

The Kurds: An Encyclopedia of Life, Culture, and Society. Edited by Sebastian Maisel. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 376 pages. Acid-free \$94. (ISBN 978-1-4408-4256-6). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-4257-3), call for pricing.

The Kurds: An Encyclopedia of Life, Culture, and Society is a single-volume resource that attempts to fill the gap in Southwestern Asian literature of comprehensive, critical, and timely information specific to the Kurdish people. The Kurds are a stateless minority split among Iran, Iraq, Turkey, and Syria, as well as other nations in the wider diasporic community. A multidisciplinary team of scholars and researchers have divided chapters regarding the historical, sociocultural, and political contexts of the Kurdish people's struggle into three sections.

"Part I: Thematic Essays" provides an overview of the internal and external tensions that shape Kurdish politics, society, and culture across different states. While broad, these sections (including "Origins and History," "Geography," "Language, and "Life and Work") will assist beginning researchers looking for manageable and discipline-specific points of entry into Kurdish life. For the most part, these brief, accessible, and nuanced essays avoid the easy essentialism that often plagues sociocultural encyclopedias, and a commitment to political and ideological contexts underlying these subjects adds critical rigor beneficial to the beginning researcher. A salient example is Weiss's chapter regarding gender roles, which provides a succinct yet rigorous analysis of changing gender norms in Kurdish culture along with a brief primer to contemporary gender theory. Though readable in isolation, each chapter builds on the information of prior essays, and the committed reader benefits from a linear approach to this section.

"Part II: Country Profiles" explores the relationship between the Kurds and their nations of origin, nations with prominent diasporic Kurdish communities, and the countries with military involvement in the Kurdish region of origin. Some chapters also provide state-specific supplements to the broader overviews of the first section regarding history, literature, and politics in the nation.

"Part III: Documents" provides selected primary sources, including songs, poems, and political documents. Brief introductions to these materials provide political and cultural context for their relevance.

Each section includes parenthetical citations as well as a bibliography for further reading. A reader who might not wish to engage with this volume linearly benefits from an index, table of contents, glossary, preface, and introduction, the last of which provides the reader with a sense of political urgency that contextualizes the objectives intrinsic to the rest of the volume. *The Kurds: An Encyclopedia of Life, Culture, and Society* is recommended for academic and public library collections as a rich, critical supplement to this research area.—Lydia Brambila, Remote Reference Assistant, University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, Georgia

Pakistan: The Taliban, Al Qaeda, and the Rise of Terrorism. By William J. Topich. Praeger Security International. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2018. 217 pages. Acid-free \$75 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3760-9). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-3761-6), call for pricing.

One might be tempted to add this title to their collection as a much needed update on two important topics of scholarship—Pakistan and terrorism. However, the book falls short in its attempt to document "Pakistan's troubled history" (promotional flyer).

As a tertiary source, one would expect a factual approach to the material, but charged language abounds. For instance, in the introductory paragraph alone the author mentions "Pakistani paranoia" and the "artificial nature of the country" (vii). There are also both factual and editorial errors with examples of both appearing on the first page. The author states that Pakistan is "the world's fifth largest and populous country" which is true in terms of the population but certainly not in terms of geography. On the editorial side, a sentence reads "the future of Pakistan hinders on the ability of the fragile government structure to control and ultimately eradicate the terrorist threat within its borders." On its face, the structure of the book is fairly straightforward, relying primarily on chronology. However, chapters are not introduced clearly and end abruptly with no overall conclusion. The writing is also confusing. This title is part of the Praeger Security International series. The series description includes the claim that its titles are "written by subject experts and well-known researchers" (<https://www.abc-clio.com/ABC-CLIOCorporate/product.aspx?pc=A4747C>). Author William J. Topich earned an M.A. in an unspecified discipline and is the US Social Science chair and teacher at a preparatory school. He developed an interest in Pakistan during a trip he took in 2010.

For an up-to-date (in terms of reference sources) and expert overview of Pakistan, the *Europa World Year Book* (Routledge, published annually) provides an excellent treatment that includes information about terrorism complete with robust and necessary context. CountryWatch profiles provide more in-depth information for those who subscribe to the database. Finally, the *Historical Dictionary of Pakistan* (Rowan and Littlefield, 2015), while not as current, is an also excellent reference work. *Pakistan: The Taliban, Al Qaeda, and the Rise of Terrorism* is not recommended.—Anne C. Deutsch, Instruction Program Coordinator, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz, New Paltz, New York

The State of American Policing: Psychology, Behavior, Problems, and Solutions. By David J. Thomas, PhD, LMHC, Foreword by Jim Bueermann. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2018. 210 pages. Acid-free \$48. (ISBN 978-1-4408-6006-5). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-6007-2), call for pricing.

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