

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.

The State of American Policing: Psychology, Behavior, Problems, and Solutions by David J. Thomas observes the past and

current roles of police in the United States. The purpose of this book is to closely examine the impact of policing minority members of the community and address recent instances of police use of deadly force. The author, David J. Thomas, provides expert perspective on policing with his background as a veteran police officer and criminal justice professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.

While there have been several reference works published in recent years on policing and use of force, not many have focused primarily on the minority perspective quite like *The State of American Policing: Psychology, Behavior, Problems, and Solutions*. Many of the other available books on American policing rarely include more than a chapter on police interaction with minorities and diverse communities. Current reference works on policing also tend to highlight recent police controversies and community responses such as the Black Lives Matter movement. A similar resource would be *The Use and Abuse of Police Power in America: Historical Milestones and Current Controversies* (ABC-CLIO, 2017) because it also describes police-involved shootings that have recently ignited controversy in America.

Along with a concise history of policing in America, the author includes several hypothetical scenarios of police interactions with the community. These scenarios provide the reader with questions that analyze a problematic policing situation which is followed by a demonstration of the correct solution. The book also includes real case studies of police interactions with minority groups highlighting misconduct by public servants. David J. Thomas also provides great insight into police officers' experiences and attitudes as they deal with the public. The book addresses the psychology of police bias and racial attitudes along with their decision process and factors that can potentially result in the use of deadly force. *The State of American Policing: Psychology, Behavior, Problems, and Solutions* describes modern policing as an ever changing occupation and offers solutions for law enforcement agencies to avoid conflict with the people they serve.

The State of American Policing: Psychology, Behavior, Problems, and Solutions by David J. Thomas provides an intelligent study of modern-day policing with a strong emphasis on law enforcement and minority interactions. With a unique perspective and a controversial subject matter, this reference work would make a fine addition to criminology and criminal justice collections.—Trent Shotwell, *Special Collections and Archives Librarian, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas*

Steroids and Doping in Sports: A Reference Handbook, 2nd Edition. By David E. Newton. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLO, 2018. 354 pages. Acid-free \$60 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5481-1). Ebook Available (978-1-4408-5482-8), call for pricing.

This volume is part of a series titled "Contemporary World Issues." The series focuses on issues in society, such

as gun control, pollution, human trafficking, and the death penalty. The first edition of *Steroids and Doping in Sports* was published in 2014, "just prior to the release of the most serious revelations about the use of performance-enhancing drugs in amateur and professional sports" (xiv). The author decided the time was right to update the resource with additional information and current statistical data. The preface outlines which chapters were updated but does not go into detail on what new information was added or changed.

The volume starts with the background and history of performance-enhancing drugs and weaves in a tragic story of a high school student dying from steroid use. This chapter goes into detail about testosterone and its effect on the body. It discusses the uses and risks with anabolic steroids and how the use has grown so prevalent in sports. Each chapter ends with an extensive list of references. The references do include more recent articles for the second edition.

The second chapter delves into the problems and issues and solutions to the steroid epidemic. It starts with covering doping from 1950 to 1970, discusses the banning of steroid use by the International Olympic Committee and other sports committees, the methods of testing for use and problems associated with testing and how doping became so prevalent in later years. New to this chapter from the first edition is information about doping in horse racing.

Chapter 3 provides essays from guest authors. Many of the authors are the same as the first edition but have updated their essays. A few essays are new to the second edition. The perspectives cover topics such as steroids and body image, cheating in horse racing, doping in high school sports, and the politicization of steroid use.

Chapter 4 lists profiles of people and organizations involved in the issue such as Barry Bonds, Floyd Landis (but not Lance Armstrong), George J. Mitchell, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. There are only a couple of new profiles here from the first edition.

Chapter 5 lists data and documents such as rules, regulations, and law cases. Chapter 6 lists extensive, annotated resources and chapter 7 provides a glossary. There is an index.

The introduction to the series says these titles "provide a good starting point for research by high school and college students, scholars and general readers" (iii). This book is an excellent introduction to the topic of steroids and doping in sports. However, there is not enough new information in the second edition to warrant purchasing it again if a library already owns the first edition.—Stacey Marien, *Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*