

explains that there is a degree of neighborhood acceptance because “Crips and Bloods are viewed by some to be a lesser evil than racist law enforcement officers, as witnessed by acts of police brutality on Los Angeles” (9).

A similar work with a broader scope is Kontos and Brotherton’s *Encyclopedia of Gangs* (Greenwood, 2008) which offers a much more succinct description of the Crips and Bloods, as it focuses on numerous gangs throughout the United States. A notable difference is in the entry about the Crips, where the author provides three narratives about the origins of the gang. The third narrative “simply describes the Crips as a group of hoodlums and drug dealers who came together to victimize their own communities” (45). The idea that Crips and Bloods formed in a vacuum for the sole purpose of victimizing others is not evident in Covey’s *Crips and Bloods: A Guide to an American Subculture*. This work provides a look into the country’s two most notorious gangs and collects essays, reference materials and primary source information in one portable volume.

The “Series Forward” explains that the volumes in the *Subcultures and Countercultures* series are written for students and general readers, and this writer highly recommends adding this title to circulating collections in school libraries, public libraries and academic libraries.—Lisa Presley, *Reference and Instruction Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

Governments Around the World: From Democracies to Theocracies. Edited by Fred M. Shelley. Santa Barbara, CA ABC-CLIO, 2015. 522 pages. acid free \$100 (ISBN 98-1-4408-3812). Ebook available (978-1-4408-3813-2).

The brief single-volume *Governments Around the World: From Democracies to Theocracies* is edited by Fred M. Shelley, Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Oklahoma. The task of meaningfully representing international governments in a volume of more than five hundred pages is a difficult one, but Shelley delivers an excellent work that uses illustrative examples of countries to guide the reader to an understanding of types of governments without exhaustively providing all examples. Shelley has authored several other related reference works including *The World’s Population: An Encyclopedia of Critical Issues, Crises, and Ever-Growing Countries* (ABC-CLIO, 2014) and *Nation Shapes: the Stories Behind the World’s Borders* (ABC-CLIO, 2013).

Each chapter of the volume is dedicated to a type of government such as Democracies and Republics, Communist States, and Theocracies. There is a brief introduction to each chapter that provides an overview of the form of government and types of government within the forms. Each two- to three-page introduction includes a few key references and the content serves as a fine primer to better understand the countries contained within the sections. The specific country sections, which at fifteen to twenty pages per country, compose most of the work, provide both breadth and depth

about the countries, including sections on contemporary issues, economic and social data such as education rates, information on political parties, excerpts of key political documents such as Constitutions, maps, and other social and political information. In addition to the twenty-five country profiles, there is a chapter on Transnational Organizations, which covers six major organizations such as The African Union and The Arab League. The Transnational Organization section is a particular strong point of the volume, and all organizations are covered in the same comprehensive and detailed manner as the countries. There is also an appendix consisting of a collection of five brief five-page viewpoints that are cases written by a variety of scholars that analyze potential future developments for Cuba, North Korea, Puerto Rico, free trade agreements and the Eurozone crisis. This appendix is a good conclusion to the volume, in that these are brief case studies illustrating concepts, forms of government and transnational organizations, and political and social changes that lead to governmental change.

This affordable work is an important update to reference works on comparative politics, and fills a gap in reference works analyzing types of government. The two-volume *Oxford Companion to Comparative Politics* (2012), *Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* (2006), and the *Sage Handbook of Comparative Politics* (2009) are all excellent academic reference works, but all look broadly at comparative politics or types of institutions and do not have the focus on types of government as *Governments Around the World*. For country information, the CIA Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>) provides some similar information, but does not provide the context related to the type of government or level of analysis as *Governments Around the World*. Shelley has crafted an accessible volume with clear and succinct writing with content that is more in-depth than free online resources, but is easier for college undergrads or high school students to comprehend than other reference works by academic publishers. Highly Recommended for High Schools and Lower-Level Undergraduates.—Shannon Pritting, *Library Director, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Utica, New York*

Real-World Decision Making: an Encyclopedia of Behavioral Economics. Edited by Morris Altman. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 499 pages. Acid-free \$100 (ISBN 978-1-4408-2815-7). Ebook available (978-1-4408-2816-4) call for pricing.

Altman is the Dean and Head of School of the Newcastle Business School, University of Newcastle in Callaghan, Australia. His areas of research include behavioral economics, x-inefficiency theory, institutional change, economics of cooperatives, economic history, methodology, and empirical macroeconomics. He has previously edited the *Handbook of Contemporary Behavioral Economics* (Routledge, 2006) and authored *Behavioral Economics for Dummies* (Wiley, 2012) and *Economic Growth and the High Wage Economy* (Routledge, 2012).

SOURCES

In this encyclopedia Altman states the main point of the encyclopedia is “to provide a comprehensive set of definitions and explanations of key concepts in behavioral economics” (xiii). The title work was conceived to be “easily understandable to scholars from across the disciplinary divide, students at different stages of their education, as well to public policy experts, journalists, politicians, and members of the general public” (xiii).

The encyclopedia starts with a table of contents that lists each entry alphabetically and the page number. After the table of contents comes the preface and introduction, the list of contributors and their affiliations is at the end of the last entry, along with an index. The index provides page numbers and bolds those numbers for the main entry of the term. The introduction is written by Altman and aims to give the lay reader an overview of behavioral economics. This reviewer did not find the information in the introduction to be easily approachable. Certainly a background in economics would be beneficial in using this reference work.

The entries are all about two pages long and contain “see also” referrals as well as references for further reading. One can read about calendar effect, dictator game, neuroeconomics, prisoner’s dilemma, trust game and more. It was interesting to read about “Buffet: All-You-Can-Eat Behavior.” Understanding this behavior can help public policy makers combat obesity. There are entries that discuss historical and contemporary people such as; Herbert Simon, a major contributor to the field of behavioral economics; John Maynard Keynes; and James March, an original proponent of behavioral theory. The entries are clearly written although some entries are quite technical for someone who may not know economics.

This is a traditional reference work that contains a list of terms and their definitions. It would be useful for those just starting out in the field for background information. There is an alternative online encyclopedia at www.behavioraleconomics.com. The site was founded by Alain Samson, a scholar in the field of behavioral economics as well as a business consultant. The mini-encyclopedia included on this site contains a selection of terms related to the topic but is not nearly as comprehensive as the resource being reviewed here. However, it is a good resource for those libraries that may not be able to afford to purchase the print.—*Stacey Marien, Acquisitions Librarian, American University, Washington, DC*

Reconstruction: A Historical Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic. Edited by Richard Zuczek. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2015. 435 pages. acid free. \$100 (ISBN 978-1-61069-917-4). Ebook available (978-1-61069-918-1), call for pricing.

The Reconstruction Era is often considered to be one of the most tumultuous time periods in American History. This era, which encompasses the twelve or so years immediately following the American Civil War, was a time of great social,

economic, and constitutional strife. Here to provide a concise reference work on this era is *Reconstruction: A Historical Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*.

While this encyclopedia consists of a single, 435-page volume, it is proof that good things do in fact come in small packages. Organized alphabetically, each entry ranges in length from one to five pages. Entries are well-written, clear, and concise; a testament to the exceptional work done by Editor Richard Zuczek. At the end of each entry, users will find a “see also” section that links users to additional, related entries. This, combined with the encyclopedia’s single volume structure and alphabetic organization, make it very easy for users to discover a wealth of information related to their specific research interests. Entries also feature a further reading section that provides full citations for additional outside sources, which is always a desirable feature of any encyclopedia.

Rounding out the list of features for this encyclopedia is a guide to related topics to help users find topical groupings of entries, a Chronology that spans more than thirty years beginning at the start of the Civil War and ending near the turn of the century, and a collection of ten primary documents integral to the study of Reconstruction. Each primary source document is preceded by a brief editorial synopsis that helps clarify to readers the significance of the document to the study of the Reconstruction Era. Despite the single-volume format, this encyclopedia contains all of the features one would expect from an expansive, multi-volume set.

When evaluating the potentiality of adding this encyclopedia to a library’s Reference Collection, it is important to note its scope and intended audience. According to the Preface of this encyclopedia, “this volume seeks to provide an introduction to Reconstruction by focusing on the most significant individuals, events, and issues . . . condensed and edited specifically for the high school student and lower-level college student, this new volume presents both the basics of Reconstruction and the most useful resources for further study” (xix). As such, high school libraries and colleges that offer lower-level undergraduate coursework on the Reconstruction Era will find this encyclopedia to be, on its own, an excellent resource for their students. Colleges and Universities with upper-level and graduate level coursework on the Reconstruction Era will still find value in this encyclopedia, but more so as a supplement to larger, more comprehensive in scope reference sources that cover the Reconstruction Era.

While there are minor nitpicks one could raise regarding this encyclopedia, namely its more focused scope of coverage when compared to larger and more encompassing reference sets that cover the Reconstruction Era, this is an encyclopedia that is easy to recommend. High school and lower-level undergraduate students will find this encyclopedia to be an asset when studying this turbulent era in American history.—*Matthew Laudicina, Reference Program Coordinator, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*