

Modern Mexico. By James D. Huck, Jr. Understanding Modern Nations. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 362 p. Acid-free \$97. (ISBN 978-1-4408-5090-5). E-book available (978-1-4408-5091-2), call for pricing.

Modern Mexico is the latest volume in the ABC-CLIO Understanding Modern Nations series, which aims to provide concise topical reference sources in a thematic encyclopedia format focusing on representative countries of world regions. Recent volumes in the series cover China and Spain, with forthcoming volumes planned for Japan and Russia. Each volume includes thematic chapters on Geography, History, Government, Economy, Religion, Social Classes and Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Language, Art, Music, Food, and other cultural subjects. In addition to the thematic coverage in these areas, series volumes include “A Day in the Life” of typical people in the country and appendices covering terminology, economic and social data, and a reference bibliography.

This new resource by Latin Americanist scholar James Huck of the Stone Center for Latin American Studies at Tulane University is a welcome update to the reference literature on Mexico. Articles provide current information on fast-changing topics in the area of Mexican national politics, economics and trade, migration, organized crime, and international relations with the United States and the world. In fact, Mexico’s proximity to the United States, and the rich and often conflictive history with the larger and more powerful country on its northern border, forms a central theme in many of the thematic articles. As Huck writes, “The world cannot help but see Mexico in the shadow of the United States; and everyone responds accordingly, even the Mexicans” (xiii).

The thematic outline makes the book easy to use as a ready-reference work and, taken as a whole, it can be a quick way to learn the basics about the country’s history and culture. As with any work that attempts to cover a huge topic in relatively few pages, important details may be left out. The book provides a somewhat rosy view of the longstanding dominance of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), as well as glossing over the extreme violence experienced by Mexicans in the past decade as a result of the militarization of the fight against drug cartels and organized crime. These shortcomings are more than made up for by the engaging presentations of many aspects of Mexican history, politics, culture, and everyday life available in this new reference work.

Modern Mexico is a welcome complement to Eric Zolov’s *Iconic Mexico* (ABC-CLIO, 2015), which provides more traditional A–Z encyclopedic coverage of Mexican life and popular culture. Huck’s *Modern Mexico* also provides a needed update to David Dent’s *Encyclopedia of Modern Mexico* (Scarecrow, 2002). Another unique contribution to the Mexican reference shelf, *The States of Mexico: A Reference Guide to History and Culture* (Peter Standish, Greenwood, 2009), gives readers detailed portrayals of the thirty-two political

entities that make up the United States of Mexico and provides historical and cultural information with subnational details not usually included in one-volume reference works on Mexico. *Mexico: The Essentials*, by William Beezley and Colin MacLachlan (Oxford, 2016), is a brief introduction to Mexico with an emphasis on social and popular history and culture.

As border issues such as immigration, trade, and organized crime become ever more contentious in US domestic political discussions, reference works such as Huck’s *Modern Mexico* will be welcome additions to public, high school, and university libraries in the United States.—*Molly Molloy, Border and Latin American Specialist, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico*

Nonbinary Gender Identities: History, Culture, Resources.

Edited by Charlie McNabb. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. 283 p. Alkaline \$75 (ISBN 978-1-4422-7551-5). E-book available (978-1-4422-7552-2), call for pricing.

Mainstream Western culture has become familiar with the acronym “LGBT,” which stands for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender.” While public and academic libraries have many resources for and about cisgender people who identify within the “LGB” population, they struggle to collect appropriate materials that address all aspects of the transgender experience, and many libraries still do not carry materials for and about those with nonbinary gender identities. An increasing number of students and parents are searching for information about nonbinary gender identities, which often is not visible or appropriately researched in LGBT resources. Charlie McNabb’s reference guide to nonbinary gender identities—the first of its kind—will fill this gap in our reference collections.

For those unfamiliar with the term, a nonbinary gender identity is one that does not conform to the traditional categories of “man” or “woman.” In Western English-speaking cultures, nonbinary gender identities include, but are not limited to, androgynous, genderfluid, genderqueer, and agender. In other cultures, people with nonbinary gender identities have always existed, but became marginalized or criminalized due to Western colonialization. In the twenty-first century, people with nonbinary gender identities remain misunderstood, exoticized, and underserved by the mainstream population.

McNabb is a librarian, cultural consultant, and archivist concerned with studying, preserving, and making materials dealing with marginalized communities accessible. McNabb provides cultural competency training and research support to academic libraries, nonprofits, and corporations, and their research focuses on nonbinary identities and experiences, queer and trans reproductive health, and disability justice. They have served on the ALA GLBTRT Resources Committee and developed an annotated bibliography of media related to nonbinary gender identities, which served as the genesis of this book. McNabb’s research background gives them the

required context and connections to collect and describe information and resources for and about people with nonbinary gender identities in an objective, factual manner.

This single compact volume begins with a section called “(Hir)stories,” which provides an overview of nonbinary genders, a history of nonbinary visibility in the United States, nonbinary gender identities in other cultures, the depiction of nonbinary genders in popular culture, and brief biographies of notable nonbinary people. Each chapter in this section includes an extensive list of cited scholarly, popular, and primary sources. The second section is an exhaustive resources section, which includes a directory of archives and special collections devoted to nonbinary gender resources, nonfiction books, journals, theses and dissertations, fiction, online resources, and multimedia. The resources section also includes a directory of national and international organizations and associations that provide information and support for people with nonbinary gender identities. Last but not least, this resource guide includes a glossary of terms; pronouns used by those with nonbinary gender identities; a “primer” on sex, sexuality, and gender borrowed from current safe space training workshops; and a listing of appropriate Library of Congress subject headings that deal with nonbinary gender identities.

Nonbinary Gender Identities is appropriate for high school, academic, and large public library collections. So many students and professors are desperately searching for a guide like this, as traditional and historic LGBT reference resources do not usually cover nonbinary gender identities in depth. Major strengths of this book are its cultural inclusivity, its thoroughness in explaining terminology, and its concise, highly descriptive annotations for each resource listed. For best accessibility, libraries should purchase at least two copies, including an electronic copy for those who might not have a safe space to read the material.—*Rachel Wexelbaum, Associate Professor / Collection Management Librarian, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota*

Pop Culture in Europe. By Juliana Tzvetkova. Entertainment and Society around the World. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 414 p. Acid-free \$97 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4465-2). E-book available (978-1-4408-4466-9), call for pricing.

What is the history behind the *Dr. Who* series? Which bands dominated the Britpop sound in the 1990s? Which fashion icons represent uniquely European pop culture in the twentieth century? *Pop Culture in Europe*, from ABC-CLIO’s Entertainment and Society around the World series, provides reliable content to patrons researching popular trends and entertainments across the pond. The title efficiently introduces residents of the United States to the stars and amusements primarily associated with Western Europe.

Reference works on popular culture can become quickly dated, yet this title successfully captures a sense of the cultural norms and entertainment of a time and place and

documents the ephemeral and unpredictable preferences of the masses. Introductory essays to the volume and each chapter offer valuable commentary on the sweeping changes to localized culture while placing them in a broader regional or global context; individual entries supply more detailed information. The *Eurovision Song Contest*, for example, is referenced in the opening essay and further discussed as an entry in “Television and Radio.” Shows that have gained a more global following are also represented; for example, *The Great British Bake Off* is included in a broader entry on Lifestyle Reality Formats. Black and white photographs are included sparingly to add visual references, and call-out boxes are occasionally used to briefly highlight individuals or phenomena. The appendix items are random yet specific (“Top 10 Swedish Dating Sites”) and do not seem to represent much original work of the editor or the five contributors.

Compared to other works, including Gary Hoppenstand’s *Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Popular Culture*, volume 3, Europe (Greenwood, 2007), the demarcation of what is considered European is more rigid according to the preface, although individual chapters may be more flexible. Perhaps the most compelling definition is in the introduction to the “Film” chapter, which references cultural rather than geographic boundaries. The ABC-CLIO series both overlaps with and contains unique content in comparison to the Greenwood set, making the two complementary in many ways. For example, *Pop Culture in Europe* devotes chapters to “Internet and Social Media” and “Video Games,” while the Greenwood title does not dwell on social media and contains minimal video games references; however, both contain extensive treatments of sports, literature, and film, among other topics. The suggested further readings provide a more reliable source than wikis and will be appreciated by researchers seeking additional information, yet Greenwood’s series contains a richer set of resources for each chapter.

This title would be a solid addition to college libraries, especially those with an emphasis on liberal arts or culture studies, and would also be of value to public libraries and middle and high school libraries.—*Amy F. Fyn, Coordinator of Library Instruction, Kimbel Library, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina*

The Werewolf Filmography: 300+ Movies. By Bryan Senn. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2017. 408 p. \$55.00 (ISBN: 978-0-7864-7910-8). E-book available (978-1-4766-2691-8), call for pricing.

Every field of knowledge has its “bible,” or should. Werewolf movie aficionados can now claim such an authoritative publication as their own. From *Alvin and the Chipmunks Meet the Wolfman!* to *Zombie Werewolves Attack!*, this volume presents over 300 well-written reviews of films depicting lycanthropy. As the reader might well guess, examples of this cinematic staple are legion, so horror maven Senn established the following criteria for inclusion: there had to be a transformation appearing on screen (an actor can’t just show