
The Black Power Movement was largely a youth-led effort that broke from past thinking and methods of confronting American society and marked an important evolution in how African Americans continued their struggle in the wake of hard-fought landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. There is no shortage of reference works on the Civil Rights Movement and African American history in general that include entries on facets of the Black Power Movement. Even subsets of the movement have reference works dedicated to a topic, such as Asante and Mazama’s The Encyclopedia of Black Studies (Sage, 2005). However the encyclopedia under review, covering roughly the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s, appears to be the only work dedicated to coverage of the entirety of the Black Power Movement.

The work consists of over 150 well-written and researched entries on major people, groups, events, and other relevant categorical topics from ‘Assassinations’ and ‘Black Power Abroad’ to “Kiswahili” and “Reparations.” Supporting the encyclopedic portion is a solid introduction to the subject as well as five topical essays ranging from “Armed Resistance in the Black Power Movement” to “Gender, Black Women, and Black Power.” Furthermore, there is a chronology, some illustrations, a thorough index to both volumes, and a selection of primary resources placed in context at the end of the appropriate entries.

One criticism of the encyclopedia is that some major influencers of, and figures within, the movement were not fully fleshed out with their own entries but rather lumped into broader categories. For example, individuals such as Marcus Garvey and Nina Simone are placed under “Pan-Africanism” and “Black Music,” respectively. This criticism could be leveled at nearly any encyclopedia; editors have to make choices and can never include an entry for every deserving subject, but it is noticeable in this work.

Overall, this is an important resource for all college and university libraries to consider adding to their collections. —Brent D. Singleton, Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino, California


Encyclopedia of Rape and Sexual Violence is a two-volume work that tackles a very important and sensitive topic using historical and current events, the law, and statistical information to educate on sexual violence and its impact on society. It contains twenty chapters, arranged alphabetically, that extensively discuss the different forms of rape and sexual violence. The entries are well researched, thorough, and objective in tone, and they feature prominent legal cases, statistics, and events that are pertinent to the selected topics.

It is important to note that this is not the editor’s first treatment of this topic. In 2004, Encyclopedia of Rape was published with the intention to “take a new approach to the examination and understanding of an old problem: rape” (vii). Unfortunately, a lot has happened in the fourteen years since the original volume’s publication, so this reexamination feels both appropriate and necessary. In the Encyclopedia of Rape and Sexual Violence, there are chapters as opposed to entries, which allow the reader to gain a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the topic. A good example that shows the difference in the depth of coverage in both publications is the treatment of “campus rape.” In the 2004 publication, there is a two-page entry that defines the act, provides statistics, and briefly discusses reporting, prosecution, campus justice, and safety precautions. In contrast, the 2018 publication contains a thirty-six-page chapter that offers a comprehensive overview of the topic. This volume still offers the definitions and statistics, but it goes deeper into the topic and examines the side effects of rape on the victims’ lives, discusses worldwide issues and events, lists major laws, and details major failures both in the United States and internationally to better protect students. This development makes this current volume useful to a larger audience.

This is an excellent and informative resource that provides objective and thoughtful entries. It is not the only volume of its kind, but it is unique in the depth it achieves when treating a topic. Although this is a relatively expensive reference resource, I would recommend it as an essential resource for libraries, as it would be useful to a wide range of students and professionals. —Marissa Ellermann, Head of Circulation Services Librarian, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois


Wendell G. Johnson, editor of End of Days: An Encyclopedia of the Apocalypse in World Religion (EOD), provides an excellent collection of essays related to various eschatological (study of the end of times) views. The purpose of EOD is fourfold: to provide readers with an overview of apocalyptic themes; to place popular apocalyptic motifs within their appropriate historical context; to enable a more complete appreciation and understanding of the presence of apocalyptic material in popular culture, literature, and the arts; and to present information in a single volume that will serve researchers in a variety of contexts (xii-xiii). Through the contributors of this work, Johnson exceeds these goals and