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The Wilson Chronology of Human Rights (Review)

Sue Polanka

Wright State University - Main Campus, sue.polanka@wright.edu

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bodies, and the experiences of bereavement and survivorship. Ten essays on various aspects of the legalities of death are followed by a section on the response to death in literature, music, and art. The substantive essays are generally between 9 to 15 pages, with extensive bibliographies. A very deep and detailed index, close to 50 pages, easily leads the reader to more specific information.

The single-volume *Encyclopedia of Death and Dying* (Routledge, 2000) is much less comprehensive. *Death and the Afterlife: A Cultural Encyclopedia* (ABC-CLIO, 2000) deals with the funeral and afterlife beliefs of various cultures. In breadth and heft, the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Death and Dying* (2003) is most similar to the *Handbook of Death and Dying*. It is in a more traditional encyclopedic format with a mix of brief and longer entries. One can find similar information in both, and the two works share many of the same contributors, but the *Handbook* is perhaps more scholarly overall in tone. Both works are excellent and highly recommended. Although each has its strengths and slight differences in coverage (including the quirky—Elvis sightings in *Macmillan*, taxidermy as art in the *Handbook*), smaller libraries may be satisfied with the *Macmillan* work if it is already in the reference collection.

The Kingfisher Geography Encyclopedia. By Clive Gifford. 2003. 488p. glossary. index. illus. maps. Kingfisher, \$39.95 (0-7534-5591-9). 910.

This book is directed to students in grades four through eight. Its most exciting feature is the superior illustrations, which take up about 50 percent of the page space. Chapter 1, "The Physical Earth," "describes how the planet was formed and then shaped by the forces of nature, by water and ice, by wind and volcanoes." It also explores how people's lives are influenced by climate and geography. Photos, charts, maps, and graphs are used to explain mountains, rivers, atmosphere, and more. Other articles cover the human impact on the earth.

In the main body of the encyclopedia, the world is divided by continent and subdivided by country. Helpful subdivisions are provided as needed. For example, the general U.S. section is followed by articles on the Eastern U.S., the Midwest and the Great Lakes, the South, the Western U.S., and Alaska and Hawaii. Articles vary from half a page (Bermuda, Gabon) to five (Germany) or six pages (India).

Each entry for a country includes text about its geography, industries and products, people, history and government, and what makes it unique or interesting. Each also has a picture of its flag, a physical map, a map locating it in the region, captioned photographs, and a summary of facts on area, population, capital city and its population, main languages, main religions, currency, main exports, and type of government. The book ends with a ready-reference section in which world maps and charts explore topics such as biomes, winds and ocean currents, time zones, religions, and communications.

This appealing book promises to spark the interest of users. Unfortunately, there is no key to the colors used in the physical maps of the countries (one can make a good guess), nor are there any sources or dates for statistics that are used. They are characterized only as "up-to-the-minute." Nevertheless, the book is recommended for school and public libraries needing a convenient, up-to-date geography encyclopedia for children.

Literature of Travel and Exploration: An Encyclopedia. 3v. Ed. by Jennifer Speake. 2003. 1,479p. bibliogs. illus. indexes. Fitzroy Dearborn, \$375 (1-57958-247-8). 910.4.

Literature of Travel and Exploration is intended to be "a reference tool for teachers, researchers, and students looking for a starting point in what has become a rapidly evolving academic discipline." It includes more than 600 alphabetically arranged articles on topics from antiquity to the present, including countries or regions (*Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River, Haiti*); cities (*London, Venice*); travel routes (*Crusades, Silk Route*); individuals (Herodotus, Thor Heyerdahl, Jan Morris); types of narratives (*Buccaneer narratives, Missionary narratives, Undersea exploration*); artifacts of travel writing (*Diaries, Guidebooks, Postcards*); and types of transportation (*Dogsleds, Sailing Ships*). About 300 scholars worldwide contributed the signed articles.

General or topical encyclopedias provide overviews of travel-related topics and suggestions for further reading, often recent secondary, scholarly sources, but *Literature of Travel and Exploration* leads

readers to the individuals who wrote about their travels and lists editions of their writing—primarily, but not always, in English—and, when appropriate, repositories of relevant manuscripts. Articles are between 1,000 and 5,000 words in length. Bibliographies contain as many references as appropriate, from 3 items for *Logbooks* to almost 60 for *Volcanology*. Not all items are readily accessible, such as the two references, both in Swedish, for *Balloons and airships*. Most bibliographies do not include recent secondary sources, although some include biographies.

Many articles have black-and-white reproductions from primary sources. The set includes alphabetic and thematic lists of entries and an index that identifies subjects within articles. A separate "Booklist Index" locates works discussed within the entries.

This is a rich and inspiring introduction to primary sources for undergraduate and advanced high-school students and an excellent source for further research for graduate students and other scholars. Unique in scope and purpose, it complements two other resources of narrower focus, *Trade, Travel, and Exploration in the Middle Ages: An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 2000) and *Encyclopedia of Exploration to 1800: A Comprehensive Reference Guide to the History and Literature of Exploration, Travel, and Colonization from the Earliest Times to the Year 1800* (Hordern, 2003). It is highly recommended for college and university collections and large public libraries.

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History. 5v. Ed. by Joel Mokyr. 2003. 2,800p. bibliogs. illus. index. Oxford, \$695 (0-19-510507-9). 330.

Economist John Hicks wrote that "a major function of economic history . . . is to be a forum where economists and political scientists, lawyers, sociologists, and historians . . . can meet and talk to one another." Similarly, scholars and students in these disciplines, as well as business and public administration, will find *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History* a valuable interdisciplinary reference tool. More than 875 signed articles cover all aspects of economic history, including concepts and definitions, institutions, historical events, and people. Major entries address macroeconomic topics such as consumption, national income accounts, and economic growth. Money, banking, and finance are well covered with essays ranging from the history of banking to the futures market. In addition, the set includes entries on the economic histories of more than 100 countries and regions and 36 cities as well as surveys of more than 80 industries. These surveys provide a historical overview of the industry and a discussion of technological change, organization, markets, and trade. Biographical essays of 36 economists and economic historians will be welcomed by students researching the individuals covered, who range from Adam Smith (1773–1790) to Robert Fogel (1926–). Also here are essays on inventors, entrepreneurs, bankers, and labor leaders.

The interdisciplinary nature of the encyclopedia is illustrated by entries encompassing *Child care, Pollution, Public health, and Religion*. Volume 5 includes a topical outline of articles, which librarians should consult upon receipt of the set to familiarize themselves with the many areas of study to which the essays will be relevant. This volume also offers a list of relevant Internet sites and an extremely comprehensive index. Each essay has a bibliography with an average of about 10 sources, although some are much longer.

Although there are numerous encyclopedias of economics and two widely held encyclopedias of U.S. economic history (*Encyclopedia of American Economic History* [Scribner, 1980] and *Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. Economic History* [1999]), there is no source comparable to this. Highly recommended for all academic libraries as well as larger public libraries.

The Wilson Chronology of Human Rights. Ed. by David Levinson. 2003. 573p. bibliog. index. Wilson, \$100 (0-8242-0972-9). 323.

This chronological history of human rights documents thousands of human rights struggles and violations from as early as 3,000 B.C.E. to 2002. The chronology is arranged in nine chapters covering topics such as "Civil Rights," "Children's Rights," "Gay Rights," and "Refugee Rights." Editor Levinson, a cultural anthropologist, is author or editor of more than 30 books, including the *Encyclopedia of Cultural Anthropology* (Holt, 1996), the award-winning *Encyclopedia of World Cultures* (G. K. Hall, 1996), and *The Encyclopedia*

of *Human Emotions* (Macmillan, 1999).

Within each chapter, events are arranged year-by-year and described in entries that average around six lines in length. When warranted, events are recorded in multiple sections; for example, the papal bull of 1484 and related events in 1486, condemning the spread of witchcraft in Germany, are under both "Women's Rights" and "Religious Rights." As with any chronology, content is not exhaustive. The "Indigenous Rights" section begins in 1492 with Columbus' voyage to the New World although human rights violations against the indigenous peoples began long before 1492. For example, the Japanese began a campaign against the indigenous Ainu almost 600 years before Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador (Guanahani). There is no mention of the Ainu until 1984, in an entry that references their conquest in the ninth century.

Despite any missing content, the chronology is copious, well arranged, and extensively indexed. The 82-page subject index lists general topics, personal names, organization names, and places. A 65-item bibliography includes books, journals, Web sites, and organizations.

Magill's Great Events from History II: Human Rights Series (Salem, 1992) is similar in concept but has a scope of 1900 to 1991. *The Wilson Chronology of Human Rights* is recommended for academic and public libraries.

World of Animals: Birds. 10v. By Ron Hume. 2003. bibliog. glossary. illus. index. maps. Grolier, \$419 (0-7172-5731-2). 598.

Birds is the second cluster of the five-set World of Animals collection to be released. It joins *Mammals* [RBB Ag 03], while insects and other invertebrates, fish, and amphibians and reptiles are scheduled to follow. The *Birds* cluster continues set numbering where *Mammals* left off and is numbered volumes 11–20. Libraries

that shelve by Dewey decimal number will find that this new set is therefore shelved prior to *Mammals* even though the volume numbers indicate a continuing set.

Geared to upper-elementary- through high-school students, the set groups species that share similar characteristics or have similar lifestyles, such as ground birds, seabirds, insect eaters, and tropical forest birds. More than 250 characteristic species are covered. Each 128-page volume is organized by family and presents information in two types of articles. The first introduces individual or closely related bird families (for example, the ratites) and reviews the variety of birds as well as their relationship with other bird families and orders. The second type, which constitutes the majority of the text, concentrates on birds typical of the family or families (for example, the ostrich, emu, or brown kiwi of the ratite families).

Well-written entries range in length from two to six pages and include numerous full-color photographs and illustrations. These detailed, vivid, and captioned pictures enhance the highly appealing and browsable layout. Cross-referencing in the bottom margin includes bird, volume, and page number for easy additional searching. Each volume concludes with a list of bird orders and families, a set glossary, further reading and useful Web sites, and a set index.

An additional noteworthy feature is the "data panel" found on the introductory page of each individual bird entry. Information provided includes common name, scientific name, family, order, size (imperial and metric), a visual comparison of an adult bird to a six-foot-tall human, key features, habits, nesting, voice, diet, habitat, distribution, International Union for the Conservation of Nature status, and a locator map showing normal range. School and public libraries alike will find that this set contains sufficient information to serve the needs of a variety of student users and will appeal to the casual browser as well.