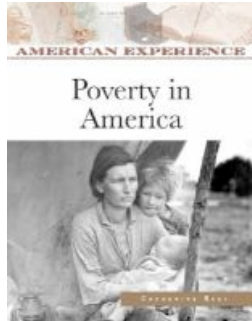
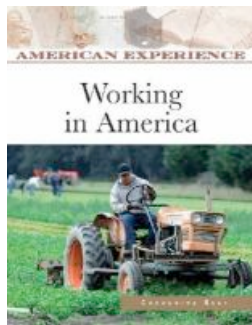


New Book Series December 2008

American Experience Series



Poverty in America
By Catherine Reef



Working in America
By Catherine Reef

Poverty tells not only the story of the poor and their current and past conditions, but also of how government and private citizens have responded to their needs. Both absolute and relative poverty are discussed. A lengthy introduction provides an overview and historical context. Subsequent chapters focus on historical periods and the attitudes that predominated during them. *Working* has been extensively revised and updated from the 2000 edition. While the types of workers described are the same, and include farm worker, slave, miner, and cowboy, the discussions of major trends, such as the emergence of organized labor, and the changing role of women, children, and African-American workers, have been updated to 2006. Both books include footnoted excerpts from primary sources such as diaries, news articles, and books, and the appendixes contain the texts of significant documents; brief biographies of major personalities; and maps, charts, and tables (the latter are new to *Working*). Most of the black-and-white archival images have been well selected to be representative of gender and ethnicity, are generally relevant, and include brief, informative captions. Valuable resources. (*School Library Journal*)



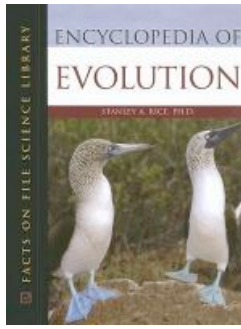
Religion in America



Religion in America

By Timothy L. Hall

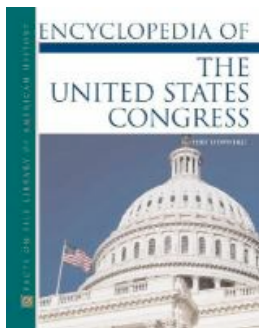
Fourteen chapters cover the pre-Colonial period through 2006 under such headings as "War and Reconstruction: 1861-1880" and "Immigrants, Industry, and the Social Gospel: 1881-1889." Each commences with a thorough narrative on religious events of the period, followed by more detailed chronicles listing events in various years. Chapters conclude with a section of eyewitness testimony, including citations. Religions covered include Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam. Readers with or without a background in history will be able to appreciate this work. The layout is dense in appearance but the writing is clear and the chronologies are particularly useful. Simple black-and-white illustrations and photographs are scattered throughout. Readers will be well served by the abundance of information offered in the appendixes. They include primary-source documents (such as excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and the Civil Rights Act of 1964), more than 150 biographies of major personalities (Black Elk, Jesse Jackson, Louis Farrakhan), maps, graphs, and tables. Despite the fact that events since the publication of the book (such as the death of Jerry Falwell) will make some entries out-of-date, the volume will be a useful addition. (*School Library Journal*)



Encyclopedia of Evolution

By Stanley A. Rice, Ph.D.

This wide-ranging work covers topics from adaptation and extinction to genetics and the origin of the universe. The introduction discusses the medical evidence for evolution, such as the rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria; the origins, politics, motives, and theories behind creationism and intelligent design; and the basics of evolutionary theories. The more than 200 articles are alphabetically arranged, and most range from one to three pages in length. They include biographies of significant contributors to this important and controversial field. In addition, several longer essays scattered throughout the work discuss topics such as the role of genes in human behavior, religion and evolutionary scientists, the biological basis of death, and the question of other life in the universe. Difficult terms and concepts are defined in context. Both the essays and the general articles include lengthy further-reading lists consisting of print materials and Web sites. An appendix summarizes Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, which the author points out is a much-discussed but seldom-read work. Unremarkable black-and-white photographs and charts and illustrations relate directly to the text but do not contribute significantly to the work. An excellent addition. (*School Library Journal*)



Encyclopedia of the United States Congress

By Robert E. Dewhirst

Here is a reference work that is also meant to be a teaching tool, helping its readers comprehend the complex processes and development of the legislative branch of the U.S. government. It describes in simple language selected

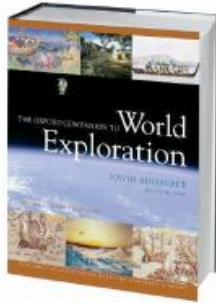
persons, events, and terms associated with Congress, including arcane terms such as Blue-slip procedure, Morning hour, and Shadow senators. Also included are significant court cases, major elections, scandals, and other controversies and many of the rules and customs that regulate congressional behavior. The signed articles are arranged alphabetically from Abscam to Yielding, with a list of entries, an index, and cross-references enabling the user to find material. Further readings at the end of each article and a selected bibliography of print materials direct readers to other sources. Some black-and-white illustrations and a few tables supplement the text. A similar work is *Congress A to Z* (4th ed., CQ, 2003). Its more extensive illustrations and tables make it suitable for the classroom, even though some of the material needs updating. Other, more comprehensive works on this subject include the four-volume *Encyclopedia of the United States Congress* (Simon & Schuster, 1995), the two-volume *CQ's Guide to Congress* (5th ed., 1999), and the classic *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-1989* (GPO, 1989), but they were not designed as instructional tools, and they also are now out of date. This new work should be useful for students, general readers who'd like to know more about how Congress works, and newcomers to the Washington scene. Recommended for high-school, public, and undergraduate libraries. (*Booklist*)

Guide to Congress (CQ Press – 6th Edition)

2 volumes

Congressional Quarterly's Guide to Congress is now in its sixth edition. From its first edition, in 1971, it has been the gold standard in comprehensive and authoritative treatment of the second branch of government. Its purpose is as simple as stated in the preface: *The Guide to Congress* will help readers understand Congress as a vital institution. All chapters have some revisions, as noted on page xix, which shows each of the 16 contributors and the chapters he or she has revised. To really gain an appreciation and understanding of the changes since the last edition (1999), one only needs to read the preface. Drawing on the historic change from the Republican ascendancy in the House in 1994 to the Democratic control again in 2007, the preface notes the importance of the first three sections of the set, covering the history, power, and procedures of the institution. Section 4 treats the media, lobbying, and other Pressures on Congress. In volume 2 are the remaining four sections, covering Housing and Support (with a nice several pages on the Library of Congress), Pay and Perquisites, Congress and the Electorate, and Qualifications and Conduct. The volume concludes with an appendix containing a variety of reference materials, such as the U.S. Constitution and a floor plan of the Capitol, a list of members of Congress from 1789 to 2007, a selective bibliography, and an index. To really understand Congress, there is nothing

better than these large volumes, to which many reference librarians have turned over the past 37 years. (*Booklist*)



Oxford Companion to World Exploration

David Buisseret, Editor in Chief

2 volumes

The more than 700 well-organized entries in this set are written in a straightforward and understandable style, though occasional vocabulary may challenge some readers. A little over half of the alphabetically arranged entries are biographical. The set also includes a wide variety of subjects ranging from geography to navigation. The coverage includes explorers from around the world, though less attention is paid to outer space and ocean voyages than in some comparable works. About 60 entries include inset boxes with brief excerpts from primary sources. Longer entries, such as "Women Explorers" and "Africa," contain logical subsections, making the information easier to process. Some articles include black-and-white illustrations, most of which are archival photographs or reproductions of artwork. More impressive are the nearly 80 captioned, full-color plates. These high-quality reproductions include maps and paintings from the past, as well as excellent modern color-coded maps delineating dates and routes of key voyages. References within articles refer readers to the relevant plates when appropriate. Access is fairly efficient, with a thorough index and a topical outline of entries. Though libraries with Carl Waldman's excellent *Encyclopedia of Exploration* (Facts On File, 2004) may not need this set, it is another useful resource. (*School Library Journal*)

Science Visual Resources

The Diagram Group



CHEMISTRY

An Illustrated Guide to Science



Chemistry: An Illustrated Guide to Science



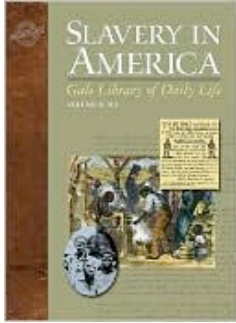
PHYSICS

An Illustrated Guide to Science



Physics: An Illustrated Guide to Science

These useful reference tools are ideal resources for visual learners and for test prep. *Chemistry* is arranged into eight sections: "Atomic Structure," "Elements and Compounds," "Changes in Matter," "Patterns-Non-Metals," "Patterns-Metals," "Chemical Reactions," "Chemistry of Carbon," and "Radioactivity." *Physics* includes "Forces and Energy"; "Waves, Sound, and Light"; "Electricity"; "Electronics"; and "Units and Measurements." The busy one-page entries feature full-color diagrams, graphs, charts, and maps on every spread, with the text, including a list of keywords to be found in the glossary, appearing in the margins. The illustrations and related information are labeled with corresponding numbers for easy matching. For example, in "Color Mixing," diagram 1 shows the primary colors, and the first section of text is labeled "1: Primary Colors." There is no cross-referencing between entries, but both sets include an extensive index. The books are written in easy-to-understand language, appropriate for students. Supplemental purchases. (*School Library Journal*)



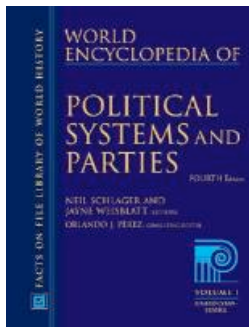
Slavery in America (Gale Library of Daily Life)

Edited by Orville Vernon Burton

2 volumes

This comprehensive survey of slavery in the United States between 1619 and the Civil War is valuable because of its emphasis on the effects of the daily lives of slaves, slaveholders, poor whites, Native Americans, and free blacks.

Chapters are organized into sections covering subjects such as the Middle Passage and Africa; work; family and community; culture and leisure; health; religion; the business of slavery; resistance and rebellion; and historical reactions for and against the institution. The signed articles—each followed by a short bibliography—are scholarly, but not dense, and generally quote other experts. Controversial topics are presented in a balanced way, discussing both sides of the theory that suggests slave quilts contained secret codes, for instance. This thought-provoking and thorough reference work will appeal to both general and scholarly audiences. American history students will find it useful for reports and background information. Browsers will appreciate the book's liberal use of sidebars and black-and-white reproductions of historical documents, photographs, drawings, and woodcuts. This will work well as a companion to Dorothy Schneider and Carl J. Schneider's *Slavery in America* (Facts On File, 2007), which is accessible to a younger audience and offers more primary sources. (*School Library Journal*)



World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties (Fourth Edition)

Neil Schlager and Jayne Weisblatt, Editors

3 volumes

Many changes have occurred in the world's political arena in the seven years since the publication of the third edition of *World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties*. This fourth edition provides a revised, updated, and comprehensive look at the world's political structure.

Alphabetically arranged by country, the set covers the governments and political parties in 196 nations. There are 66 expert contributors, half of whom also contributed to the third edition. Some of the entries have been totally rewritten by new authors, and those that have been revised list the names of both the original author and the reviser. Each entry begins with an introduction or basic description of the country. Next, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are discussed as well as the regional and local government structure. A section on the electoral system discusses suffrage, voter registration, balloting procedures, and voter turnout.

If the country has a multiparty system, the next section begins with a brief overview of the system. Both major and minor parties are examined, with information on their history, organization, policy, campaigns, and so on. If the country only has one official party, then information is given for any existing significant opposition. The next section focuses on other institutions or groups, such as the armed forces and organized labor, that have considerable influence in the political arena. Prospects for continuing or attaining political stability are considered in the last section of each entry.

Entries also include organization charts and brief bibliographies. Some entries have additional tables of information such as election results. Articles vary in length, more from the relative importance of the country rather than the complexity of its political system. The index is located in volume 3, with boldface page numbers indicating the main entries.

This work is intended for grades 9 and up and is recommended for high-school, academic, and public libraries. Even if a library owns previous editions, this update would be a good purchase in order to stay abreast of the many changes in world politics. (*Booklist*)