

New Book Series February 2007



Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience (Second Edition)

Edited by Kwame Anthony Appiah and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

5 volumes

Thoroughly revised and massively expanded, this monumental work not only serves as a replacement for its 1999 edition, but also merits a place in any academically oriented high school or college collection.

Alphabetically arranged but backed up by both a detailed index and a topical list of headers in the final volume, the nearly 4500 entries delve into both African and African-American history, from wide-angled studies of Slavery in Africa and Blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean: An Interpretation, to close-focus mentions of Malcom X's Aardvark references and major Zydeco musicians. Most articles are signed and close with see-also references. Illustrations are uncommon but well chosen, a blend of clearly designed maps, charts, and graphs, and sharply reproduced prints or color photos. Though approximately 175 of the biographical entries have been drawn from the *American National Biography* (Oxford Univ, 2005), none of the resource lists include Web sites, and some details are dated—a table of African-American Academy Award winners ends with 2002, for instance, and the set's introductory chronology stops at mid-2004. However, students seeking information about African music, insight into the failure of school desegregation in the U.S. or the significance of Curt Flood's challenge to baseball's reserve clause, background on the history of colonialism, or hundreds of other historical topics will find both facts and ideas in plenty here (*School Library Journal*).

American Presidents (Third Edition)

Edited by Robert P. Watson and Richard Yon

2 volumes

This set illuminates all 43 presidencies and contains extensive information on the office. Authoritative essays, ranging in length from 20 to 40-plus pages, open with fast facts and a black-and-white portrait. In addition to biographical information, unbiased appraisals of events during each administration (September 11 and the War on Terror, The Iraq War), and excerpts from speeches, the entries convey a sense of the president as a person. New to this edition are sidebars on the First Ladies and vice presidents that provide insight on their influences and relationships. For example, in reading about Louisa Adams, readers are offered a window into the personality of the ambitious John Quincy Adams and his wife's increasing loneliness and estrangement during their marriage (which paralleled Adams's frustration during his political life). Volume two includes 155 pages of extras including the text of the U.S. Constitution and Presidential Election Returns, 1789-2004. Average-quality, black-and-white photos and reproductions illustrate the volumes. This updated set is more comprehensive than Martin W. Sandler's *Presidents* (HarperCollins, 1995) and David Rubel's *Scholastic Encyclopedia of the Presidents and Their Times* (2005). While students can find facts about the presidents and primary documents through numerous subscription databases and online sites, the depth and breadth of coverage in *American Presidents* will give researchers a strong advantage (*School Library Journal*).



Development of the Industrial U.S.

Edited by Sonia G. Benson and Jennifer York Stock

3 volumes (Primary Sources, Biographies, Almanac, plus Cumulative Index)

One of the most attractive features of UXL Reference Library offerings is their balanced coverage. The authors take great pains to present even representation of the diverse facets and manifold views inherent in broad,

overarching subjects. This current offering is no exception. All three volumes, *Almanac*, *Biographies*, and *Primary Sources*, offer researchers accessible and satisfying essays that effectively introduce students to industrialization and its impact on the U.S.

This evenhandedness can be seen in the *Biographies* volume. Subjects range from social workers to society divas and from industrialists to labor organizers and political activists. Articles average about 10 pages and include portraits, illustrations, and sidebars. The *Almanac* volume consists of 14 chapters, each thoroughly examining one aspect of industrialization, such as railroads or early factories. User-friendly features (research and activity ideas, ample glossaries and word boxes, references to Web sites and print resources) further enhance this product's usefulness.

The commitment to accessibility is most apparent in the *Primary Sources* volume, containing a type of material that is often the most difficult for students to comprehend. Historical, political, and social context is provided for each of the 18 primary documents, and definitions of archaic terms and colloquialisms appear next to the original text.

UXL published *The Reference Library of the Industrial Revolution* in 2003. That set concentrated on eighteenth-century developments in Great Britain and Western Europe and traced how their influence spread to the U.S. This current offering will complement the previous set and is highly recommended for all school and public collections that support middle- and high-school students (*Booklist*).



The Encyclopedia of World War I: A Political, Social, and Military History

Edited by Spencer C. Tucker

5 volumes

Although often overshadowed by World War II in world history, the Great War set the stage not only for the Second World War but for virtually all of the major ethnic and political conflicts that have taken place since then. In 1,200 alphabetical entries covering major personalities, events, treaties, and sociopolitical issues of the time, this set purports to become "the definitive reference on a struggle whose aftershocks are still being felt."

With international contributors from all over the globe, the set incorporates new information on topics like war-related atrocities, pacifist movements, and the establishment of postwar international tribunals. There are comprehensive entries on matters such as the first battlefield use of the tank, airplanes and aerial bombardment, and, of course, the use of chemical weapons. Other entries cover specific theaters and campaigns (Africa, the Adriatic, for example) or the role of specific countries in the war. Although most entries are a page or less, others can take up to more than 10 pages (*Western front overview*, for example). Each entry is followed by see also references and a list of resources for further exploration. Some entries also include "Historical Controversy" sidebars; for example, the entry Germany, navy has a sidebar on "Germany's Decision for Unrestricted Submarine Warfare and Its Impact on the U.S. Declaration of War." The volumes contain numerous black-and-white photographs that clearly have been carefully chosen. Although many of the pictures are of prominent figures, also appearing are depictions of live-action fighting, including one of an aerial dogfight taken from the air.

Volumes 1-4 each begins with a table of contents for the set and the same collection of 16 maps. Volume 4 also contains a list of Medal of Honor and Victoria Cross recipients, a chart of army and navy ranks, a chronology, a glossary, and a bibliography. Besides containing the index, the fifth volume is devoted to primary documents, beginning with the Treaty of London in 1839 and concluding with a poem by Robert Graves written in 1938 recalling his war experience. In between are pieces like an excerpt from Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, Ho Chi Minh's declaration "The Rightful Demands of the Vietnamese People," submitted to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919; and the text of a German propaganda flyer, "To the Colored Soldiers of the U.S. Army." This encyclopedia clearly shows how World War I is the hub of modern world history and culture.

Overall, this set is an outstanding contribution to reference works on the Great War, particularly useful for academic and research libraries (*Booklist*).

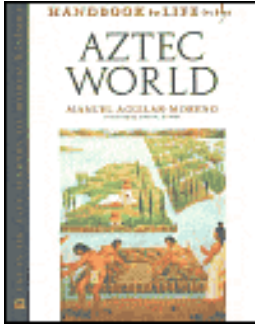
The Facts on File Companion to the American Novel

Edited by Abby H.P. Werlock

3 volumes

This A-to-Z reference contains 450 biographical overviews of American and foreign-born authors living in the United States and 500 signed analytical essays on their novels. The works chosen are those most studied, or are significant for the genre. The time span ranges from 18th- and 19th-century writers such as Charles Brockden Brown and Harriet Beecher Stowe to contemporaries such as Cormac McCarthy and Anne Tyler. There isn't an analytical essay for each author profiled; for example, the entry on Dan Brown does not include a separate essay about his best seller *The Da Vinci Code*. Works by foreign-born authors include Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* and Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban*. Most Pulitzer and National Book Award winners are included, and there is a section of genre essays about novels by African-American, Asian-American, Latino, and Native American authors. Biographical sketches contain some personal information but focus on the writers' careers and their work. Essays on specific novels neatly describe social context, themes, genre, and critical reception. The last volume includes a list of novels; sources, including Web sites; and an index with plenty of cross-references. Libraries will value this compact set for including classics as well as hard-to-find contemporary authors (*School Library Journal*).

Facts on File Library of World History



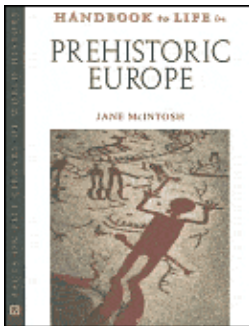
Handbook to Life in the Aztec World

By Manuel Aguilar-Moreno

This entry in Facts On File's *Handbooks to Life* series is, as far as layout and design, typical of the series. It is arranged topically rather than dictionary-style, but it has a good index. Illustrations consist of line drawings and small photographs, and there are a few maps. There is a pronunciation guide for Nahuatl terms, which is very helpful. Facts are dependably presented, and there is a long bibliography.

Fourteen chapters cover topics such as "Geography of the Aztec World," "Warfare," "Aztec Architecture," and "Economy, Industry, and Trade." Each chapter is broken down into easily identified subentries; the chapter "Religion, Cosmology, and Mythology," for example, has sections on the structure of the Aztec universe, the main Aztec myths, the Aztec gods, rituals, and human sacrifice. The topical approach results in some repetition; for example, the *chinampas*, or floating gardens, that provided the Aztecs with more arable land are described in several places in the text. The writing is fairly academic.

Aguilar-Moreno is an associate professor of art history at California State University, Los Angeles, and his interest in art makes the chapters on art, architecture, and literature a substantial part of the work. He spends nearly as much time on the provenance of surviving Aztec codices as he does on the content of the literature. The chapter on architecture has a city-by-city description of major surviving Aztec architecture. The life of the people, on the other hand, is crowded into a single chapter on "Daily Life." A final chapter summarizes post-conquest Aztec contributions to Mexican society. One of the highlights at the end of the book is an appendix of Aztec poems in English (*Booklist*).



Handbook to Life in Prehistoric Europe

By Jane McIntosh

According to the introduction, the purpose of *Handbook to Life in Prehistoric Europe* is "to give some account of what is known or surmised about" the artifacts and monuments of prehistoric Europe and their makers--their industry and crafts, their settlements, their mythology and religion, their health and medicine, the food they ate, the warfare they practiced, and more. Coverage begins in 7,000 BCE, when agricultural communities began appearing in southeastern Europe, and follows the historical trail to 100 BCE, when most of Europe came under Roman hegemony.

The volume is organized in 11 topical chapters, beginning with "Geography of Ancient Europe," which is divided into subtopics on "The Mediterranean," "The Mountains," "Temperate Europe," "The Atlantic Facade and the North Sea," "The Far North," and "Environmental Change." Examples of the other 10 chapters include "The Development of Europe," "Economy," "Trade and Transport," and "Death and Burial." Black-and-white illustrations accompany some of the material, and each of the chapters ends with a list of references for each subtopic. Full bibliographic detail is not included there but in the bibliographical section near the end of the volume, along with a chronology and a list of relevant museums. Given the book's topical arrangement, the 29-page index is invaluable for finding specific information not revealed in the table of contents (*Booklist*).



Federalism in America: An Encyclopedia

Edited by Joseph R. Marbach, Ellis Katz, and Troy E. Smith

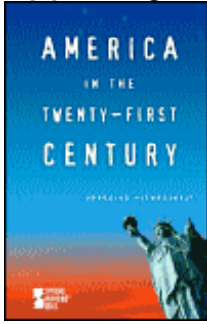
2 volumes

American federalism is much more than the Federalist Papers and a campaign for a federal constitution, as readers of this encyclopedia will find. Essentially "the debate over the proper role of government in society," federalism is people, institutions, court cases, concepts, and more, as the editors and writers of this encyclopedia so ably demonstrate.

Written for "undergraduate students receiving their first exposure to this field of study," more than 400 entries cover many of the important events and actors, from the *Annapolis Convention of 1786* to *No Child Left Behind Act (2001)*. The intervening years and changing concerns and issues are reflected throughout. Arrangement is alphabetical. A topical list preceding the entries groups them into categories such as "Constitutional Provisions," "Historical Events," and "Policy Areas." Entries are signed and have short bibliographies. The Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution and amendments appear in appendixes.

The strength of this work is its combination of broad reach and specificity, covering contemporary topics such as *Age discrimination; Block grants; O'Connor, Sandra Day; and Police power* along with historical topics such as *Adams, John and Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions*. Entries on the varieties of federalism (coercive, competitive, cooperative, creative, layer cake, marble cake, and picket fence, to name a few) make interesting reading, and each one is a civics lesson. The summaries of 96 Supreme Court cases and their impacts are succinct and clear introductory explanations. This is a work to browse and read for widening understanding as well as use as a reference to answer specific questions. Recommended for academic and large public libraries (*Booklist*).

Opposing Viewpoints Series



America in the Twenty-First Century

Edited by Andrea C. Nakaya

As America moves forward in the twenty-first century, many forces are changing its society. The authors of this anthology examine the causes and effects of some of these forces, including the impact of the American lifestyle, the role of technology and foreign policy, and domestic issues such as education, social security, and immigration policy (*Book Description, Amazon.com*)

America's Prisons

Edited by Clare Hanrahan

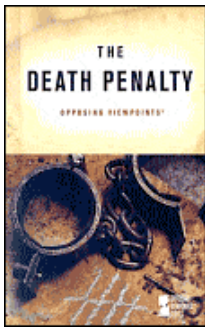
The United States imprisons more persons than any other nation. The social and economic costs impact every citizen. This collection of opposing viewpoints provides students an opportunity to weigh the merits of arguments that support or oppose the operation of America's prisons. (*Book Description, Amazon.com*).



China

Edited by David M. Haugen

Formerly considered a developing nation, China now flaunts a booming economy that is transforming the country into a global power. In this anthology, authors debate China's economic policies, its military strength, and the problems that attend a principally-agrarian nation that is so rapidly industrializing (*Book Description, Amazon.com*).



The Death Penalty

Edited by Diane Andrews Henningfeld

Recent Supreme Court decisions, high profile trials, and scientific advancements such as DNA testing raise difficult issues concerning capital punishment. Ought juveniles be punished with death? Does the death penalty deter crime and prevent terrorism? Can the death penalty be reformed? Contributors debate these and other questions in this volume (*Book Description, Amazon.com*).



Interracial America

Edited by Eleanor Stanford

From affirmative action to interracial marriage, race is one of the most complex and controversial issues in America today. The authors in this anthology explore these debates, incorporating diverse experiences and opinions (*Book Description, Amazon.com*).



The Roaring Twenties

Edited by Kelly King Howes and Julie L. Carnagie

2 volumes – Biographies and Almanac & Primary Sources

Two volumes meant for middle school and up illustrate the colorful decade of social changes in American life that was the 1920s. The *Almanac and Primary Sources* volume "presents a comprehensive overview of events and everyday life," while *Biographies* profiles 25 notable individuals. Both volumes include a time line and glossary at the beginning and a bibliography and index at the end. Writing is clear, and photos and sidebars are sprinkled attractively throughout.

Biographies highlights people from Louis Armstrong to Margaret Sanger in alphabetically arranged articles that are 8 to 12 pages long and cover each individual's background, influence, and, usually, activities even after the decade came to a close. Difficult issues are included, such as Henry Ford's reputed anti-Semitism and recent criticism of Margaret Mead's work in Samoa. Within articles, additional people get full-page treatment. For example, there is a sidebar on Gertrude Eberle within the Jack Dempsey chapter. Indexing isn't thorough; there is no index entry for Billy Sunday although he gets a page in the Aimee Semple McPherson article.

Almanac and Primary Sources includes 9 chapters of narrative on topics such as politics, business, technology, and the arts as well as 11 chapters of primary source materials, among them Clarence Darrow's closing argument from the Leopold and Loeb trial, an excerpt from *The Great Gatsby*, and a short Langston Hughes poem. Further references include a raft of recent books and Web sites. A nice little feature for students and teachers is the "Research and Activity Ideas" section ("Pretend you are an advertising copywriter working for the Ford Motor Company in the 1920s. Create a brochure to promote sales of Ford cars").

The set is useful, attractive, and less wordy than Gale's *American Decades* (2003). Buy where there's a need for more information on the 1920s (*Booklist*).

The World Today Series (2006)

9 volumes

Africa 2006 (41st edition)

Canada 2006 (22nd edition)

East and Southeast Asia 2006 (39th edition)

Latin America 2006 (40th edition)

The Middle East and South Asia 2006 (40th edition)

Nordic, Central, and Southeastern Europe 2006 (6th edition)

Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States 2006 (37th edition)

The USA and the World 2006 (2nd edition)

Western Europe 2006 (25th edition)

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations (Twelfth Edition)

Edited by Timothy L. Gall and Jeneen M. Hobby

5 volumes

Volume 1: United Nations

Volume 2: Africa

Volume 3: Americas

Volume 4: Asia & Oceania

Volume 5: Europe