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Encyclopedia of American Civil Rights and Liberties (Review)

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Reference Books Bulletin

Adult Reference

The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology.

Ed. by Bryan S. Turner. 2006. 688p. Cambridge, \$99 (0-521-83290-X). 301.03.

The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology is a nicely packaged source that endeavors to cover the whole range of the discipline—concepts, biographies, and general terminology—from both American and European perspectives. Its 600 entries are signed but do not have bibliographies, although references for further reading are embedded in the entry text. Also found within the text are generous cross-references. An effort was made to cover new developments in sociology, including those related to globalization, such as diaspora, fundamentalism, and global migration.

Can a library have too many dictionaries? When faced with a completely new single-subject dictionary like this one, the question needs to be asked in comparison to what other sources are on the shelves. Does this resource offer sufficiently different information than the others within its same subject area? *The Blackwell Dictionary of Sociology* (2000) and the *Dictionary of Sociology* (2005) from Oxford, now in its third edition, are the comparisons used for this purpose. A close examination of entries reveals that, though the three are alike in size, style, and scholarly background, they are not equivalent to each other. For example, the Oxford dictionary has no biographies, and its more than 2,500 entries in just over 700 pages are generally quite short. The Blackwell dictionary, which is the work of a single author, also has shorter entries, generally three or four paragraphs. Cambridge, on the other hand, has numerous entries that approach encyclopedic length—five pages for *Crime*, six pages for *Deviance*, more than eight pages for *Information*, more than seven pages for *Mass media and communication*, for example—so it may not be the first choice for quick definitions.

With its reasonable price (a paperback version is available for under just under \$40) *The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology* should be accessible to most public and academic libraries. Even in a collection with other sociology dictionaries, this would be a good addition if sociology is a strong focus. —*Danise Hoover*

Critical Companion to Jonathan Swift: A Literary Reference to His Life and Works. By Paul J. Degategno and R. Jay Stubblefield. 2006. 474p. illus. index. Facts On File, \$65 (0-8160-5093-7). 828.

Divided into four parts, this volume in the Critical Companion series chronicles Jonathan Swift's life and works. Part 1 presents Swift's bi-

ography in a concise 6 pages. Part 2 provides entries for Swift's major and minor works, alphabetically arranged from his *Abstract of the History of England to The Yahoo's Overthrow*. Entries vary in length depending upon a work's significance. For example, the entry for *Gulliver's Travels* spans 64 pages. A chapter-by-chapter synopsis is followed by commentary; entries for characters; entries for places, ships, and terms; and a further-reading list.

Part 3, "Related Entries," consists of brief A–Z descriptions of family members, friends, critics, and other individuals who played a role in Swift's life and work as well as places, themes, and other topics. Part 4 consists of appendixes, including a chronology of Swift's life and a bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

This volume is an accessible introduction for those studying Swift, his sometimes controversial writings, and his impact on literature. Recommended for high-school, academic, and large public libraries. —*Carol Harless*

YA/C: *An accessible resource for upper-level high-school students who need to delve into Swift.* MEQ.

Encyclopedia of American Civil Rights and Liberties. 3v. Ed. by Otis H. Stephens and others. 2006. 1,342p. index. Greenwood, \$349.95 (0-313-32758-0). 342.7308.

American civil rights and liberties have a historical past and active presence in our society. This encyclopedia provides an overview of more than 600 topics in both the civil rights and liberties arenas. Laws, Supreme Court decisions, major historical developments and social movements, prominent individuals, groups and organizations, government departments and agencies, and issues and hot topics are discussed at length. Entries cover Civil Rights Acts from 1866 to 1988, equal employment, due process, religious freedom, animal rights, and reproductive rights. Additionally, they cover less-familiar topics like *Bad tendency test*, *Bifurcated trail*, and *Inchoate offenses*. Current topics like the USA PATRIOT ACT and Children's Internet Protection Act are also included.

The 627 entries are arranged alphabetically, and most include a byline, *see also* references, and a bibliography. Back matter consists of an index, a bibliography, a list of contributors (teachers, scholars, judges, and law practitioners), and the text of 38 primary documents. These include the Magna Carta, the Gettysburg Address, the Seneca Falls Declaration, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Front matter includes an A–Z list of entries and a guide to related topics that categorizes all 627 entries into 20 broader topics like "Court Decisions," "Organizations" and "Search and Seizure." This is a perfect starting place for

college term papers and for those wanting a big-picture look at topics like abortion, the gay rights movement, segregation, and more.

Titles of this nature have been frequent in the last five years, and libraries may already own several. The *Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties* (Routledge, 2006) contains similar information, with twice as many entries. Its coverage of case law is extensive; however, it does not include primary documents. Sharpe's companion *Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America* (1997) and *Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America* (2004) between them have more entries, but the civil rights set is not as current. Finally, *Minority Rights in America* (CQ, 2002) is a smaller, single-volume work but with a larger collection of primary documents. The Greenwood set's advantage is that it provides current coverage of both civil rights and liberties. Its price is midrange among similar titles, and it should be considered for academic and public libraries. —*Sue Polanka*

Encyclopedia of Business and Finance. 2nd ed. Ed. by Burton S. Kaliski. 2006. 791p. illus. index. Macmillan, \$325 (0-02-866061-7). 650.03.

This encyclopedia is designed to "summarize the body of knowledge that we know as business in one place and in language appropriate to the layperson." The 315 articles cover the major functional areas of business: accounting, economics, finance, information systems, law, management, and marketing. Special emphasis is given to the topics of careers and business ethics. While some articles emphasize the historical development of a topic, others focus on current business activity and conditions. The second edition contains more than 30 new articles, most of them related to technology, new areas of business knowledge, international topics, and new organizations and legislation.

Entries are arranged alphabetically and tend to be 500 to 1,500 words in length. A small number of black-and-white photos, charts, and graphs is included. Each entry is accompanied by a 5- to 10-item bibliography of books and, occasionally, Web sites. A few *see* and *see also* references are provided. All the articles are signed, and most of the authors are associated with universities. However, some of the names in the contributors list are unaccompanied by any credentials or organizational affiliation.

The entries range widely in scope and cover topics such as *Behavioral science movement*, *Discount stores*, *Electronic commerce*, *Information processing*, *Money supply*, *Public relations*, and *Taxation*. The *Behavioral science movement* article is a good example of what this source has to offer. It begins by providing some context, then traces the development of the movement