

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 Expo ’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*