

SOURCES

freedom of speech or represented national tests to the limits of freedom of speech.

Hudson opens his volume with a concise introduction that frames the complexities of free speech in the United States and immediately provides the reader with a clear sense of the importance of the topic. Hudson concludes his introduction by noting that the volume “aims to strengthen public debate and provide a greater awareness and appreciation of First Amendment controversies and cases” (ix). Its stated aim sets *Freedom of Speech* apart from typical reference works, as it seeks a higher goal than simply providing the public with fact-based information. With Hudson’s engaging introduction, his well-selected primary-source documents, and his annotations that provide expert interpretation, as well as rich and insightful details about historical context, *Freedom of Speech* undoubtedly provides readers with a much greater awareness and understanding of what freedom of speech means in the United States and how this idea has and continues to evolve. The thirty-eight primary sources are arranged chronologically and begin with the 1798 Sedition Act and conclude with the 2015 *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* case. This chronological ordering that begins shortly after the founding of the nation takes the reader through the country’s inherent tensions with the concept of freedom of speech and the legal and intellectual struggles with defining limits to this idea.

Hudson’s *Freedom of Speech: Documents Decoded* differs from other more traditional reference volumes such as Nancy Lind and Erik Rankin’s 2012 *First Amendment Rights: An Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO) and John Vile, David Hudson, and David Schultz’s 2007 *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* (CQ Press) in that it does not contain typical encyclopedia-style topical entries. Rather, it is a reference work that reads more like a work of historical scholarship. To fully appreciate this volume, it should be read in its entirety. Its engaging content and structure make this a reference work that lends itself well to this type of reading. *Freedom of Speech: Documents Decoded* is highly recommended for medium to large public libraries and academic libraries.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Data Services and GIS Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta*

Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture. By Patricia L. Dooley. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 166 p. \$37.00 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4339-6). E-book available (978-1-4408-4340-2), call for pricing.

For a country that prides itself on the freedoms it bestows on its citizens, the United States has a surprisingly extensive history of censorship. As Patricia L. Dooley’s *Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture* demonstrates, the arts and pop culture have long been favored targets of censors. Sometimes the censors are private citizens or organizations acting as self-appointed guardians of morality. More ominously, they sometimes are government entities intent on controlling the dissemination and consumption of creative products.

Although the book is a slender 166 pages, the author covers a broad range of artistic forms and instances of censorship. Chapters are devoted to literature, theater, games and sports, music, visual arts, film, fashion, television and radio, and the Internet. Coverage of topics within each chapter begins with the advent of the particular medium or its earliest known introduction in North America and continues to contemporary issues. For example, the chapter dealing with literature begins with an entry on the banning of William Pynchon’s *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption* in the 1650s by Massachusetts Bay Puritans. From there, the entries progress into the twenty-first century, covering such topics along the way as the US Post Office’s 1933 confiscation of copies of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* and the 1950s crusade against comic books, up to the 2003 firing of a high-school teacher due to the content of a student’s slam poetry.

Each chapter begins with a brief general introduction. Entries range in length from a half page to two pages and generally include a discussion of the censors and their motivations, the outcome of the dispute, and the broader ramifications of the dispute. A “Further Reading” section is included at the end of each chapter. This reviewer found no reference resources comparable to this title, so *Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture* is indeed a unique offering, but its usefulness may be limited by the brevity of the entries. Many of the broader subjects covered (such as the backlash against the comic-book industry and heavy metal music) would have benefited from a more in-depth discussion. Due to the brief nature of most entries, this title is recommended mainly for public and K–12 libraries.—Edward Whatley, *Instruction and Research Services Librarian, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville*

Gun Control in the United States, 2nd ed. By Gregg Lee Carter. Contemporary World Issues. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 401 p. \$60.00 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3566-7). E-book available (978-1-4408-3567-4), call for pricing.

In today’s political climate, there are few issues more polarizing than gun control. Unfortunately, the plethora of news commentary and websites on this heavily debated topic may lack objectivity. The author’s goal for this book is to provide information for the reader to decide on the amount or level of gun control and which types will be successful. This book is appropriate for high school and undergraduate students.

This reference book is a good starting point in the research process. “Chronology,” found in the back matter, gives a list of watershed events that shaped the gun debate from the years 1787 to 2016. It provides a needed long-range perspective on the topic, especially since the focus during the twenty-four-hour news cycle is normally on the latest gun incident. The well-executed glossary clarifies what can be a confusing array of proprietary terms about guns, statutes, and laws. The “Profiles” section offers a comprehensive, balanced review of key people and organizations in the gun-control debate, providing depth to the topic and options for further research.

Currency is a challenge for presenting data in a reference book, especially for a topic with the volatility and variables inherent in gun control. While there is often a publication delay for statistical data sets, major websites will have more current information. For example, the data in the book on homicides and suicides by guns are from 2013. “Key State Gun Laws,” a major table in the “Data and Documents” section, has a detailed legend and explanations that continue over several pages, making it difficult to draw conclusions easily. Other charts and graphs in the book with fewer variables are more effective. There are ample credible reference lists in each chapter from highly respected scholarly journals, books, and websites such as the CDC, FBI, and Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In comparison to the question-and-answer format of *The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Philip J. Cook and Kristin A. Goss (Oxford University, 2014), this reference book presents comprehensive information in a neutral fashion, creating an important niche in the marketplace for student researchers. Given the fact that many students now begin research on the Internet, this book should be recommended by librarians to students during the research process.—Terry Darr, *Library Director, Loyola Blakefield, Baltimore, Maryland*

Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East. Edited by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 420 p. \$94.00 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-4360-0). E-book available (978-1-4408-4361-7), call for pricing.

Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East, edited by Spencer C. Tucker, dates modern conflicts between and among twenty-two countries from the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire beginning in 1918 to when the book went to press in 2016, with no end in sight for the civil war in Syria, much less for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Linked by religious and cultural affinities, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the North African countries of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia are included as part of a lately considered greater Middle East, as are Cyprus, Iran, and Turkey. A brief overview of the historical events out of which the geopolitical greater Middle East emerged sets the stage for the seemingly intractable modern conflict of the volume's title.

Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East is arranged by countries in alphabetical order and follows a consistent format. Preceding each country chapter is a map that shows the location of its major cities and situates the country in relationship to its neighbors. The author or authors of the narrative history that follows are cited at the head of each essay. Their credentials are listed in the “Contributors” section at the end of the volume.

A timeline affords the opportunity to insert additional material as well as to summarize significant events in chronological order, though with less attention paid to the military, political, and biographical details that the prolific Tucker's six-volume *A Global Chronology of Conflict: From the Ancient World*

to the Modern Middle East (ABC-CLIO, 2010) contains. Books in the “Further Reading” lists include trade and academic titles, most published between the late 1970s and the mid-2000s. Sidebars and black-and-white photographs accompany some of the country essays. A chronologically arranged section of primary documents with source citations and an index of names and subjects conclude the work.

In addition to the aforementioned *A Global Chronology of Conflict*, Tucker has edited or authored several other reference works touching on the theme of wars and warfare in the contemporary Middle East, among them the five-volume *The Encyclopedia of Middle East Wars: The United States in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq Conflicts* (ABC-CLIO, 2010) and the four-volume *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008). *Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East* supplements these two comprehensively focused sets by providing students with an overview of the background causes and political realities that fuel the besetting strife and discord, internal and external, afflicting a grouping of geographically situated countries labeled together as “the greater Middle East.” Coverage of the history, culture, society, religion, politics, organizations, and personalities that does not dwell exclusively on the region's persistent turmoil is better addressed by the four-volume second edition of *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*, edited by Philip Mattar (Macmillan Reference USA, 2004).

Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East is a vade mecum for students needing an easily accessible guide to modern conflict in the greater Middle Eastern region, its roots, causes, and consequences. As such, *Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East* is a suitable addition to reference collections in public libraries, high-school libraries, and college and university libraries.—Sally Moffitt, *Bibliographer and Reference Librarian, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio*

Presidential Power: Documents Decoded. By Brian M. Harvard. Documents Decoded. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 342 p. \$81.00 (ISBN 978-1-6106-9829-0). E-book available (978-1-61069-830-6), call for pricing.

Debates of presidential powers are often tied to the founding documents of the United States of America and the documents produced by those who have held its highest office. *Presidential Power*, therefore, is a natural fit for ABC-CLIO's Documents Decoded series. The introduction does a thorough job of explaining both the nuances of expressed and implied presidential powers as defined (or not) by the Constitution, and how these powers are expanded or constrained by the branches of government using concrete examples from US history.

The documents covered within the volume do not include the Constitution, which distinguishes its exploration of presidential powers from many other books on the subject. Instead, it illuminates documents that round out our understanding of presidential actions, such as proclamations, letters, speeches,