controversies and cases” (ix). Its stated aim sets *Freedom of Speech* apart from typical reference works, as it seeks a higher goal than simply providing the public with fact-based information. With Hudson’s engaging introduction, his well-selected primary-source documents, and his annotations that provide expert interpretation, as well as rich and insightful details about historical context, *Freedom of Speech* undoubtedly provides readers with a much greater awareness and understanding of what freedom of speech means in the United States and how this idea has and continues to evolve. The thirty-eight primary sources are arranged chronologically and begin with the 1798 Sedition Act and conclude with the 2015 *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* case. This chronological ordering that begins shortly after the founding of the nation takes the reader through the country’s inherent tensions with the concept of freedom of speech and the legal and intellectual struggles with defining limits to this idea.

Hudson’s *Freedom of Speech: Documents Decoded* differs from other more traditional reference volumes such as Nancy Lind and Erik Rankin’s 2012 *First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO) and John Vile, David Hudson, and David Schultz’s 2007 *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* (CQ Press) in that it does not contain typical encyclopedia-style topical entries. Rather, it is a reference work that reads more like a work of historical scholarship. To fully appreciate this volume, it should be read in its entirety. Its engaging content and structure make this a reference work that lends itself well to this type of reading. *Freedom of Speech: Documents Decoded* is highly recommended for medium to large public libraries and academic libraries.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Data Services and GIS Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta*

Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture. By Patricia L. Dooley. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 166 p. \$37.00 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4339-6). E-book available (978-1-4408-4340-2), call for pricing.

For a country that prides itself on the freedoms it bestows on its citizens, the United States has a surprisingly extensive history of censorship. As Patricia L. Dooley’s *Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture* demonstrates, the arts and pop culture have long been favored targets of censors. Sometimes the censors are private citizens or organizations acting as self-appointed guardians of morality. More ominously, they sometimes are government entities intent on controlling the dissemination and consumption of creative products.

Although the book is a slender 166 pages, the author covers a broad range of artistic forms and instances of censorship. Chapters are devoted to literature, theater, games and sports, music, visual arts, film, fashion, television and radio, and the Internet. Coverage of topics within each chapter begins with the advent of the particular medium or its earliest known introduction in North America and continues to contemporary issues. For example, the chapter dealing with literature begins with an entry on the banning of William Pynchon’s *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption* in the 1650s by Massachusetts Bay Puritans. From there, the entries progress into the twenty-first century, covering such topics along the way as the US Post Office’s 1933 confiscation of copies of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* and the 1950s crusade against comic books, up to the 2003 firing of a high-school teacher due to the content of a student’s slam poetry.

Each chapter begins with a brief general introduction. Entries range in length from a half page to two pages and generally include a discussion of the censors and their motivations, the outcome of the dispute, and the broader ramifications of the dispute. A “Further Reading” section is included at the end of each chapter. This reviewer found no reference resources comparable to this title, so *Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture* is indeed a unique offering, but its usefulness may be limited by the brevity of the entries. Many of the broader subjects covered (such as the backlash against the comic-book industry and heavy metal music) would have benefited from a more in-depth discussion. Due to the brief nature of most entries, this title is recommended mainly for public and K–12 libraries.—Edward Whatley, *Instruction and Research Services Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville*

Gun Control in the United States, 2nd ed. By Gregg Lee Carter. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 401 p. \$60.00 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3566-7). E-book available (978-1-4408-3567-4), call for pricing.

In today’s political climate, there are few issues more polarizing than gun control. Unfortunately, the plethora of news commentary and websites on this heavily debated topic may lack objectivity. The author’s goal for this book is to provide information for the reader to decide on the amount or level of gun control and which types will be successful. This book is appropriate for high school and undergraduate students.

This reference book is a good starting point in the research process. “Chronology,” found in the back matter, gives a list of watershed events that shaped the gun debate from the years 1787 to 2016. It provides a needed long-range perspective on the topic, especially since the focus during the twenty-four-hour news cycle is normally on the latest gun incident. The well-executed glossary clarifies what can be a confusing array of proprietary terms about guns, statutes, and laws. The “Profiles” section offers a comprehensive, balanced review of key people and organizations in the gun-control debate, providing depth to the topic and options for further research.