

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*

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

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differing views. The end of the volume contains an extensive bibliography and index.

There is an older title, *For Appearance' Sake: The Historical Encyclopedia of Good Looks, Beauty and Grooming* (Greenwood, 2001) that focuses on the history of the beauty industry. This title would be a nice addition for any collections that support women's studies, anthropology, or any other classes that teach the cultural context of beauty.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

The Civil War and Reconstruction Eras: Documents Decoded. By John R. Vile. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 295 pages. Acid-free. \$64.80 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5428-6). E-book available (978-1-4408-5429-3), call for pricing.

Making his fourth contribution to the Documents Decoded series, John R. Vile provides critical commentary for more than sixty documents from the era. The organization is chronological, starting in 1859 and extending to 1877. Source documents are typically brief—averaging one to five pages, with a few longer texts such as the 1861 Constitution of the Confederate States. Designed with the needs of “high school students, college students, and general citizens in mind,” (xiv) each text includes an introduction of about a paragraph providing historical context, and a brief conclusion summarizing the significance of the document. A distinguishing feature of this collection is the reader-friendly approach. The print design is clean and uncluttered with copious white space. The annotations are provided alongside the relevant text, which is clearly highlighted. Placing the commentary side by side with the text makes it easy to go back and forth between the document and the added insights. Consistent with the intended general audience, the editorial additions are not dense scholarly treatments. Rather, they define unfamiliar historical language and elaborate on the meanings of specific sections. There is a list of further readings at the end of the volume; however, no recommendations accompany individual documents.

The selection of texts reflects the interests and expertise of the author, a political scientist and self-described “student of American constitutional law” (xiv). There is a decided emphasis on political and legal topics and government documents including laws, congressional speeches, presidential proclamations, and court decisions. There are no images and little to be found on popular culture (excepting the texts of “Dixie” and “Battle Hymn of the Republic”). No attempt is made to capture the everyday experiences of the time, either on the home front or the battlefield. While familiar figures such as Abraham Lincoln appear frequently, the voices of everyday people from the time—women, African Americans, immigrants, and laborers are largely absent. Legal decisions and laws are certainly important to understanding the era, but compared to other accounts from the time period, they can be dry and unemotional. Readers looking for narratives beyond the political are advised to consult works such as the Library of America's series *The Civil War as Told by Those Who*

Lived It (Library of America, 2011–2014) or *Voices of Civil War America: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life* (Greenwood, 2011). It is fascinating to dip into the array of documents assembled and general readers interested in the political and legal aspects of the era will find much of interest. The addition of further reading lists for each source document would have been an especially valuable addition supporting high school and college students seeking to explore further.—*Eric Novotny, Humanities Librarian, Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

The Death Penalty: A Reference Handbook. By Joseph A. Melusky and Keith A. Pesto. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. 2017. 372 pages. Acid-free \$60 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4549-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-4550-5), call for pricing.

The affordable but brief single-volume *The Death Penalty: A Reference Handbook* is edited by Professor Joseph Melusky of St. Francis University and Keith A. Pesto, a veteran US Magistrate Judge and lecturer at St. Francis. Pesto and Melusky have collaborated several times on related ABC-CLIO reference works including *The Death Penalty: Documents Decoded* (2014), *Capital Punishment* (2011), and *Cruel and Unusual Punishment: Rights and Liberties under the Law* (2003). This title is part of ABC-CLIO's Contemporary World Issues Series, which “address vital issues in today's society” and are “written by professional writers, scholars and nonacademic experts,” covering current topics such as marijuana, social media, and prisons (v). Just as all the other titles in this series, *The Death Penalty: A Reference Handbook* provides an overview of the subject, a detailed chronology, biographical sketches, primary sources and relevant data, perspectives essays by experts, and a list of resources (v). The focus of this work is the death penalty in the United States, with the aim of the book to “provide a balanced, objective discussion of arguments, and controversies” (xv). The perspective essays provide a wide range of voices, from former Governor Tom Corbett to academics from multiple disciplines, to leaders in nonprofit organizations. The profiles section provides brief one- to two-page entries on key people, organizations, events, and cases. The strongest part of this work is the third of the book dedicated to “Background and History” and “Problems, Controversies, and Solutions.” These two sections, written by Melusky and Pesto, feature clear, readable, and concise writing that is comprehensive with excellent insights. These sections of the book could serve as the foundation for the research of a high-school student or beginning undergraduate. The analysis throughout the book connects the many cases and decisions that have shaped the law surrounding the death penalty in a fashion that is encyclopedic without being overwhelming. Each section has an extensive list of references including relevant cases, in addition to a sixty-page reference section. In some areas, this title is sometimes too focused on framing the legal history of the death penalty, and doesn't analyze related issues extensively. For