

University of the Pacific

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Sources: Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia (Review)

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Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/rimhof/11/>

Dictionary must be deceased to be included. Biographical entries are arranged in alphabetical order and are, indeed, concise. Birth place, date of birth, and date of death are followed by educational attainment, occupation, any notable activities, and source or sources of this information. To achieve conciseness, abbreviations such as "AJYB, 24:112" are used throughout. A listing of these abbreviations appears in the beginning of each volume.

Jewish Americans is an optional purchase for academic reference collections though institutions striving for completeness of biographical coverage or a comprehensive Judaica collection may decide otherwise. *Jewish Americans* will appeal to those religious libraries, public libraries, and school libraries where its heritage aspect is an important purchase consideration.—Sally Moffitt, *Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science; Africana, Asian, Judaic, Latin American, and Women's Gender and Sexuality studies; Cohen Enrichment Collection, Langsam Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia. Edited by Philip C. DiMare. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2011. 3 vols. acid free \$280 (ISBN: 978-1-5988-4296-8). E-book available (978-1-5988-4297-5), call for pricing.

The blurb accompanying the review copy describes this resource as "focused on the relationship between American society and filmmaking in the United States from the late 19th century through the present." This is important to keep in mind since users may be puzzled by the inclusion of Godard's *Breathless*, Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin*, and Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*. That noted, the breadth and scope of this collection does primarily consist of representative American motion pictures, from the early silent films to the Harry Potter series.

The three-volume set includes 450 A–Z entries written primarily by university-affiliated scholars from diverse disciplines. There are entries for film titles, people (actors, directors, and notable screenwriters) and subjects. In particular, the subject entries are a useful distillation of topics such as "Drive-in Theatres" (remember those?) and "Representations of Disability in Film," for instance. Each entry provides a brief summary of the film along with an explanation of the film's cultural significance and influence, especially in relation to race, class, and gender issues. References at the end of each entry provide authoritative books and durable articles for further research. Each volume includes a complete index to the set and, happily, the index uses a bold font to indicate main entries in the encyclopedia. Editor Philip C. DiMare (lecturer in Humanities, Religious Studies and History at California State University, Sacramento) provides a substantive, 40-page introduction that serves as a good whirlwind tour of the history of cinema in the United States.

Surprisingly, there isn't currently a film reference source that duplicates the aim and scope of this set. The forthcoming *Wiley-Blackwell History of American Film* may possibly prove to be a competitor (albeit at a higher price point), but

since this four-volume set wasn't available at the time of this writing, this reviewer is unable to provide a comparison. For collections with an emphasis on Film/Media Studies.—Robin Imhof, *Humanities Librarian, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.*

Multicultural America: An Encyclopedia of the Newest Americans. Edited by Ronald H. Bayor. Santa Barbara, Calif.: Greenwood, 2011. 4 vols. acid free \$380 (ISBN: 978-0-3133-5786-2). E-book available (978-0-3133-5787-9), call for pricing.

Interest in immigrant groups in the United States has always been high, thus the publication of the mainstay single-volume *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* (Belknap Pr. of the Harvard Univ. Pr., 1980) to try to meet the need for historical and detailed information on major immigrant groups and causes of their migration to the United States. The *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*, 2nd ed. (Gale, 2000), at 152 entries, profiles both immigrant groups and Native American nations. In the title under review, Ronald Bayor, immigration scholar and founding editor of the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, wanted to add to the existing reference literature on immigrants to the United States by profiling the countries that have sent immigrants for the most part after the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.

In this four-volume set, fifty countries arranged alphabetically, and their major emigrant groups are described in essays of between 10,000 and 20,000 words each, written by scholars who are often from the area being profiled. Readers will recognize sending countries such as Mexico and Cambodia while learning about less well-known countries and their emigrants such as Bangladesh and Trinidad and Tobago.

A very useful introduction to the history of U.S. immigration, from European settlers in the 1500s through Arizona's 2010 law on undocumented immigrants, kicks off the set, followed by a brief chronology. Topic sections for each immigrant-sending nation include a chronology related to issues leading to emigration from the country; background; causes and waves of migration; demographic profile; adjustment and adaptation to the United States, with descriptions of cultural and national practices such as foodways, rituals, and holidays; integration and impact on U.S. society and culture; relations between the country and the United States, with forecasts for the future; tables of hard-to-locate demographic statistics; and a list of references. Personalizing and enriching each country essay are brief biographical profiles of current generation youths who describe their immigrant experience, lists of notable Americans from the nationality, staples of immigrant culture (for example, the Cuban Calle Ocho Festival in Miami), and a glossary of common words from the culture used in the essay. A selected bibliography, contributor biographies, and an index complete the encyclopedia.

The index is a necessity when one is trying to locate a group and the country they're from if the country name is different (for example, the Hmong from Laos, who incidentally