

SOURCES

(2014)—these are not as explicit about selecting medical discoveries because of their clinical innovation and broad use.—Bernadette A. Lear, *Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg Library, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

Celebrating Life Customs around the World: From Baby Showers to Funerals. By Victoria Williams. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 3 vols. Acid-free \$294 (ISBN 978-1-4408-3658-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-3659-6), call for pricing.

Victoria Williams is a freelance writer and editor with a PhD focused on European fairy tales and folklore. She has edited a variety of ABC-CLIO reference works on folklore-related topics, ranging from sports and games to human sacrifice. *Celebrating Life Customs around the World: From Baby Showers to Funerals* is the most recent of Williams' works. The three-volume set consists of more than three hundred entries on rituals and customs related to specific life stages. The entries in this set are organized first by life stage, then alphabetically. The first volume focuses on birth and childhood, the second on adolescence and early adulthood, and the third on aging and death. Each entry ends with internal cross-references and further reading and includes inset color photographs, selected bibliography, and comprehensive index.

The introduction of the set states that it is primarily aimed at researchers but is jargon-free to be accessible to the general reader. However, it is questionable as an authoritative source for use by upper division undergraduates and beyond as not all of the entries use academically accurate and uncontested sources.

Where Williams excels is that the entries in this set are incredibly readable for an academic work. Because of its readability, it is a good primer or introduction to various topics for further study. The broad geographic areas covered in this work are impressive. Furthermore, Williams tackles subjects that might be uncomfortable for Western readers, such as endocannibalism, with tact and cultural relativism.

Celebrating Life Customs around the World: From Baby Showers to Funerals is a good introduction to various topics for community college or lower division undergraduates. This set would be a useful addition to a reference collection that is lacking introductory materials on anthropology, human geography, or folklore.—Chloe E. Bragg, *Technical Services Librarian, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio*

D-Day: The Essential Reference Guide. Edited by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 280 p. Acid-free \$89 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4974-9). E-book available (978-1-4408-4975-6), call for pricing.

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 Laudicina, *Reference Program Coordinator, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz*

Encyclopedia of African American Business: Updated and Revised Edition, 2nd ed. Edited by Jessie Carney Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 2 vols. Acid-free \$198 (ISBN 978-1-4408-5027-1). E-book available (978-1-4408-5028-8), call for pricing.

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

solely to exploring this contribution and its impact. In the preface, the editor, Jessie Carney Smith, Dean of the Library and Camille Cosby Distinguished Chair in the Humanities at Fisk University in Nashville, TN, mentions, “one subject that has been met with somewhat limited appeal is African American books on businesses, merely because the focus is narrow and unlike the wider scope of literary works” (xli). This explains the dearth of similar works in the field. It is this gap that motivated her to first publish this work in 2006 and prompted the publisher to reissue it eleven years later in 2017.

The two-volume work features 259 entries. The work is organized in traditional encyclopedia format with an alphabetical list of entries, dates, references, bibliography, and index. The alphabetical arrangement of the entries can make perusing this set confusing as they vary broadly between people, events, and concepts. To address this, the set contains a “Guide to related topics,” and “African American Business Leaders by Occupation” (v) sections to assist in cross-referencing topics or searching for specific people by their associated industry.

Unsurprisingly, America’s reprehensible civil rights record makes an appearance in the vast majority of entries. Details such as, “black entrepreneurs who became very successful were driven from the South” (xlvi), “The institution of chattel slavery took the merchandising process to a horrible extreme with human beings, as well as agricultural and other natural resources, becoming products for purchase” (107), “petitioning the U.S. Congress to act in preventing the kidnapping of free blacks into slavery under the Fugitive Slave Law” (325), and “racism was still present, especially when he saw big city engineers doing everything they could to keep contracts from going to minority-owned companies,” (373) all illustrate that separating racism’s appalling impact on African American business is impossible.

The work’s strength is that it provides a comprehensive summary of the business and economic contributions of African Americans in the evolution of American business. This contribution is immense and covers everything from small business creation, corporate leadership, governmental economic policy, and philanthropy. This work comes recommended to all types of libraries, but would be essential for libraries supporting programs or readership with an interest in African American business, history, or culture.—*Khyle M. Hannan, Business Librarian, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio*

Evangelical America: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religious Culture. Edited by Timothy J. Denny and Paul R. Shockley. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 515 p. Acid-free \$75.20 (ISBN 978-1-61069-773-6). E-book available (978-1-61069-774-3), call for pricing.

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. xvii). 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 Evangelicalism 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*