

broader focus, encompassing a wide array of gang-related topics, including their impact on social media, representation in film and literature, and those initiatives, laws, and people instrumental in the examination and research of gang behavior.

This set offers a respectable overview of the progression and characteristics of gang activity and those persons and initiatives related to them. The list of readings corresponding to each entry and the extensive recommended resources offer an excellent starting point for supplementary inquiry for those interested in further exploration. In sum, *Gangland: An Encyclopedia of Gang Life from Cradle to Grave* is an excellent introductory resource, which will be of value to general readers through undergraduates.—*Dianna Kim, Assistant Professor and Research and Instruction Librarian, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas*

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***The Himalayas: An Encyclopedia of Geography, History, and Culture.*** Edited by Andrew J. Hund and James A. Wren. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018. 326 p. Acid-free \$94 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3938-2). E-book Available (978-1-4408-3939-9), call for pricing.

In his preface to *The Himalayas*, coeditor James A. Wren writes that “our understanding of the region is flat. It remains ill-informed—without precision or sophistication—and wildly inaccurate.” (p. xiii). This impressive new work sets out to correct the situation by taking a multifaceted approach encompassing the region’s geography, flora and fauna, linguistic and ethnic complexity, long history, frequently vexed politics, and rich cultural and religious life.

A detailed eleven-page chronology opens *The Himalayas*, followed by three maps and nearly a dozen thematic essays, covering such subjects as “History of the Himalayas” and “Religious Syncretism” and concluding with suggestions for further reading. The next section is made up of 120 topical entries, ranging from the obvious—“The Great Game,” for instance, and “Mount Everest”—to such unexpected entries as “Fermented Beverages of the Himalayas” and “Himalayan Toad.” These include not only suggestions for further reading but see also references as well, and many are illustrated with black-and-white photographs. The essays and entries are the work of several dozen scholars, and while they reflect a deep knowledge of their subjects, they are clearly written.

The work’s third major section is a collection of ten primary documents, beginning with a short account of the formation of the Himalayas from the ancient Indian *Mahābhārata* and concluding with a text from a Chinese social media site lamenting the declining use of traditional rouge by young Tibetan women. A twenty-page selected bibliography and sixteen-page index conclude the volume.

One of the signal strengths of *The Himalayas* is its coverage of contemporary issues. Among the essays, four pages are devoted to “Climate Change in the Himalayas,” five pages to “Cultural Changes in the Himalayas,” two pages to

“Migration in the Himalayas,” and three pages to “LGBTQ Communities and Issues.” An entry on “Hijra (Third Sex)” receives four pages and eight suggestions for further reading.

Although there are any number of works on the individual countries lying in or near the Himalaya Mountains, no other work on the region with such a comprehensive approach has appeared within the last decade. *The Himalayas* is highly recommended for undergraduate and larger public library reference collections, as well as for any collection where interest warrants.—*Grove Koger, Retired Reference Librarian, Independent Scholar, Boise, Idaho*

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***Hip Hop around the World: An Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Melissa Ursula Dawn Goldsmith and Anthony J. Fonseca. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2018. 2 vols. Acid-free \$198 (ISBN 978-0-313-35758-9). E-book Available (978-0-313-35759-6), call for pricing.

This encyclopedia consists of over 450 A–Z entries focusing on “Artists,” “Concepts,” “Countries,” and “Styles,” as well as finer aspects of cultures within the international hip hop scene. The work is not entirely unique in all of its content. For instance, Rigg’s *St. James Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Culture* (St. James, 2018) focuses on the United States and makes a cursory foray into the international hip hop sphere. However, the work under review appears to be the only encyclopedia dedicated to highlighting interrelations and unique threads within hip hop globally, albeit with copious US coverage.

Editing a work such as this is fraught from the beginning as knowledgeable hip hop fans and researchers alike will undoubtedly raise an eyebrow or two for artist inclusions and omissions, especially when the introduction explicitly mentions this is a “comprehensive reference on global hip hop culture.” It is expansive, but comprehensive is a bit strong for a two-volume encyclopedia. Nonetheless, the work is laudable in its coverage of countries spanning the globe, from East Timor, Iran, and Burkina Faso to Serbia, The Maldives, Peru, and much in between.

The entries themselves are well written, interesting, occasionally illustrated, and replete with listed connections between artists and movements within and outside of the genre. There are helpful see also references and further reading and listening suggestions, which come in handy when the reader is faced with new information and wants to pursue it further.

Other features of the set include a brief chronology highlighting selected events in hip hop history around the world; a list of artists with stage name, given name, year, and place of birth; lists of record labels, music videos, films, countries with “severely restricted underground activity”; and a short glossary. This work would be useful for general music collections in both community college and undergraduate libraries.—*Brent D. Singleton, Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino*