

defining exactly what it is. It is recommended for high school and undergraduate academic libraries and large public libraries.—*Joann E. Donatiello, Population Research Librarian, Donald E. Stokes Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey*

Battleground: Government and Politics. Ed. by Kathleen Uradnik, Lori A. Johnson, and Sara Hower. Battleground Series. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-0-313-34313-1). E-book available (978-0-313-34314-8), call for pricing.

This new addition to Greenwood's *Battleground Series* provides brief contemporary overviews and analysis of a wide range of contentious political and social issues, primarily as they pertain to the United States. In two volumes (630 pages), *Battleground: Government and Politics* includes a total of seventy-five entries along with a short appendix, selected bibliography, and index.

Entries appear alphabetically throughout the volumes, but to aid in identifying themes, the front matter contains a "Guide to Related Topics," which groups issues together under broad category headings such as "Civil Rights," "Economic Controversies," "Health and Welfare," and "National Security." All of the ever-popular hot button issues such as "Abortion," "Death Penalty," "Same-Sex Marriage and Civil Unions," and "Universal Health Care" are included, as are many other topics of current interest, like "Amending Power," "Cyberterrorism," "Living Wage," and "Veteran's Rights and Needs." Each entry begins with a general introductory paragraph or section (placing the issue in context, defining key terms, etc.) and then proceeds to address and explore related questions and sub-topics. Suggested books and websites for further reading are given for each entry. Appendixes 1 and 2 contain lists of pertinent court case citations and statute citations respectively, and the selected bibliography is organized into fourteen overarching themes seen throughout the work.

It should be noted that this book is clearly targeted at high school and lower-level undergraduates, or "the young adult reader," as it is laid out in the introduction. The *Battleground Series* in general claims to provide readers with "balanced, in-depth tools to serve as a launching pad for obtaining a thorough understanding of all sides of those debates that continue to provoke, anger, challenge, and divide us all" (xv). The key phrase here would definitely be "launching pad" as the entries, at least in the book being reviewed here from the series, are quite concise (as opposed to in-depth), and any thorough understanding would have to be obtained through other means. That is not to say there is no value in such works. As an academic librarian who works with scores of first year students each semester in selecting and developing research paper topics, this type of reference book is often one of the first places I point to, being sure to emphasize the suggested further readings. The next step might be to look for a related and current volume from the *Contemporary World Issues* (ABC-Clio) or *Opposing Viewpoints* (Greenhaven Press) series to further explore an issue.

As previously mentioned, the entries here are brief, but for the intended audience and purpose, this is to be expected. It is the breadth of issues covered, along with currency, that make this reference work stand out. There are plenty of other, issue-specific, reference books (too many to list here), many with primary sources and more substantial appendixes, available to follow-up with, but this one would make a perfectly good starting point or topic-prompter.—*Todd J. Wiebe, Research & Instruction Librarian, Van Wylen Library, Hope College, Holland, Michigan*

The Civil War Era and Reconstruction: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History. By Mary Ellen Snodgrass. Armonk, N.Y.: Sharpe Reference, 2011. 2 vols. acid free \$249 (ISBN: 978-0-7656-8257-4). E-book available, call for pricing.

The Civil War Era and Reconstruction: An Encyclopedia of Social, Political, Cultural, and Economic History by Mary Ellen Snodgrass presents a unique point of view on the Civil War and Reconstruction. The difference between this piece of writing and others in the genre is that this encyclopedia is less focused on the military and war efforts and more focused on the social, political, cultural, and economic efforts during this era as the title suggests. Mary Ellen is the author of many books; this is her first work specifically about the Civil War era and Reconstruction.

While there are many books written about the Civil War and Reconstruction there are few encyclopedias that attempt to provide an overview of the era in the way that this encyclopedia does. Some address the era from a military stance including the *Encyclopedia of American History (Volume 5: Civil War and Reconstruction, 1856–1869)* edited by Gary B. Nash (Facts on File, 2003); others from a racial/ethnic standpoint such as Richard Zuczek's *Encyclopedia of the Reconstruction Era* (2 volumes), a part of the Greenwood Milestones in African American History Series (Greenwood, 2006).

A Topic Finder section is included in the front with the topic headings such as "African Americans," "Arts, Culture, Recreation," "Cities, States, Regions, Features," "Education," "Family, Community, Society," "Historical Events, Periods, Holidays," "Native Americans," "Organizations and Institutions (Non-Governmental)," "Religion and Religious Groups," "Science, Technology, Medicine," and "Women and Gender."

Entries in this work consist of a wide gamut of topics, including "Buffalo Soldiers," "Freedman's Bureau," "Underground Railroad," "Ku Klux Klan," "Art and Architecture," "Cook's Tours," "Horse Racing," "Recreation and Amusements," "Colleges and Universities," "Cereals and Grains," "Food and Food Preservation," "Chicago Fire," "Diseases and Epidemics," and "Clothes and Fashion" among others. Black and white photographs, maps, paintings, and documents accompany several of the entries.

Biographical information is provided, as expected, on key figures such as Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and Ulysses S. Grant. Additional biographies include notable

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individuals such as P.T. Barnum, Alexander Graham Bell, Melvil Dewey, Emily Dickinson, Dorothea Dix, Cyrus W. Field, Geronimo, Eli Lilly, Levi Strauss, Mark Twain, and Victoria Woodhull among over a hundred others.

While the encyclopedia includes an “A–Z Contents” section with the correlating page numbers, I wish the “Topic Finder” section also included page numbers; although if you were to find an entry to look up in the topic finder, it wouldn’t take too much effort to go to the contents since they are listed alphabetically. Colleges, universities, public libraries, and high school libraries could all benefit from this work. At \$249 it is much more affordable than similar works that are listed upwards of over \$800.—*Rachael Elrod, Reference/Instruction Librarian, The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina.*

Encyclopedia of Invasive Species: From Africanized Honey Bees to Zebra Mussels. By Susan L. Woodward and Joyce A. Quinn. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2001. 2 vols. acid free \$189 (ISBN: 978-0-313-38220-8). E-book available (978-0-313-38221-5), call for pricing.

The *Encyclopedia of Invasive Species*, in 2 volumes, provides a clearly presented and well-organized introduction to invasive species and, briefly, to the history of invasion science. The eighty-eight entries in volume 1 address invasive microorganisms, fungi, and animals and are arranged alphabetically within their major taxonomic groups (microorganisms, fungi, invertebrates, and vertebrates). The eighty plant entries in volume 2 are arranged by growth form categories (aquatics, forbs, graminoids, shrubs, trees, and vines). The general introduction contained in volume 1 explains what might constitute an invasive species and discusses the various issues that arise from inconsistent uses of terms to describe invasive and nonnative species. Excellent examples of the impact of invasive species of all types are presented in the general introduction, whereas a brief overview in volume 2 emphasizes invasive plants. Volume 2 contains a table of common and scientific names and several appendixes listing American species that are invasive elsewhere, laws related to prevention and management, international agreements, the IUCN’s list of 100 of the “World’s Worst Invasive Alien Species,” and a selected bibliography. Both volumes include a state-by-state list of occurrences of invasive species, a glossary, and a comprehensive index.

The 168 species included in the encyclopedia were selected in order to represent and illustrate a wide variety of invaders in the United States. Some of the species included have been present from colonial times, while others have only recently become established. Entries include species found throughout the country as well as some that are extant in only a few areas or states. In order that room could be made for invaders of all states, those states with the highest numbers of invaders such as Hawaii or Florida will not find all of their invasive species listed.

Each entry includes the following information about the

organism: native range, US distribution, description, related and similar species, introduction history, habitat, diet (for animals), life history (for animals, fungi, microorganisms only), reproduction and dispersal (for plants), impacts, management, and selected references. Black and white photographs of the organisms are present for many of the entries, and maps showing the original and invasive range are included for all. A short bibliography of recommended resources, including websites, concludes each entry. In volume 2, sidebars highlight interesting facts about the plant’s use, history, or strategies for control.

Woodward and Quinn’s work focuses on the 168 species they have chosen for inclusion. In comparison, the recent single-volume *Encyclopedia of Biological Invasions* edited by Simberloff and Rejmánek (University of California Press, 2011) contains articles on broader topics such as “integrated pest management” and “evolutionary response, of natives to invader” rather than species-specific entries. Both resources are available in print or electronic version and would complement each other in a reference collection.

While more comprehensive lists of invasive species are freely available in online databases such as the IUCN’s Global Invasive Species Database (www.issg.org/database/) and the National Invasive Species Information Center (www.invasive-speciesinfo.gov/), the *Encyclopedia of Invasive Species* presents an easily digestible and well-organized “introduction to the species, issues, and management options involved with invasive animals, fungi, microorganisms, and plants” (xxxvi) and thus achieves its stated purpose. The authors also succeed in meeting their goal of writing for a general audience at the high school and college level and have produced a clear and accessible work. Recommended for high school, college, and public libraries.—*Aimée deChambeau, Head of Electronic Services, The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio*

Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Society. Ed. by Sarah J. Greenwald and Jill E. Thomley. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem, 2011. 3 vols. alkaline \$595 (ISBN: 978-1-58765-844-0). Online access included with purchase of print.

Has there ever been a mathematics teacher in a typical high school or undergraduate class that has not been asked “What is this good for? What will I ever use it for?” Examples like budgets or stating that engineering requires calculus does not dispel the skepticism. The purpose of this new and unique resource, published by Salem, is to explain “what this is good for” in surprising ways. This three volume academic work will be a general and nontechnical resource for students and teachers to understand the importance of mathematics. *The Encyclopedia of Mathematics and Society* is meant to be a source of information on the fundamental science and applications of mathematics behind our daily lives while showing how and why mathematics works and how the branches of mathematics affect our daily lives.

The 490 articles in this encyclopedia fall into one or more of the following fifteen broad categories: architecture