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# Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia [review]

Paul Fehrmann

Kent State University - Kent Campus, pfehrman@kent.edu

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cross-section of the field, most holding advanced degrees and performing original research on human-animal relations.

While there is a robust narrative literature concerning human-animal relationships, reference works are almost nonexistent. Indeed, the only other title to be found is the four-volume *Encyclopedia of Human-Animal Relationships: A Global Exploration of Our Connections with Animals* (Greenwood, 2007). This supports the editors' assertion that the title under review is "the first one-volume encyclopedia to address the geography of human-animal coexistence for a general audience" (ix). It is this reviewer's opinion that *Humans and Animals* is a highly readable and informative work that deserves a place on the shelves of all public and academic libraries, especially those of the latter that support geography, social studies, or animal rights and welfare curricula.—Michael F. Bemis, *Independent Reference Book Reviewer, Oakdale, Minnesota*

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***Interpreting Our World: 100 Discoveries that Revolutionized Geography.*** By Joseph J. Kerski. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016. 386 p. Acid free \$71.20 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-918-8). Ebooks available (ISBN: 978-1-61069-920-4), call for pricing.

Advances within the discipline of geography have changed the way that we understand and engage with the world. Joseph J. Kerski's *Interpreting our World: 100 Discoveries that Revolutionized Geography* focuses on some of the most important discoveries in geography that have changed the discipline of geography and society's understanding of the world. *Interpreting our World* is a single-volume encyclopedia that contains an introduction essay, six regional maps that depict the geographic locations of the volume's entries, a selected chronology of key events, one hundred alphabetically arranged entries, and an index.

Kerski's entries highlight how certain discoveries in geography have led to "changes in ways of thinking about the Earth" and to changes "in the way that the Earth is studied" (xii). *Interpreting our World* explicitly focuses on geography as an applied discipline. Thus, topical and biographical entries emphasize practical discoveries that significantly shaped and reframed the social and earth sciences. *Interpreting our World* provides readers with concise, yet informative essays ranging from two to three pages in length. All entries end with a useful further readings list. Many entries also contain illustrations or photographs, which prove to be useful for essays such as "Great Trigonometric Survey of India" as the accompanying image of the trigonometric survey shows how the cartographers used triangulations to produce accurate maps. As an encyclopedia of applied geography, its subject entries largely focus on instrumentation and calculation methods and include topics such as "Surveying: Measuring the Earth," "Eratosthenes: Calculating the Earth's Circumference," and "Field Collection Devices: Data Gathering on the Landscape." The biographical essays focus on people who contributed to technological or quantitative advancements in

geography such as William Smith, who created "the world's first nationwide geologic map" (293).

*Interpreting our World* provides a thorough introduction into many important advancements in geography. Other related reference works include Reuel R. Hanks' single-volume *Encyclopedia of Geography Terms, Themes, and Concepts* (ABC-CLIO, 2011) and Barney Warf's six-volume *Encyclopedia of Geography* (Sage, 2010). Kerski's *Interpreting our World* offers more in-depth essays than the entries in Hanks' *Encyclopedia of Geography Terms, Themes, and Concepts* and is much more focused than the more comprehensive *Encyclopedia of Geography*. While *Interpreting our World* is focused on applied geography, it can be forgiven for not including essays on topics related to human geography. However, a few entries focused on the critiques of applied geography would have been a useful addition to the volume. Since *Interpreting our World* included many entries related to mapping, including essays on radical geography and critical cartography, both of which significantly reframed the discipline's understanding of maps, would have provided a more well-rounded presentation of applied geography.

Regardless of these omissions, Kerski's *Interpreting our World* offers an accessible account of one hundred significant advances and discoveries that framed the discipline of geography and changed how the world viewed the Earth. This volume offers accessible and brief essays that provide well-informed introductions into important topics within geography. *Interpreting our World* is recommended for high school and public libraries.—Joseph A. Hurley, *Data Services and GIS Librarian, Georgia State University Library, Atlanta, Georgia*

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***Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia.*** Edited by Cenap Cakmak. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 4 vols. Acid free \$415 (ISBN: 978-1-61069-216-8). E-book available (ISBN: 978-1-61069-217-5), call for pricing.

It is clear that the world of Islam is profoundly important, and also that there are wide and conflicting views on Islam today. Similarly, it seems clear that we should pursue efforts to promote the understanding of Islam. In response, a goal of the four volume *Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia* (IAWE) is to give "basic information on Islam" and to "shed light" on "controversial issues" (xxvii). In his opening comments, the editor, a Professor of International Law and Politics at Eskişehir Osmangazi University and Senior Researcher at the Wise Men Center for Strategic Research in Turkey, notes that there have been "a wide range of different interpretations and variations of Islam throughout history" (xxvii). He suggests that Muslims need to revive the "strong tradition of academic debate" that was integral to Islamic studies "in early decades of Islam," and affirms support for the "diverse and plural nature of contemporary Islamic scholarship" (xxviii). At the same time, he is concerned that "disputed issues" may lead to "biases and stereotypes in the minds of Western people," and hopes that this new resource can both "contribute to the pursuit of a common ground" between those of different

faiths, and help a Western audience become more familiar with what Islam has to offer (xxviii).

With 146 contributors, primarily from academic settings in more than twenty-five countries, the encyclopedia covers the beginning of Islam to the present day. The first volume provides a seven-page chronology of major events in Islamic history, an alphabetical list of the 672 entries in the IAWWE, and a topical guide with twenty-five broad categories such as “Art and Literature,” “Events, Family and Society,” “Islam,” “Law,” “Quran,” and “Women.” Entries are organized alphabetically across the IAWWE.

A sampling of entries includes the broad topics of “Islam,” the “Quran,” and “Sharia.” Other topics include “Hijab” and “Islamophobia.” In addition to discussion of the prophet Muhammad, a good selection of biographical entries presents key figures in the history of Islam.

An example of the careful scholarly dialogue is seen in the four-page essay “Toleration/Religious,” by Kenan Çetinkaya, a lecturer with the Bozok University Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies in Turkey. He walks through definitions and historical experiences of tolerance and intolerance in Islam and in Christianity. Similarly, the five-page entry “Abortion/Feticide,” by the editor, provides a picture of the historical treatment and complexity of that topic.

This reviewer found the entries informative, readable, and helpful with further reading and see also references. The fourth volume provides a ten-page glossary, a sixty-three-page index, and twenty-five-page bibliography. A section of photos and illustrations is included in each volume. A sample of the color photographs included shows Muslims at prayer, a madrassa (Muslim religious school), and key locations in Mecca.

There are other important reference works, including *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (Oxford, 2009), edited by John L. Esposito, the *Encyclopedia of Islam and the Muslim World* (Gale, 2016), edited by Richard Martin, *The New Encyclopedia of Islam* (Roman & Littlefield, 2013), edited by Cyril Glasse, and the *Oxford Islamic Studies Online* (Oxford, 2017), also edited by John L. Esposito. Each of these four positively reviewed works covers similar content, and, except for the work edited by Glasse, like the Cakmak encyclopedia they can be accessed as online resources. Additionally, a four-volume scholarly resource that provides an impressive array and depth on Islam and women is *The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, edited by Joseph Saud (Brill, 2017). For those with limited funds who need to add a reference title on Islam, the single-volume print resource by Glasse could serve well. Those with more funds should also consider the others listed here, along with the work by Cakmak. As a resource for basic understanding of Islam and pointers to additional sources, this work could be useful for school, public, and academic libraries.—Paul Fehrmann, *Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*

**Musicals in Film: A Guide to the Genre.** By Thomas S. Hischak. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 449 p. Acid free \$89 (ISBN: 978-1-4408-4422-5). E-book available (ISBN: 978-1-4408-4423-2), call for pricing.

“You ain’t heard nothing yet!” (43) exclaimed Al Jolson before belting out “Toot, Toot, Tootsie Goodbye” in *The Jazz Singer*, the 1927 film considered to be the first movie musical. Over the next century, the movie musical has continued to enthrall audiences with new performance and production styles. The long list of movies in which characters sing is matched only by the lavish number of books that have been published about the topic, the majority of which were written for Hollywood musical buffs. These books typically include movie stills, plot synopses, score credits, and fascinating anecdotes. Clive Hirschhorn’s 1981 comprehensive chronicle, *The Hollywood Musical* (Crown, 1981), is a successful example of this formula.

Prolific film scholar Thomas S. Hischak updates the history of the movie musical to 2015 in *Musicals in Film: A Guide to the Genre*, a decade by decade survey, in which he traces the development of musical films against a backdrop of historical and cultural events. Hischak shares quick insights about films he judges indicative of the times, and offers three page-long entries for films that were most pivotal. Each film entry ends with “see also” references to entries about related films and people, as well as short suggestions for further reading.

As a film genre, the movie musical originated with characters who sang and danced, on and off the stage. The concept of the musical film has diversified dramatically over the decades, and Hischak has made several revelatory inclusions. An opening chapter, “Movie Musical Genres,” defines sixteen genres, including “Rockumentaries” and “Animated Musicals.” *This is Spinal Tap* and *Metallica: Some Kind of Monster* are examples provided of rockumentaries. *Frozen* is among the many Disney films treated as examples of animated musicals. Perhaps because of the limitation of this being a single-volume guide, the discussion of movie musical subgenres is less developed than would have been desired. Many distinct genres of musical film were collapsed under broad genres; for instance, Bollywood is classified under “Foreign Musical.”

Critical scholarship of movie musicals has emerged in the twenty-first century, in which formalistic and theoretical approaches have been applied. Two examples would be Susan Smith’s study of race and gender in *The Musical: Race, Gender and Performance* (Wallflower, 2005) and Desiree J. Garcia’s investigation of the representation of the immigrant experience in *The Migration of Musical Film: From Ethnic Margins to American Mainstream* (Rutgers University Press, 2014). Despite its limitations, *Musicals in Film: A Guide to the Genre* provides an accessible introduction to the movie musical as popular culture, and should spark readers’ interest in further study. It is recommended for all libraries supporting the study of popular culture, theater, and film.—Valerie