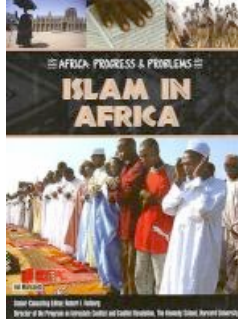


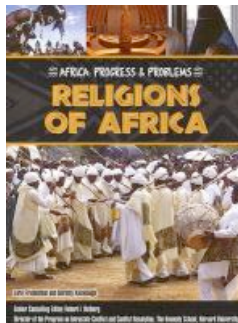
# New Book Series May 2009

## *Africa: Progress and Problems*



*Islam in Africa (Africa: Progress and Problems)*

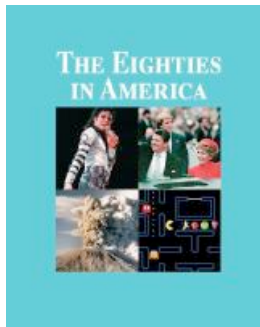
By Hal Marcovitz



*Religions of Africa (Africa: Progress & Problems)*

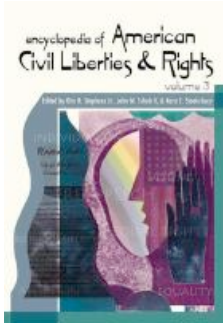
By Lora Friedenthal and Dorothy Kavanaugh

*Religions* covers traditional African beliefs, plus the spread of Christianity and Islam, and how they are practiced today; *Islam* focuses solely on that religion. Each book has a chapter on recent religious conflicts. The volumes are attractive, with color maps and photos, glossaries (incomplete) and bibliographies; *Islam* also has a chronology. The information presented is adequate but, in texts of under 100 pages, is clearly superficial. There are some issues: the maps don't indicate the Sahara Desert, making repeated references to "sub-Saharan" Africa confusing (the term isn't explained in the texts, either). None of the quotes are thoroughly referenced (about a third aren't given any citation whatsoever). *Religions* overuses the passive voice and lacks a conclusion; the authors also attribute female genital mutilation solely to traditional African religions (Marcovitz has a lengthy section on it in *Islam*). Finally, most of the material in *Islam* is covered in *Religions*, though not always in as much detail. Thus, for most libraries, *Religions* alone will suffice. Aloysius M. Lugira's *African Religion* (Facts On File, 2004) gives a thorough overview just of traditional African religions in 200 pages plus. (*School Library Journal*)



*The Eighties in America (3 volumes)*

Editor Milton Berman, Ph.D., Managing Editor Tracy Irons-Georges  
Salem Press, known for its history reference sources for students, has recently released another part of a series that is sure to be acquired by most public, school, and undergraduate libraries. *The Eighties in America* follows others, including *The Sixties in America* (1999), *The Fifties in America* (2005), and *The Seventies in America* (2006), in a decade-by-decade march through time. All three earlier sets were reviewed favorably in *Reference Book Bulletin*, and the high quality continues with *The Eighties*. The three volumes take events, people, and elements of popular culture (music, television series, musical groups) and provide 663 essays that range from one to six pages providing a brief summary of identifying facts. This is followed by an essay that concludes with a section on Impact and further reading for those who want to pursue extended study. Examples of the topics covered are Action films; Adams, Bryan; Aspartame; Big Chill, The; Brat Pack in acting; Car alarms; Nation at Risk, A; Post office shootings; Preppies; Starbucks; Torch Song Trilogy; Turner, Ted; Winfrey, Oprah; and Yuppies. Sidebars and black-and-white illustrations supplement the text. Volume 3 contains a number of supplemental resources, among them lists of best-selling books and major films of the 1980s and tables of important U.S. legislation and U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Other features include a time line; annotated lists of books and Web sites; a glossary; a list of entries by category; and photo, personages, and subject indexes. Purchase of this set comes with access to the Salem History database. The activation process is quite simple. An activation key is found on the inside back cover of volume 1, enabling one to register on the Web site. Salem allows institutions to define an IP range so that all computers coming from that range within the library would have access to the database. The free database access makes *The Eighties in America* even more appealing for libraries. *(Booklist)*



*Encyclopedia of American Civil Rights & Liberties (2 volumes)*

Edited by Otis H. Stephens, Jr., John M. Scheb II, & Kara E. Stooksbury

Key issues relevant to civil rights and liberties in the United States are presented in approximately 600 signed, alphabetically arranged essays of varying length. They include both historical background and current concerns—political and social—presented by experts whose credentials are listed. Topics include controversial issues such as doctor-assisted suicide, abortion rights, antismoking legislation, and the USA Patriot Act, and are covered in a clearly written, easily understood, and unbiased manner. Historical entries address such subjects as the development of the Bill of Rights, the Alien and Sedition Acts, and the poll tax. Also considered are significant people such as Supreme Court justices, political activists, and advocates for civil rights, and key concepts, organizations, and legislation. Cross-references and a bibliography follow each essay. Each volume opens with a list of the set's entries and primary documents, followed by an alphabetical "Guide to Related Topics" that groups articles under key themes. The full texts of speeches and significant laws from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries are appended. There is also a lengthy table of relevant cases, although many of them are not referred to in the text or the index. This up-to-date and comprehensive, yet compact resource will be a useful addition.

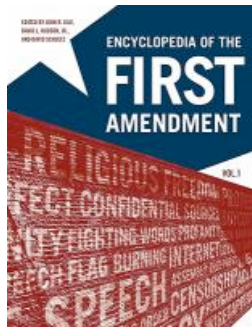
*(School Library Journal)*



*Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History*  
(4 volumes)

Spencer C. Tucker, Editor

This encyclopedia presents a comprehensive look at the myriad aspects of the continuing clash between Arabs and Israelis. The contributors are experts in military history or the region. Editor Tucker is also the editor of encyclopedias on the two world wars and the cold war, among other works. The 750 alphabetically arranged and signed entries are accurate and balanced. They cover individuals, events, groups and organizations, places, ideas, movements, technologies, objects, artifacts, treaties, and other topics. Examples are the Al-Aqsa Mosque massacre, Al Jazeera news agency, Mohammad Naguib (first president of Egypt), and the 2007 siege of the Nahr al Bared refugee camp in Lebanon. Although the focus is on the Arab-Israeli wars from 1947, many entries, such the one for the Ottoman Empire, help achieve a balance between historical and contemporary context. The work is strengthened by references at the end of each entry, see also and cross-references, birth and death dates in biographical entries, line-drawn maps, and black-and-white photos. Accurate categorical and general indexes are repeated in each volume. Following the A-Z entries, volume 3 contains several appendixes: "Army Ranks," "Navy Ranks," and brief statistical profiles for several countries, current to 1999. Also in volume 3 are a chronology (through 2007), a glossary, and a bibliography (with several titles from 2007). Volume 4 comprises 168 documents (usually excerpts) from 1839 to 2007. An introductory paragraph places each document in context, and the source is given at the end of the entry. Documents include a 1905 Arab call for a liberal constitutional state and a 1944 urging of conservation of Western Hemisphere petroleum reserves. There are a number of earlier or shorter relevant reference sources, among them *Historical Dictionary of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Scarecrow, 2006), and, of course, much information is on the Web. The more limited *Encyclopedia of the Palestinians* (Facts On File) was favorably reviewed and revised in 2005. The current, more comprehensive work will be useful in a wide range of public, academic, and congregational libraries. Also available as an e-book. (Booklist)

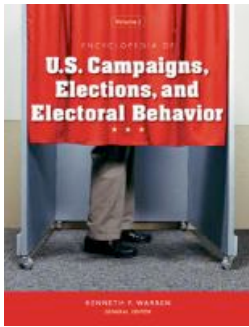


*Encyclopedia of the First Amendment (2 volumes)*

Edited by John R. Vile, David L. Hudson Jr., David Schultz

Provocative, divisive, and sometimes even threatening, First Amendment issues have been at the forefront of civic discourse since the founding of the nation. Today is no different, with the U.S. Supreme Court hearing a challenge to the Federal Communication Commission's decision to penalize television networks for airing fleeting expletives, churches testing IRS regulations prohibiting political campaigning, and states considering legislation to regulate cyber bullying by classmates. *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment* is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to learn more about broadcast regulation, the establishment of religion clause, students' rights, or a myriad of other topics involving the First Amendment and its political, cultural, and legal significance. The 1,400 topical entries that form the core of the work appear in traditional A-Z format and range from 250 to 1,500 words depending on the significance or complexity of the subject. All entries are signed, include cross-references, and cite at least one primary or secondary source. Relevant court decisions, laws, governmental entities, organizations, and people who have been integrally involved with the development and interpretation of the First Amendment are covered, along with critical legal concepts and methods of interpretation. Issues ranging from abortion protests to wiretapping are discussed. The rights of prisoners, students, members of the military, teachers, and reporters are covered, as are concepts such as Community standards and Prior restraint. The encyclopedia is packed with well-designed reader aids, including alphabetical and topical tables of contents, a case table of contents, a foreword by the founder of the First Amendment Center, a chronology that begins in 313 with Emperor Constantine's extension of religious toleration to Christianity, and seven introductory essays. These essays provide an overview of each of the provisions of the amendment and discuss the application of the First Amendment to the states, the amendment's influence worldwide, and its future. Along with the foreword, they help the reader appreciate the history, development, and importance of First Amendment freedoms and the ongoing challenges and threats to them. The work concludes with a list of online

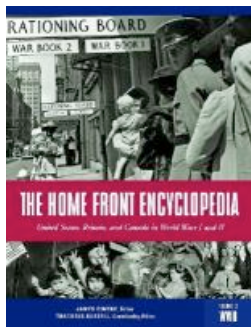
resources, a bibliography, and thorough case and subject indexes. Highly recommended for academic, public, and law libraries. (*Booklist*)



*Encyclopedia of U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior* (2 volumes)  
Kenneth F. Warren, General Editor

The years 2007-2008 have provided the most interesting primary season in recent memory, reawakening interest in voting and campaigns for all. *The Encyclopedia of U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior* arrives into this fertile area as a source that looks at its subject in a comprehensive way, examining the campaign process and investigating how the voters make their choices. Much of the encyclopedia, which is arranged A-Z, is taken up by articles on each state and on each election. The articles on the states begin with a bit of state history, follow the political and partisan changes that occurred, and note the roles that the states played in specific elections. Very important state events like the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary have their own articles. Entries on presidential elections are in chronological order, from Presidential campaign of 1789 to Presidential campaign of 2008. This series of entries makes fascinating reading, showing that the modern issues of contested votes, smear campaigns, and hot-button issues are not so modern after all. Other entries cover topics such as Campaign reforms, Gender gap, Libertarian Party, and Religion and voting behavior. There are extensive see also references and sizable bibliographies with each article. Front matter includes a readers'-guide section that groups articles by topic and a chronology that covers important election-related events. The second volume ends with a glossary of terms and an appendix with U.S. Census data on voter registration cross-tabbed with various population characteristics. A resource guide lists books, articles, and Web sites. Both volumes contain the comprehensive index. As interesting as this is, there is a fair amount of similar material already available on a library's shelves, most of which comes from CQ Press. *Elections A to Z* (2003), though much smaller and with a more general focus, provides similar information. Likewise, CQ's *Guide to U.S. Elections* (2005) offers excellent coverage, and the online version is regularly updated. Libraries with comprehensive collections in elections and political science will want to own the Sage title. Other

libraries should assess what they already have before they buy. Also available as an e-book. (*Booklist*)



*Home Front Encyclopedia: United States, Britain, and Canada in World Wars I and II (3 volumes)*

James Ciment, Editor; Thaddeus Russell, Contributing Editor

There are many books about the political and diplomatic aspects of both World War I and World War II, but this encyclopedia "is the first scholarly work devoted exclusively to the utter transformation of American, Canadian, and British societies away from the battlefields in those pivotal years." The 313 biographies and 284 topical entries are written by more than 100 contributors, all overseen by an expert advisory board. Volumes 1 and 2 cover WWI and WWII, respectively. An introductory essay on each war is followed by signed biographical sketches, one-half to three and one-half pages long. Biographies cover clergy, businessmen, musicians, writers, politicians, suffragists, labor leaders, and even a horse--Man o' War. Following the biographies are signed topical entries ranging from one to five pages. All entries, whether biographical or topical, include see also references and selected bibliographical references. The see also references refer to both the WWI and WWII volumes. Approximately 40 topics overlap both volumes as they are common to both wars. Examples include African Americans, Baseball, Demobilization, Economy, Fashion, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Film, and War bonds. There are 9 biographical figures who are included in both volumes because of their importance during each era. Among them are Louis Armstrong, Winston Churchill, John Dos Passos, J. Edgar Hoover, and John Maynard Keynes. Many entries include photographs or other illustrations. For some subjects, such as conscription, literature, and propaganda, there are separate entries for Canada, the UK, and the U.S. But overall coverage is weighted toward the U.S., and many topical entries that might reasonably cover all three make no mention of Canada or Great Britain at all. Volume 3 is made up of several sections that offer excellent supplemental material. Documents from both wars provide the user with primary sources ranging from song lyrics (e.g., "Over There"), to speeches (Churchill's "blood, toil, tears and sweat" speech, of May 10, 1940), to Acts

of Congress ( the Espionage Act of June 15, 1917). Chronologies list important dates for each conflict, and glossaries give definitions of governmental agencies and bureaus. Extensive bibliographies for each war are separated into "General Works," "Canada," "Great Britain," and "United States." At the end of the volume are a list of the contributing writers and a comprehensive index. Each volume contains a set table of contents. This source allows the user to see the interrelationships during each war between the governments and the people and the impact of war on those left at home. Undergraduates at an academic library would find it useful for background information as well as for the bibliographies. It would also be an excellent resource for large public libraries. *(Booklist)*



*Icons of the American West: From Cowgirls to Silicon Valley (Greenwood Icons)*  
*(2 volumes)*

Edited by Gordon Morris Bakken

Students in search of information about specific people, events, and places from the old or new West will appreciate this work for assignments and for individual interest. The first volume includes an 11-page time line of key events from 1784 to 2007. The straightforward, somewhat scholarly topical essays are individually authored and range in length from 28 to 46 pages. Each is subdivided by subject, accompanied by text boxes and pull quotes, and followed by further reading suggestions. Coverage ranges from "Buffalo Bill Cody," "Sacagawea," and "Bill Gates" to "Rifles and Revolvers," "Ronald Reagan," and "Indian Casinos." Each essay opens with a black-and-white image representing the topic-regrettably the only one in the chapter. A well-organized resource. *(School Library Journal)*