

policies, corporate profit motive, and governmental agency definitions that limit the choices individuals have. Readers should also read the “Precautionary Principle” entry (264) to understand valuing life and dealing with risks, as well as just using statistical life as the major metric.

This encyclopedia can be read cover to cover to get an overview of some of the principles (economic and political) that are essential to environmental and natural resource economics. It is available as an e-book, but serendipity while leafing through the print edition will lead to reading such entries as “Hedonic Price Method” (178) or “Natural Monopoly” (220), concepts which might not be found when looking for specific definitions in the e-book.

This is an important resource for students, faculty, and the general public to learn more about some of the concepts and economists involved in the application of economic ideas to the environment. As John C. Whitehead reminds all in his entry on “Earth Day,” Gaylord Nelson’s statement about the significance of the first Earth is still true. Whitehead says, “the efficient management of the earth’s resources is still one of the most fundamental issues that society faces” (115).—Linda Loos Scarth, retired reference librarian, independent scholar, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Faiths Across Time: 5,000 Years of Religious History. By J. Gordon Melton. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014. 4 vols. acid free \$415 (ISBN: 978-61069-025-6). E-book available (978-1-61069-023-3), call for pricing.

This timeline represents a vast undertaking for a single author. Using Egyptian records as a starting point, Melton has arranged major religious events and developments from around the world into a single chronology. This chronology is more inclusive, especially regarding traditional religions, than Tim Cooke, ed. *Concise History of World Religions: An Illustrated Timeline* (National Geographic, 2011). Melton also provides up to two paragraphs describing each event in the chronology, while the National Geographic publication usually provides only a single sentence. These differences account for the difference in length, where *Faiths Across Time* requires four volumes that are each approximately the size of the *Concise History*’s single volume.

Faiths Across Time includes a few longer, informative essays, usually a half page or a full page, on selected topics from the timeline. It also includes occasional grayscale photographs and illustrations. By comparison, the *Concise History of World Religions* includes more frequent essays, long chapter introductions, and ubiquitous color photographs and illustrations. Overall, this renders the *Concise History* more visually appealing, while *Faiths Across Time* is more informative and more comprehensive.

Faiths Across Time also comes across as more objective and more culturally sensitive than the *Concise History*. For example, a one-column essay about Greek Religion in the *Concise History* focuses on the hedonistic qualities of the Olympian deities and on the philosophers’ negative reception of that

tradition, without discussing how the Olympian religion might have been an expression of the human condition or held any meaning for its adherents. It comes across as implicitly anti-polytheistic. By comparison, *Faiths Across Time* begins a brief essay about monotheism in the ancient world by acknowledging how uncommon it was in ancient times before proceeding to mention Akhenaten and then the Hebrews. An essay about the Mystery Religions in *Faiths Across Time* is equally objective in approaching these ancient, polytheistic traditions. To be fair, the *Concise History* is also more objective with large, contemporary traditions such as Islam.

All four volumes of *Faiths Across Time* contain a comprehensive index to the entire work, and page numbers are continuous through the four volumes. This makes the work rather accessible.

The real value of this work is in its ability to fit religious events and developments into the broader chronological and geographic context of religious history. One could imagine a researcher turning to this work in order to compare events from the Mayan civilization with those from the Egypt or to compare events in the development of Islam with events in eastern Christianity. It is doubtful that a researcher studying a single tradition would turn to this work first in order to gain an introduction, but the work might be useful to such a person in establishing context. It is also an interesting work to browse. *Faiths Across Time: 5,000 Years of Religious History* is appropriate for the reference shelves of academic libraries supporting undergraduate programs. It is also appropriate for secondary school libraries where an objective approach to comparative religious history would be valued.—Steven R. Edscorn, Executive Director of Libraries, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, Oklahoma

Food History Almanac: Over 1,300 Years of World Culinary History, Culture, and Social Influence. By Janet Clarkson. Rowman & Littlefield Studies in Food and Gastronomy. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. 2 vols. alkaline. \$195 (ISBN: 978-1-4422-2714-9). E-book (978-1-4422-2715-6), \$194.99.

The author, Janet Clarkson, is the Australian author of *Pie: A Global History* (Reaktion Books, 2009) and *Soup: A Global History* (Reaktion Books, 2010) as well as a food-related blog called *The Old Foodie* (www.theoldfoodie.com). According to the preface, the author came to write this book because she wanted to do something with the large amount of food information she had collected over the years. She started writing her blog eight years ago and evolved into writing two books on pie and soup and now this almanac. The introduction states that this book “is an almanac in the broadest sense of the word in that it has a calendar format. For every day of the year there is a selection of stories with a food history theme”(xi).

The almanac is in two volumes with Volume 1 covering January through June and Volume 2 covering July through December. Each month is then arranged by day. Under each