Edited by Jessie Carney Smith.


The Normandy Landings, commonly referred to as D-Day, was a pivotal moment in the course of the Second World War. This successful invasion of the northwestern beaches of France marked the beginning of the Allied liberation of the western front, and would ultimately lead to the defeat of Nazi Germany. D-Day: The Essential Reference Guide successfully provides quality reference information on this major historical event.

This single-volume, 280-page work is home to a wealth of reference information on seemingly every relevant aspect of D-Day. Organized alphabetically, entries run between one and five pages in length. Fortunately for students and history buffs alike, each entry features a bibliography of further readings, enabling and encouraging users to continue their study and research. Editor Spencer C. Tucker has crafted an exceptional collection of well-written, illuminating entries covering such topics as Allied Warships, the French Resistance, Charles de Gaulle, and Operation Cobra.

Additionally, this reference work features numerous maps and charts of the invasion, a collection of nine facsimile primary source documents consisting of letters and speeches from the likes of President Franklin Roosevelt and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, an exceptionally detailed chronology of events that outlines (in some instances to the minute) the invasion, and a comprehensive bibliography of all sources cited in the creation of this volume. Despite the single-volume format, this encyclopedia contains all of the features one would expect from an expansive, multi-volume set.

One important consideration to take into account, and the only potential weakness of this work, is the scope of this encyclopedia. While a great many libraries would benefit from a general reference work on World War II in its entirety, adding a reference work singularly focused on one (admittedly very important) event within World War II could potentially limit the appeal for libraries and readers. High school and undergraduate libraries are most likely to have students studying World War II in moderate to significant detail and would probably benefit the most by having access to this reference work.

The many strengths of this encyclopedia, such as its diminutive size, approachable writing style, ease of use, and the breadth of its coverage on all aspects of D-Day, far outweigh its only notable weakness being its singular focus on D-Day itself. This encyclopedia is highly recommended for high school and undergraduate libraries.—Matthew Lauticina, Reference Program Coordinator, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz


The African American contribution to business and economic institutions in America is significant and spans “the period from 18th-century America to the present” (xlv). This encyclopedia is unique in being a reference work dedicated

Timothy Denny and Paul Shockley provide an excellent collection of entries related to evangelical Christianity in America in their work entitled Evangelical America: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religious Culture. Denny and Shockley begin this work with an insightful introduction. The editors aim “to provide readers with information on some of the prominent individuals, institutions and ideas of the movement in the past 75 years” (p. xvi). While Evangelical America does not intend to be exhaustive, it is thorough, providing insight on a variety of distinct facets of American evangelicalism.

Evangelical America has many tools empowering users to discover information on their topic. It begins with a standard table of contents, simply listing the entries in alphabetical order. After this, however, is a topical list of entries, which breaks the entries into eight categories: churches; denominations, movements, and groups; events and trends; ideas, doctrines, and controversies; individuals; institutions; journals, books, documents, and publications; and organizations.

The resources enhancing the usability of Evangelical America do not end here. As this work covers the past seventy-five years of evangelicalism, a five-page chronology is included, showing the timeline for major events and people in evangelicalism. This is partnered with several primary documents related to evangelicalism, a bibliography for further reading, and an extensive index. The various tools embedded in Evangelical America make it an incredibly useful resource for anyone seeking information on a variety of topics related to evangelicalism in America.

The content of Evangelical America echoes this level of excellence in the variety of topics chosen, the depth of each entry, and the further readings provided for every entry. An excellent example is the article on Explo ‘72. If the reader had never heard of this event, the article provides an excellent overview of what it was and how it impacted evangelicalism. The “see also” and “further reading” sections (which all articles in Evangelical America have) enable the curious reader interested in more information on this topic to find more resources related to this specific topic.

Many articles in Evangelical America have text boxes, each of which takes a key concept from the entry in which it is embedded and develops it further, which is an extremely useful addition to the main text. For example, the entry on Billy Graham has two text boxes: one listing prominent American Evangelists before Billy Graham and the other listing fifteen personalities shaping evangelicalism today. Both of these text boxes add incredible insight into the historical development of evangelicalism, providing the reader with additional awareness regarding the role Billy Graham played in the development of evangelicalism.

American Evangelism is a remarkable tool. Any library covering any facet of American religious history would find it useful. In particular, this item should be a priority for any institution of higher education with a protestant or evangelical background as it provides an insightful glimpse into both the history of evangelicalism and the trajectory of its development in the twenty-first century.—Garrett B. Trott, University Librarian, Corban University, Salem, Oregon