Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball Clubs (Review)

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always been positive and at times have been extremely unfriendly. This encyclopedia takes a long look at the people, events, controversies, and issues that have made up the foreign relations between the two countries for the last 220 years.

More than 400 entries cover people (rulers and military leaders, missionar- 
ies, and well-written entries in the two versions of the encyclopedia contain identical text—the student version simply has around 200 fewer entries, mostly for relatively less-important skirmishes and individuals. The contributors are an international mixture of history professors, independent scholars, and military historians.

Each encyclopedia set contains a fifth volume comprised of primary documents. The depth and breadth of the material here should satisfy any scholar of the period. Sources begin with a sample from “Cato’s Letters” (1721), a set of newspaper essays written by British Whigs about the true nature of democracy, and extend to the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, a product of bipartisan conflict in the fledgling U.S. government that laid the groundwork for later debates about the balance of power between states and the central government. In between are gems like Paul Revere’s own account of his famous ride, British General William Howe’s military campaign strategy for 1776 as described in a personal letter, battle reports, the texts of treaties and speeches, and the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. As a whole, these documents are an excellent complement to the A–Z entries and can be just as useful to the novice as to the experienced researcher.

Overall, the student version of the encyclopedia is a little different than the main encyclopedia. In addition to having fewer entries and a more open-looking design, it offers a student-centered resource area containing a categorical index, a list of preapproved scholarly Web sites, and a brief section on how to conduct effective historical research, including the use of primary sources and maps. Though not specifically stated, it seems geared toward libraries serving high-school students and college undergraduates. Academic libraries would be better served by the main set, as it is more comprehensive.—Michael Toscano

This is a perfect primer on Chinese-American foreign relations for those wanting a brief introduction. There is not a similar text on the market, and the contributors have done a good job of distilling the sources used to write the articles. A worthwhile purchase for university undergraduate collections as well as public libraries with interested populations.

—Steve Stratton

This set is remarkably similar to The Encyclopedia of Major League Baseball—The student version of this encyclopedia has features designed for high-schoolers. MEQ.