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Online Around The World: A Geographic Encyclopedia of the Internet, Social Media, and Mobile Apps

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HISTORY

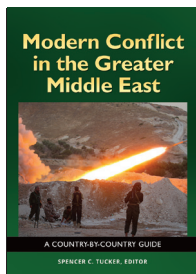
Modern Conflict in the Greater Middle East: A Country-by-Country Guide. ABC-CLIO. Apr. 2017. 420p. ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440843600. \$94; ebk. ISBN 9781440843617. **HIST**

Former U.S. army captain Tucker (*The Roots and Consequences of Civil Wars and Revolutions*) provides material that fosters a strong understanding of the pressing issues between the Arab states and Israel within the context of the region and its history. The “greater Middle East” of the title includes the Maghreb, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in addition to other Middle Eastern nations. The author has written extensively on military conflicts for several decades and has the remarkable ability to answer the question: “How did we get here?” The work is divided by country and covers events from World War I to the civil war in Syria as of June 2016. Arranged similarly to Tucker’s other works, the entries offer a broad overview of the geographical, ethnic, and linguistic characteristics of a different nation; information on the development of the country past to present; a time line; and a bibliography. **VERDICT** Highly relevant for most collections. Public libraries especially should take note. The content is accessible enough for high schoolers doing research or for the curious lay person yet comprehensive enough for college study.—Christine Sharbrough, Industry, TX

LITERATURE

The Definitive Shakespeare Companion: Overviews, Documents, and Analysis. 4 vols. Greenwood. Jun. 2017. 1987p. ed. by Joseph Rosenblum. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440834448. \$415; ebk. ISBN 9781440834455. **REF**

In 2005, Rosenblum (editor, *Critical Survey of Shakespeare’s Plays*) compiled *The Greenwood Companion to Shakespeare: A Comprehensive Guide for Students*. Here, he and more than 70 contributors (mostly academics) have updated the 70-plus articles on each of William Shakespeare’s plays and 31 selected individual or paired sonnets (including texts of each) and longer narrative poems. Introductory essays cover the Bard’s times, his texts, his language, and the question of the authorship of his works. While many of the pieces on the individual works re-



Tucker checks in on the Middle East; Sullivan tops the charts with the greatest hits

main unchanged from the 2005 edition, new sections help place each item in context. Excerpts from literary sources, passages from related historical documents, and reviews of modern productions are especially useful. Rosenblum has also added insets on key thinkers, movements, and historical events. The annotated bibliographies that accompany each essay have been updated as well. While more concise guides exist, such as *The Oxford Companion to Shakespeare*, this lively, approachable volume provides a wealth of material and analysis. **VERDICT** This rich companion to Shakespeare’s life and work is recommended for students, theatergoers, general readers, actors, directors, writers, and other artists.—Marcia G. Welsh, Dartmouth Coll. Lib., Hanover, NH

PERFORMING ARTS

Sullivan, Steve. Encyclopedia of Great Popular Song Recordings. 2 vols. Rowman & Littlefield. May 2017. 832p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781442254480. \$200; ebk. ISBN 9781442254497. **REF**

Sullivan (*Bombshells: Glamour Girls of a Lifetime*) adds volumes three and four to this set of “popular song recordings.” The first two volumes covered songs up to 2012, presenting the “megaclassics” first, followed by iconic tunes that “held a somewhat less legendary status.” The newer titles arrange songs chronologically (from 1890 to 2016). As with the earlier installments, Sullivan features plenty of big hits, but he emphasizes that his “greatest passion is reserved for showcasing great songs...that have been undeservedly neglected.” Tackling genres such as country, rock, and jazz, the volumes are divided into playlists (mostly by decade, though there are two playlists for the Sixties) and supported by title and subject/name



indexes, along with a helpful bibliography. Each entry contains a short description, background information, dates of recording, and germane quotes. Historical facts are interspersed throughout. Highlights include Billie Holiday’s “The Man I Love,” Hank Williams’s “I Saw the Light,” Beck’s “Loser,” the White Stripes’ “Seven Nation Army,” and Mark Ronson’s “Uptown Funk.” Jam-packed with intriguing material, this accessible, well-written set would be most valuable shelved near the music collection. **VERDICT** Recommended for academic and large public libraries, especially those that own the first two volumes. A must-read for music fans.—Barbara Kundanis, Longmont P.L., CO

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Hammond, Andrew. Pop Culture in North Africa and the Middle East. ABC-CLIO. (Entertainment & Society Around the World). May 2017. 319p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440833830. \$97; ebk. ISBN 9781440833847. **REF**

Hammond (Islamic history & Middle East studies, St. Anthony’s Coll., Univ. of Oxford) follows up 2005’s *Pop Culture Arab World!* The 16-page introduction provides a fine survey of the issues and events in modern Arab history and popular culture, with the eight chapters covering music, books, film, television and radio, the Internet and social media, sports, video games, and fashion. Each section contains an overview of the subject, and the entries—most two to three pages long—include further reading listings. An appendix features top ten lists (“The Ten Biggest Arab Football Stars, 2015”; “Top Ten Brands in Saudi Arabia”). The text is erudite despite the author’s admission of the limited scholarship in some areas. An eye-pleasing font and bold headers and entry titles make navigation simple. **VERDICT** This work should find a home in any library serving undergraduates, possibly in both the reference and circulating collections. It may also be helpful for general adult audiences in public libraries.—Rosanne Cordell, formerly of Northern Illinois Univ., DeKalb

TECHNOLOGY

Online Around the World: A Geographic Encyclopedia of the Internet, Social Media, and Mobile Apps. ABC-CLIO. May

2017. 400p. ed. by Laura M. Steckman & Marilyn J. Andrews. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781610697750. \$94; ebk. ISBN 9781610697767. REF

Steckman, who has studied Asian and Latin American languages and digital humanities, and Andrews, who researches social media through a cultural and anthropological lens, offer readers a glimpse of how people all over the world use the Internet. They outline many of the major differences between the United States and other nations and ex-

amine the history of the Internet, profiles of worldwide social media sites and apps, and the freedoms, restrictions, and activism that the web has enabled across the globe. The work begins with an excellent overview of popular international social media sites and a chronology of significant events in cyber history. Signed entries on 86 countries run four pages each and feature “see also” references and lists of resources. Contributors are researchers in the field, many associated with well-known international colleges and

universities. Although the data and research are as current as possible, the material may become dated quickly considering how rapidly technology evolves. Even the authors acknowledge the challenge of capturing the essence of social media at any given moment for an entire country. **VERDICT** High school students in need of information for reports and general readers interested in global online use will appreciate this insightful and intriguing encyclopedia.—**Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Lib., Norfolk, VA**

ereviews

Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War: Intelligence, Strategy and Diplomacy

Taylor & Francis Group
secretintelligencefiles.com/

■ By Cheryl LaGuardia



CONTENT An abundance of riches, this database contains nearly 17,000 British gov-

ernment intelligence and foreign policy documents in 4,500 files dating from 1873 to 1953, with a preponderance of material from the 1930s and 1940s.

Files come from the National Archives, UK, most of them from the Permanent Undersecretary's Department (PUSD). The PUSD material records the impact of intelligence activities on British foreign policy during the period 1873–1951, including information on signals intercepted and deciphered by the British Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park

short takes

Cannon, Carl M. **On This Date: Discovering America One Day at a Time.** Twelve: Grand Central. Jul. 2017. 416p. photos. ISBN 9781455542307. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9781455542284. ref

Reaching back to 1739 (Stone River Slave Rebellion, June 17) yet staying current with a reference to the Broadway musical *Hamilton* (July 4), this title offers fascinating tidbits from across the U.S. political and social spectrum. Cannon (Washington bureau chief, RealClearPolitics.com; *The Pursuit of Happiness in Times of War*) dedicates about a page to each day, with subjects ranging from singer Johnny Cash (born February 26, 1932) to the Columbine High School shootings (April 20, 1999) to Wyoming territory extending suffrage to woman (December 10, 1869). Index not included. **VERDICT** Browsers will enjoy a daily dose of American history, from the relatively trivial to the inspirational, along with occasional photographs.

Dohner, Janet Vorwald. **Farm Dogs: A Comprehensive Breed Guide to 93 Guardians, Herders, Terriers, and Other Canine Working Partners.** Storey. Oct. 2016. 352p. photos. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781612125923. pap. \$26.95; ebk. ISBN 9781612125930. REF

While many pups earn their keep as

friendly home-dwelling animal companions, Dohner (*Livestock Guardians*) has compiled different breeds of working farm dogs: canines that herd, protect, pull carts, and bark warnings. Not that some don't also curl up by the fire at the end of the day, but many sleep outside and do best when kept busy with meaningful tasks. Entries run between two and four pages in length and are accompanied by numerous large photographs of dogs in action and at rest. Boxed text conveys basic information, with Dohner's narrative filling in details about personality, appearance, history, and more. **VERDICT** Most useful for rural libraries, but a pleasurable read for dog lovers anywhere.

Dooley, Patricia L. **Freedom of Speech: Reflections in Art and Popular Culture.** Greenwood. Apr. 2017. 166p. photos. index. ISBN 9781440843396. \$37. REF

Free expression and its effect on society have fostered discussions on everything from video game ratings to NFL football player Colin Kaepernick's decision to “take a knee” during the U.S. National Anthem to protest the violent treatment of African Americans. Through chapters such as “Theater,” “Music,” “Film,” “Fashion,” and “The Internet,” Dooley (communications, Wichita State Univ.) offers examples of perceptions of acceptable and overreaching applications of free speech. “Literature,” for instance, covers book banning, censored titles, the

campaign against comics, and “dangerous” materials in a school library. Dooley does not draw specific conclusions but presents material in a readable, organized, and unbiased manner. **VERDICT** An evenhanded resource for conversation starting points on the tensions surrounding freedom of speech, individual rights, and community standards of acceptable expression.

Hendley, Nate. **The Big Con: Great Hoaxes, Frauds, Grifts, and Swindles in American History.** ABC-CLIO. Sept. 2016. 380p. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781610695855. \$89; ebk. ISBN 9781610695862. REF

Sharpies, slicksters, and flimflam experts are nothing new. Some cons have endured with a little updating (the letter from a “Spanish prisoner” has morphed into an email from a “Nigerian prince”), while the Glim Dropper (a reward offered for a lost glass eye) has given way to Bernie Madoff. Hendley (*American Gangsters: Then and Now; Bonnie and Clyde*) arranges sections by type of con (“Classic Cons,” “Dubious Remedies,” “Online Scams”) and includes further reading listings. **VERDICT** Serious students and general readers alike will marvel at fraudsters' ingenuity and cringe at human gullibility (sometimes fed by greed). Consider for all public libraries.

The New Complete Dog Book. 22nd ed. Fox Chapel. Aug. 2017. 920p. photos. index. ISBN

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