

***The American Middle Class: An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty.*** Edited by Robert S. Rycroft. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 2 vols. Acid-free \$158.40 (ISBN 978-1-61069-757-6). E-book Available (978-1-61069-758-3), call for pricing.

Analysis of the middle class is a news cycle staple, but how do we define the middle class, and what does the label mean? In the expansive *The American Middle Class: An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty*, a wide range of authors offer statistical categorizations, historical perspectives, and ethnographic explorations of the group that is supposed to define the American dream.

Instead of a standard alphabetical framework of short entries, the encyclopedia begins with a prologue of explanatory essays and portraits of identity-based middle-class segments followed by seven separate sections of entries, each with an overview essay. The sections detail nearly every aspect of American life from the political to the social. While the overview essays themselves make compelling connections between the topic and the middle class, many of the entries—though expansive and well-written with cross-references and recommendations for further reading—are less inherently tied to the overarching theme of the middle class. There is no explanation of why entries like absentee voting, intimate partner violence, or school prayer are necessary to understanding the middle class economically. Additionally, entries vary greatly in both topic and length, ranging from the general, like “Neoliberalism” (v. 1, p. 460), to the highly specific, like “Environmental Crime: The Case of the Navajo” (v. 2, p. 789).

The publisher indicates the set is in alignment with themes of the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies and standards of the Common Core. While it is commendable to attempt to be inclusive of all aspects of a huge and hard-to-define group, the extremely broad scope makes it hard to envision this encyclopedia as a highly useful tool for the high school and lower-division college users it is developed for; however, its entries are rich with data and explanations that might be challenging for novice researchers to discover elsewhere.—Emily Mross, *Business Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

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***Dreams: Understanding Biology, Psychology, and Culture.*** Edited by Robert J. Hoss, Katja Valli, and Robert P. Gongloff. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2019. 2 vols. Acid-free \$182 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5616-7). E-book Available (978-1-4408-5617-4), call for pricing.

*Dreams: Understanding Biology, Psychology, and Culture* is a two-volume reference work that aims to educate readers about sleep and dream research. According to the editors, the work covers “evolutionary perspectives on sleep and dreaming to the most current research into the neuroscience, as well as current psychological theory, therapeutic application, and the artistic and cultural treatment of dreams” (xii).

Intended for students and researchers interested in current understandings of dreams and how we study them, this is a valuable addition to the literature, as most dream reference guides focus primarily on artistic and cultural responses to dreams.

*Dreams* is divided into four major sections focusing on the biology of sleep and dreams, dream content, the psychology of dreams, and dreamwork and cultural practices. Each section is further divided into chapters, which group together essays on different aspects of a single theme. The essays in each chapter and the chapters in each section build upon each other to guide the reader through current understandings of dreams in a coherent and logical manner.

One of the main features and strengths of this work is the amount of research incorporated into the essays, which are each written by experts in the field. All of the essays make significant reference to published research, and many further include data in the form of tables and charts. Several essays also detail dream research methodologies and ways to conduct dreamwork.

This two-volume set is intended to be used together, as indicated by the continuous pagination and the location of the cumulative list of references and index at the end of volume 2. This work is an excellent tool for the student or researcher who is looking for a comprehensive introduction to the research being done on various aspects of dreams. It is less well suited for general audiences seeking discussion of popular aspects of dreams, including dream interpretation. Because of the lack of similar reference works on the science and psychology of dreams, the incorporation of significant amounts of current research, and the thoughtful organization of the material, *Dreams* is recommended for academic libraries.—Shaunda Vasudev, *Outreach and Engagement Librarian, Capital University, Bexley, Ohio*

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***Encyclopedia of Political Assassinations.*** By Nigel West. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. 359 p. \$95 (ISBN 978-1-5381-0238-1). E-book Available (978-1-5381-0239-8), call for pricing.

*Encyclopedia of Political Assassinations* is a work that sets out to document global political assassinations that have occurred during the last century and a half. It is a one-volume encyclopedia with alphabetically arranged entries that are well researched and written with an objective tone. It also features an abbreviation and glossary section, a chronology, and multiple appendices to assist the reader. The author is very thorough, and although many entries are brief, they make good use of the space by covering both the significance of the victim and the outcome for the assassin.

Political assassinations and espionage are an especially popular area of research currently. This volume is unique as the stated objective from the author was to comprehensively “identify and document assassination as it occurred during this and the previous century,” and “where the recent declassification of documents has made it possible, shed new