

hance readability and understanding. Sidebars are sprinkled throughout the text to provide in-depth information on specific scientific contributors, concepts, and events. Black-and-white photographs and illustrations also enliven the text.

Scientific Thought contains many features that increase its usefulness. Each entry contains cross references to related topics as well as a bibliography of books, journal articles, and websites for further research. Some entries include primary source material; these sections contain a reprinted article, usually from a popular serial, along with an introductory paragraph designed to place the article in context and promote critical thinking. Each volume contains a fifty-five-page glossary that provides easy access to scientific terminology and a table of contents for the entire set that enhances navigation. Volume 3 contains a comprehensive 293-page chronology that extends from the origin of the earth to the present. The chronology allows readers to appreciate the many contributions to scientific thought that have occurred over time and to place scientific advances into a historical context. A comprehensive index in volume 3 allows readers to locate secondary topics and persons mentioned in specific essays.

This title is ideally suited for high school and college students, but general readers will also benefit. These audiences will find the contents more comprehensible and easier to read than the more academic *Cambridge History of Science* (five volumes published to date; Cambridge Univ. Pr., 2002–). At the same time, *Scientific Thought* covers topics in more depth than single-volume science chronologies and more ably paints a wide-ranging picture of how we have arrived at our current understanding of science. This title is highly recommended for large academic and public libraries.—Annette M. Healy, Librarian, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

Story Behind the Protest Song: A Reference Guide to the 50 Songs That Changed the 20th Century. By Hardeep Phull. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 304p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-313-34141-0).

British music journalist Hardeep Phull has created a very readable volume that is part music history and part social history. His book is divided into nine chapters, each focusing on a time span in the twentieth century, such as “We Shall Overcome,” covering the period 1900–1938; “The Birth Of A Nation (1939–1964),” and so on. There is an epilogue discussing the sea change that occurred in protest music after the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, the Iraq war that began in 2003, and continuing up to the present. An appendix lists, in both chronological and alphabetical order, the fifty-two songs discussed in the text. Finally, there is a bibliography of fifty-two entries for further research and an index.

Phull writes in an engaging style that logically relates world events (particularly U.S. events) to the contemporary popular music that comments on these events, and he discusses how each work came to be written and performed. Each featured song includes a citation of the title, artist,

songwriter, album title, label name, and year of release. Most of the featured songs also include a black-and-white photo illustration of the performer. Footnotes appear at the end of each chapter.

Some other books about protest songs are *Strike Songs of The Depression* by Timothy P. Lynch (Univ. Pr. of Mississippi, 2001), covering 1929–37; *When The Spirit Says Sing: The Role of Freedom Songs in The Civil Rights Movement* by Kerran L. Sanger (Garland, 1995); *Guerrilla Minstrels: John Lennon, Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan* by Wayne Hampton (Univ. of Tennessee Pr., 1986); and *American Folksongs of Protest* by John Greenway (Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr., 1953). Phull's book is a welcome update and expansion of these earlier studies. Well-researched and enjoyable to read, I recommend this book for all libraries.—Mark Palkovic, Head Librarian, College-Conservatory of Music Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio

U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History. Ed. by Sonia Benson, Daniel E. Brannen, and Rebecca Valentine. Detroit: Gale, 2009. 8 vols. \$485 (ISBN 978-1-4144-3043-0).

The purpose of *U-X-L Encyclopedia of U.S. History* is to introduce “students to the history of the United States from pre-Colonial America to the present day” (xxv). This eight-volume collection presents a broad overview of American history that is suitable for younger readers.

The encyclopedia is extensive in its coverage, with approximately seven hundred well-written, alphabetically arranged articles that range from one to several pages in length. The entries were selected using the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Middle School standards, and they conform to the NCSS standard eras, which span from “Three Worlds Meet (Discovery of the New World, beginnings to 1620)” to “Contemporary United States (1968 to the present).” More specifically, the text includes articles extending from theories of the origins of the first inhabitants of North America to the presidential campaigns of John McCain and Barack Obama.

In addition to its broad coverage of time periods, the encyclopedia covers a variety of subjects. For example, the text contains traditional historical topics such as “George Washington” and “Civil War” but also includes entries beyond political and military matters. For example, the work discusses topics related to cultural and economic history (“Folk Music,” “Harlem Renaissance,” “Black Friday”); women (“Feminism,” “Hillary Rodham Clinton”); African Americans (“National Association for the Advancement of Colored People”); and Native Americans (“Native North Americans of California”). In addition, the text tackles contentious issues such as “AIDS,” “Gay Liberation Movement,” and “Stem Cell Research.”

In addition to the main text, the encyclopedia contains some useful, albeit sparse, supplementary features. For example, each volume contains an aggregate index and a common bibliography that guides readers to other useful monographs, periodicals, and websites. More than four hundred black-and-