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Anita J. Slack, Editor

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*'80s Action Movies on the Cheap: 284 Low Budget, High Impact Pictures*. By Daniel R. Budnik. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2017. 260 pages. \$45 (ISBN 978-0-7864-9741-6). E-book available (978-1-4766-2687-1), call for pricing.

*'80s Action Movies on the Cheap: 284 Low Budget, High Impact Pictures* is a work that sets out to examine the evolution of action movies from their cheesy low-budget origins and how they influenced the development of the action film genre. The author states that his interest in exploring the topic stems from his belief that the 1980s was the birth of the modern-day action film (1). There are 284 entries arranged chronologically that examine the films' plots and their influencers. The entries have an informal tone, but they are well researched and use examples from other film genres to make connections. The book is intended for use by a variety of researchers, but its tone and content make it most suitable for use as an introduction to 1980s action and adventure films for action movie lovers or film students.

This volume covers a lot of information in a relatively small amount of space. This is both a strength and weakness of the work because while it makes it more comprehensive, it also makes the entries less detailed and limits discussion. The author occasionally shines when he makes the connections promised in the introduction, such as in the entry for "Hammer aka Hammerhead." He discusses the film's plot and actors, but more importantly emphasizes what the director was attempting to achieve and how he succeeded and failed (143). This is the kind of entry that elevates the topic and work to being a research resource. However, this entry is not in the majority. Many of the film entries read as plot summaries and reviews and neglect to explain the film's importance to the genre and how it contributed to the genre's growth.

If one rated and reviewed this volume based on its own stated goal, it would not be considered a success. Although it occasionally found ways to link the discussed films with their modern counterparts, it too often strayed in scope and away from its original mission. Where it does succeed is in being a reference guide to obscure 1980s action and adventure films. The reviews are fun, honest, and provide detailed and exciting descriptions of the movies. Because this is an inexpensive volume and the topic is not covered heavily, I would recommend it for public libraries and community colleges with appropriate disciplines. —*Marissa Ellermann, Head of Circulation Services Librarian, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois*

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*America's Changing Neighborhoods: An Exploration of Diversity through Places*. Edited by Reed Eueda. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 3 vols. Acid-free \$247.20 (ISBN 978-1-4408-2864-5). E-book available (978-1-4408-2865-2), call for pricing.

Reference sources across the humanities have a bad habit of presenting monolithic entries on ethnic, racial, and cultural groups. While often acknowledging the omissions

and sweeping generalizations made in topical articles framed around the experiences of “Asian Americans” or “Latinos,” often authors fail to capture the varied and intersectional experiences of lives lived not in identity groups, but cities and towns with unique social, geographic, and political landscapes. *America’s Changing Neighborhoods* presents an important departure, providing useful information about the histories of geographically based communities formed and shaped by current and past migrations.

The three-volume set begins with a lengthy introduction on the history of immigration and immigrant communities or “enclaves” in the United States. Editor Reed Eueda, a historian of the United States who studies social and institutional history and migration, argues that these enclaves have served as places where recent immigrants might pool resources and create networks of support, but also as spaces in which people have developed new ethnic identities as Americans, contributing to the continual reshaping of American culture.

The remainder of the work is divided into entries for each of the fifty states and nearly 180 topical essays that describe specific neighborhoods or enclaves by placing them in social and historical context. State entries offer brief overviews of ethnic and racial makeup and important trends in migration over time. They provide total population data from the eighteenth to twenty-first centuries and current ancestry of residents based on general census data and 2014 American Community Survey estimates, respectively. Other population data used in the narratives have been taken from the last full census in 2010.

The neighborhood entries are quite variable in depth, scope, and quality of sources. Some track several distinct phases of immigration from the seventeenth through twenty-first centuries, as communities moved in and sometimes out of the area. Others are solely focused on a neighborhood’s history since World War II. Strong entries, like “Kaka’ako (Honolulu, Hawaii)” are well-developed and organized in labelled subsections that address particular time periods, significant events, or social, political, or economic trends. These entries tend to include scholarly resources and helpful primary documents in their “further reading” lists. Less useful entries, like “Sweet Auburn (Atlanta, Georgia),” are shorter, more general, and cite primarily government and nonprofit websites and recent newspaper articles.

Most contributors are historians or sociologists, though some are independent scholars or draw from other fields including law, journalism, and film. Notably absent are geographers, who could have lent a valuable disciplinary perspective to a resource focused on place-based communities.

There are few resources that could be compared with this one. Vecoli’s *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America* (Gale, 1995) includes some information about the history of settlement patterns for specific immigrant populations, as does Levinson and Ember’s *American Immigrant Cultures* (Simon and Schuster Macmillan, 1997). *Ancestry and Ethnicity in America* (Grey House, 2012) provides far more granular

statistical data but lacks narrative. Thernstrom’s *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* (Belknap, 1980), which Eueda contributed to as a graduate student, bears some resemblance but is out of date and lacks the place-based organizational structure that makes this resource unique. Historical encyclopedias that focus on a single ethnic or racial group may provide some overlap in coverage, but few include entries devoted to smaller enclaves or communities formed outside of major cities.

This book may be useful to undergraduates and high school students doing research in history, anthropology, geography, and area studies. It could also provide useful historical context for research into current, geographically situated trends or events.—Madeline Veitch, *Research, Metadata, and Zine Librarian, State University of New York at New Paltz*

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***Beauty around the World: A Cultural Encyclopedia.*** By Erin Kenny and Elizabeth Gackstetter Nichols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 416 pages. Acid-free. \$94 (ISBN 978-1-61069-944-0). E-book available, (978-1-61069-945-7).

Kenny is an assistant professor of anthropology at Missouri State University with research experience in East and West Africa. Nichols is a professor of Spanish at Drury University with her research specializing in cultures of Latin America. Nichols has also co-written *Pop Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean* (ABC-CLIO, 2015) and authored a chapter on beauty in Venezuela for the book *The Body Beautiful? Identity, Performance, Fashion and the Contemporary Female Body* (Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2015). Both authors have taught extensively on the topic of beauty and bodies (xi).

In the preface, the authors state they try to “provide historical and cultural context to the biological notion of beauty” (xi). They also explain that “when a category is topped with the name of a nation, country or tribal group, we have tried to provide the most vivid, iconic, or best-known version of that term or location” (xi). There is an extensive introductory essay with the authors describing the volume as providing “a wide range of insights into beauty, beauty practices, and standards of beauty around the world” (xxiii).

The encyclopedia starts with a table of contents and has an alphabetical list of entries. Each entry is one to three pages. The entries contain see-also references as well as “further reading” resources. Terms that are bolded in an article are also covered as their own topic in the book. The topics range from being specific (“Grillz”) to broad (“Masculinity”). There are countries covered such as Egypt, India, United States, and Venezuela. The entries may contain captioned photographs, quotes that are off-set, and insets that provide more information. For example, under “Bathing and Showering,” there is a sidebar that describes the culture of the Matis people of Brazil and their bathing rituals.

The appendix offers “opposing viewpoints” on five questions. For example, Question 3 is “The Rise of the Transgendered Beauty Pageant: Is Biology a Fixed Category?” There are two authored responses for each question, taking