

Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World

Mary Zeiss Stange, Carol K. Oyster, and Jane E. Sloan, eds. *Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2011. 4 vols.: 1891 pp. \$495.00. Hardcover. ISBN: 9781412976855 (set). Also available electronically via Sage Reference Online; \$650.00. ISBN: 9781412995962.

The goal of the *Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World (EWTW)* is to focus on women's experience throughout the world since 2000. An eclectic mix of topics is presented in the approximately 1,000 entries, including "Cowboy Action Shooting" and "Drought." As the editors acknowledge, the majority of the contributors are feminist/women's/gender studies scholars. Though the emphasis is the world post 2000, many of the entries devote considerable text to a discussion of the historical background of the topic. For example, the "Affirmative Actions/Equal Opportunity" entry provides history back to 1941. Although attempting to be international, the focus is on the United States, as illustrated by the article on affirmative action which talks about the history and current status within the United States only. *EWTW* provides an entry for each country, providing basic background on the country followed by highlights of women's issues particular to the nation. If you are looking for information on women in a specific geographic region you would be better served to consult *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Women's Issues Worldwide* which is arranged geographically and has much more comprehensive treatment of issues of concern to women in each country. Although there are other encyclopedias such as *The Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women* that provide more comprehensive and scholarly sources of information, the value of *EWTW* lies in its focus on current popular topics (i.e., cougars, chastity pledges). As the editors note, "This encyclopedia is conceived more as a map or an itinerary than as a travelogue" (1:viii). While none of the articles is more than a few pages long, each entry provides a brief list of further readings and references to other related articles in the *EWTW*.

The *EWTW* contains some material relevant to theology and religious studies scattered throughout the four volumes. There is a subject index at the end of the last volume, but it only lists two articles under Religion/Religious and does not have cross-references to related articles such as "Rabbis, Female." Researchers looking for theology or religious studies entries are far better served by the category list (Reader's Guide). The Reader's Guide at the beginning of volume one brings together the various relevant entries under the heading "Religion" (seventy articles are listed including "Ku Klux Klan," "Operation Rescue," and "Purity Balls"). It should be noted, though, that the religion section of the Reader's Guide omits the four-page article "Religion, Women in," and although "Purity Balls" is included in the list, "Revirginization," "Menstruation, Rituals Surrounding," and "Chastity Pledges" are absent from the religion section of the guide. In addition to highlighting relevant articles by subject, the Reader's Guide also lists the biographies that have been included for each subject area. In their introduction, the editors note that they "pay significant attention, as well, to feminist resistance to patriarchal religion in a variety of contexts" (1:xi). In the religion list, these very select biographies highlight six women of today who are either feminist scholars, women in key leadership roles in religious institutions, or women who have challenged their religion. Aviel Barclay is listed as one of the signal biographies under "Religion," but there appears to be no entry for her in the encyclopedia.

The online edition (priced separately) includes video clips. The fulltext search capabilities and the imbedded video clips from news agencies make the online edition a much more appealing product to students. In addition, the electronic version allows users to produce citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago format as well as to export citations to a variety of reference management software including EndNote, Refworks, Zotero, and BibTex. The editors have taken advantage of the updating capabilities provided by the Internet, and online supplements will be published in 2012 and 2013.

This reviewer recommends this encyclopedia only to large academic and public libraries wishing to enhance their collection of comprehensive/scholarly women's studies encyclopedias with a resource offering articles on current popular topics within the field of women's studies.

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