

In recent years, scholars have sought to take the origins of sport back further and further in time. David Block's investigation of baseball's origins, *Baseball Before We Knew It: A Search for the Roots of the Game* (Univ. of Nebraska Pr., 2005), for instance, attempts to find similarities to the modern pastime in medieval stick-and-ball games. Likewise, journalist Emma Levine's *A Game of Polo with a Headless Goat, and Other Bizarre Sports Discovered across Asia* (Andre Deutsch, 2000), though not a scholarly book, is nonetheless able to reveal modern games and recreations as manifestations of activities much older. And books such as the anthology *The Sport of Life and Death: The Mesoamerican Ballgame* (Thames & Hudson, 2001) take the critical exploration of sports to the Western hemisphere, looking at the evidence of sculpture, codices, and archaeological excavations of ball courts to learn about the religious and political aspects of the ancient Olmec-Maya-Aztec games.

The value of Crowther's work is in its general nature. By presenting evidence for sports in nearly every part of the world, he provides substance for contemporary research. The writing is clear and concise, and the solid bibliography includes easily accessible books. *Sport in Ancient Times* is appropriate for libraries from secondary through college levels, and, in fact, is so illuminating that it should be a required opening text for any college course that deals with sports.—Kevin Grace, *Archives & Rare Books Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*

U.S. Presidents and Foreign Policy: From 1789 to the Present. Ed. by Carl C. Hodge and Cathal J. Nolan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2007. 474p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 1-85109-790-2).

This work examines one by one the major foreign policy actions of each of the United States presidents from George Washington through George W. Bush's first term. The forty-two signed articles are written by historians and political scientists from United States and Canadian universities and institutes.

Articles range in length from six to fifteen pages and include a portrait or photograph of each president. Each entry includes a brief early life and political career summary of the president; a balanced discussion of each of the president's strengths, weaknesses, successes, and failures in foreign policy during their term(s); and several paragraphs on their legacy. For example, John F. Kennedy's entry includes the Bay of Pigs, the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile crisis, and Indochina. The entry on James Earl Carter covers the SALT treaties, Ethiopia, the fall of the Shah of Iran, and the Iran hostage crisis. Entries include a year-by-year chronology of international events during the president's term and a bibliography with journal articles and books. Several entries include a map; for example, Korea (Harry S. Truman) and Vietnam (Lyndon Johnson). An appendix of primary source documents is a useful feature and includes the Monroe Doctrine, Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, and the Truman Doctrine. Completing the work are an extensive chronology of the foreign relations of the United States from 1776 through 2004 and an index.

Several other reference titles would make fine companion volumes. Glenn Hastedt's one-volume *Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy* (Facts On File, 2004) is a handy ready reference. Lester H. Brune's three-volume *Chronological History of U.S. Foreign Relations* (Routledge, 2003) includes many photographs and pictures that provide readers with a visual context to historical events. Bruce W. Jentleson's four-volume *Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1997) remains one of the most authoritative works on United States foreign policy, with 1,024 essays ranging from several paragraphs to fifteen pages in length.

Written in clear language and conveniently arranged by president, *U.S. Presidents and Foreign Policy* provides a single-volume, handy resource for students and general readers who want an overview of a particular president's foreign policy actions. It is recommended for public and college libraries.—Eva Lautemann, *Director of Learning Resources Center, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston*

The U.S. Supreme Court. Ed. by Thomas Tandy Lewis. Magill's Choice series. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 3 vols. alkaline \$207 (ISBN 978-1-58765-363-6).

In the editor's introduction to *The U.S. Supreme Court*, St. Cloud State University professor Lewis opines, "Anyone who thinks the law is dull should study the work of the Supreme Court" (xxvi). Indeed, the 2005–2006 Court term produced rulings on such controversial topics as trials of detainees by military commissions, physician-assisted suicide, voting rights, no-knock residential searches, and military recruitment on college campuses. These cases and more are discussed in *The U.S. Supreme Court*. The set is adapted from an earlier, award-winning Salem reference set co-edited by Lewis titled *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* (Salem, 2001).

The U.S. Supreme Court addresses only 395 topics, as compared to 1,075 in *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court*. This reduction is partially compensated for by the addition of an appendix summarizing the Court's rulings in more than six hundred cases. The new three-volume survey incorporates and updates one-third of the original entries. It also "completely replaces more than fifty outdated articles and adds twenty-six entirely new articles" (xiv). In this mix are more than twenty new cases, updates to key topics (for example, abortion, environmental law, gay and lesbian rights, war and civil liberties), and biographies of recent Court appointees (Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.).

This title is one of Salem's Magill's Choice reference series, which emphasizes affordability and textual clarity. *The U.S. Supreme Court* is an ideal addition to the series because it delivers on its promise "to meet the growing need among students and members of the general public for clear, concise, authoritative, and up-to-date information about the Court" (xi). It serves both as an introductory work and as an excellent guide to other scholarly sources of Supreme Court biographical, historical, procedural, and interpretive information. The

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alphabetical, cross-referenced essays range in length from 250 to 3,000 words and are signed by nearly 150 scholars in multiple disciplines. More than half of the articles include further reading lists, and the most extensive ones (those with more than 2,000 words) offer annotated reading lists. Photos accompany most biographical entries, and tables and charts illustrate arcane data and concepts (for example, “levels of judicial scrutiny”). An extensive annotated bibliography, timeline of Court events, and glossary of key terms complete the large appendix section.

The U.S. Supreme Court is a mid-priced source (about \$200) of very current, authoritative Supreme Court information for public, high school, and university libraries. Less expensive ready reference titles (under \$100) include recent editions of Kermit Hall's *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2005) and Kenneth Jost's *The Supreme Court A to Z* (Congressional Quarterly, 2007). Hall is a prominent legal historian, and his small-print volume (updated prior to Chief Justice Rehnquist's death) includes more than a thousand alphabetically arranged entries signed by three hundred experts. *The Supreme Court A to Z* is similar in arrangement and topics to *The U.S. Supreme Court*, but the articles are unsigned and less rich in content. On the more expensive end (\$370) is David Savage's *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court* (Congressional Quarterly, 2004), which is updated through 2003. Savage covers the Supreme Court for the *Los Angeles Times*, and this theme-based Congressional Quarterly guide is a good supplement to the other sources for larger public and university libraries.—Jane Thompson, Assistant Director for Faculty Services, William A. Wise Law Library, University of Colorado, Boulder

World and Its Peoples: Middle East, Western Asia, and Northern Africa. Ed. by Paul Bernabeo. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2007. 11 vols. acid free \$499.95 (ISBN 0-7614-7571-0).

The first set in a series that “will eventually include every region and country of the world,” (5) the eleven-volume *World and Its Peoples: Middle East, Western Asia, and Northern Africa* is a photograph-rich reference work on an important yet poorly understood region of the globe. Encompassing thirty-seven countries extending from Mauritania to Kazakhstan, this set is geared toward high school and public library audiences, but is accessible to middle school patrons as well.

Two countries, Egypt and Iran, merit individual volumes. The remaining thirty-five countries are arranged in geographic groupings of two to six countries. Afghanistan and Pakistan are paired, and the Arabian Peninsula countries share a volume. Volumes begin with an extensive geographical and historical overview set off by tinted pages—beige for geography and climate, green for history and movement of peoples. Readers will come away with a general understanding of a region or country's geography, geology, climate, and history. These essays are augmented by color photographs, maps, chronologies, and charts. As an example, the volume covering Iraq, Kuwait, and Syria devotes more than forty pages to

history, ranging from the Sumerians, Assyrians, and other ancient peoples through the end of Ottoman rule in 1918. Sections for individual countries begin with an introductory profile, followed by essays on government, modern history, cultural expression, daily life, and economy. Particularly interesting in the “Daily Life” sections are profiles of individual cities such as Esfahan, Gaza and Ram Allah, and N'Djamena. The discussion of cities is especially welcome for Africa, where village life is more commonly portrayed. Although readers will gain an understanding of circumstances leading up to the current unrest in such places as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan, they will need to seek other sources for most events occurring after 2005.

Articles are signed. Individual writers and their affiliations (mostly academic, with some unaffiliated) are listed in the front of each volume. Each volume contains a further research list of books, periodicals, and electronic sources. The bibliography for the stand-alone Iran volume was inexplicably omitted (despite its being listed in the table of contents) and this reviewer hopes that a reprint of the volume will appear with the missing pages. In comparison to the bibliographies in *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations* (Thomson Gale, 2007), where the oldest title in the five-item Afghanistan source list is 2005, *World and Its Peoples: Middle East, Western Asia, and Northern Africa* includes more than twenty titles spanning from the 1950s to 2004 for Afghanistan. Each volume concludes with an index. Volume 11 is titled “Indexes,” but the first forty pages include comparative tables, an A (“abaya”) to Z (“ziker”) glossary, and a bibliography. The comprehensive index is complemented by six thematic indexes, including place-name, cultural-artistic, and economic indexes.

For libraries on a tight budget, up-to-date factual information regarding these thirty-seven countries (and the rest of the world) can be obtained at a lower cost from such venerable sources as *The CIA World Fact Book* (CIA, Annual), *The Europa World Year Book* (Routledge, 2006), and *Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations*. Where *World and Its Peoples: Middle East, Western Asia, and Northern Africa* stands out is in its readability; visually rich content; extensive coverage of geography, history, and daily life; and profiles of individual cities. Recommended for middle school, secondary school, and public library reference collections.—J. Christina Smith, *Anthropology/Sociology Bibliographer, Boston University*

Professional Materials

Karen Antell
Editor

The Blue Book on Information Age Inquiry, Instruction, and Literacy. Daniel Callison and Leslie Preddy. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2006. 660 p. \$45 (ISBN 1-59158-325-X).

The need to provide effective information literacy instruction in primary and secondary education, as well as at the