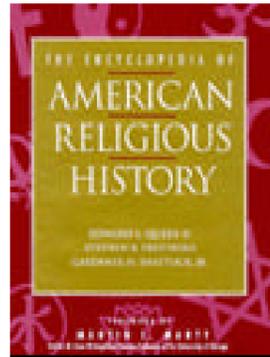


NOTABLE BOOKS FROM THE IRC COLLECTION

Encyclopedia of American Religious History



By Edward L. Queen II [ed.]
(March 2001), II Vols.
Publisher: Facts on File;

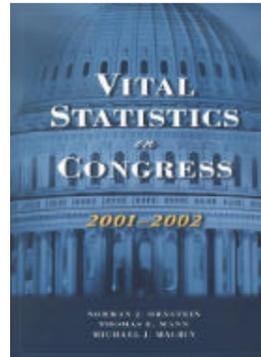
This solid work presents more than 500 articles on "the immense diversity of religious life in America." With the alphabetically arranged entries ranging from a few hundred words to close to 9,000 (for "Roman Catholicism"), the set examines the religions ("Conservative Judaism", "Hinduism"),

people ("Farrakhan, Louis Abdul"; "Young, Brigham"), events ("Civil Rights Movement", "Restoration Movement"), and other topics ("Death of God Theology", "Slavery") that helped shape the history of religion in America. Coverage ranges in time from "Puritanism" to the "Moral Majority".

The entries "Evangelicalism" and "Fundamentalism" show how these Christian movements have differed over time. All articles were written by one of the three main authors or eight other contributors, who all come from academic backgrounds. All articles--no matter how brief--end with a bibliography listing at least one work on the topic and usually more.

The text is complemented by black-and-white illustrations. The inclusion of numerous cross-references within the set, an eight-page "Synoptic Index" (with such headings as "Church and State" and "Harmonial Religion"), and a 36-page general index make finding virtually any topic in this set easy. The three-volume "Encyclopedia of the American Religious Experience" (Scribner, 1988) features more than 100 broad topical essays containing a wealth of information but does not offer the ready-reference access of the present set. J. Gordon Melton's "Encyclopedia of American Religions" (4th ed., Gale, 1994) covers many more individual denominations and delves into their respective histories but does not have articles on religious leaders.

Vital Statistics on Congress 2001-2002



By Norman J. Ornstein,
Thomas E. Mann, Michael J. Malbin. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (June 2002) : 300 pages

Vital Statistics on Congress, 2001-2002, is the definitive source of essential information for all who watch Congress -- as citizens, journalists, political scientists, students, lobbyists, and even as staff and members of the institution. The volume is an invaluable tool for observing and evaluating the changing shape of politics and the legislative branch of government. The eleventh edition is updated to include new statistical information on the 2000 elections and the 107th Congress. More than 100 tables and figures illustrate the dramatic changes taking place in Congress. In addition to the chapters on the members of Congress, elections, campaign finance, committees, the congressional staff, Congress's workload, budgeting, and voting alignments, this edition contains an introductory essay that describes Congress during three key eras over the past fifty years and identifies the major changes and patterns of stability in that period.



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United States Department of State An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, Vol. 8, No. 1, August 2003

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No.15, August 11, 2003

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DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Citizens in Training

By Gary Boulard, *State Legislature*, July/August 2003, pp. 44-49.

To counter a lack of interest in government among youth, the Center for Civic Education and the National Conference of State Legislatures are sponsoring a project called "We the People - Project Citizen." Part of an effort to reintroduce civic education to young people, the project will conduct experiments and encourage classroom discussions on freedom of speech, the Constitution, and how the democratic process works. A positive sign is the increasing number of students involved in volunteer projects or community service. The author also describes Project 540, funded by the Pew Charitable Trust, that encourages conversations between students in different schools on topics relevant to them, such as war and peace, the environment, homelessness, homophobia, and racism. The author hopes that projects like these will encourage future involvement by young people in civic activities.

2. Vox Populi: Public Opinion and The Democratic Dilemma

By Kay Lehman Schlozman, *Brookings Review*, Vol. 21, No. 3, Summer 2003, pp. 4-7.

Schlozman examines the appropriate balance between the preferences of the citizenry and the considered judgment of the policymakers. She uses the example of segregation in the pre-civil rights South, noting that it was morally

wrong but a majority of the voters approved of segregation. Schlozman also examines the limits of public polling -- depending on the way a question is asked, the public can express conflicting opinions. Schlozman describes how visibility can influence legislator's voting records, and provides other examples that illustrate the complexity of making policy decisions in a representational democracy.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

3. Testing The Links

By Hali Edison, *Finance & Development*, Vol. 40, No. 2, June 2003, pp 35-37.

Institutions are found to be the dominant factor in a country's economic performance, with policies having very little independent influence, Edison states. Economic analysis shows institutional quality has a significant influence on income, growth, and the volatility of growth, she says. This correlation suggests that economic outcomes could be substantially improved if developing countries improved the quality of their institutions. The role of policies in economic performance is not unimportant, but their influence on development is already reflected in the strength of institutions, she explains. Hali Edison is a senior economist in the International Monetary Fund's Research Department. This article is available online at: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2003/06/pdf/edison.pdf>.

"The books, articles, and web sites described in the Article Alert were chosen to represent a diversity of views in order to keep the IRC users abreast of current issues and concerns in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy."

4. Can India Overtake China?

By Huang Yasheng and Tarun Khanna, *Foreign Policy*, No. 137, July/August 2003, pp. 74-81.

Huang, an associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Khanna, a professor at Harvard Business School, note that China and India have pursued radically different economic development strategies. Currently, China is outperforming India, but India is doing better in certain key areas. India's emphasis has been on building infrastructure to promote growth from their own entrepreneurs and resources, while China's development strategy has been primarily to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). Many Indian companies are competitive with the West in cutting-edge fields such as computer software and biotechnology, as evidenced in last year's Forbes 200, an annual ranking of the world's best small companies, which included 13 Indian firms, but just four from mainland China. The authors state that China's FDI strategy has served them well so far, but India's path of homegrown development may deliver more sustainable growth in the long term.

5. Five Myths about The Oil Industry

By J. Robinson West, *The International Economy*, Vol. 17, No. 3, Summer 2003, pp. 45-47.

West, chairman of PFC Energy in Washington D.C., discusses five commonly held misconceptions about the oil industry. First, he dismisses the belief that the oil industry "owns Washington", noting that the oil industry is not a large employer and thus not a major voting block. Secondly, contrary to the charge that the war in Iraq was an "oil grab," the oil companies were actually against the war, fearing regional destabilization and volatility in financial markets. Third, he notes that the belief that "we can reduce our dependence on Saudi Arabia" ignores the fact that the world oil markets are fully integrated; if the U.S. reduced its direct demand for Saudi oil, the supply flows would simply shift, with no real impact on producers. As to the charge that OPEC is irrelevant, or a threat to our security, West notes that OPEC's role as price manager for the global oil market ensures stability. Finally, addressing the notion that oil companies make obscene profits, West notes that the industry is very capital-intensive, requiring large upfront investments in exploration and development, and when measured against other major industries, profits from oil and gas fall in the middle range. Oil's status as a competitive, global commodity means profitability varies widely from one year to the next.

GLOBAL ISSUES

6. AIDS Agenda Still Daunting

By Gregory Folkers and Anthony Fauci, *Issues in Science and Technology*, Vol. 19, No. 4, Summer 2003, pp. 37-39.

Reviewing progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the authors note the successes of prevention programs to slow the spread of the disease, and therapies using antiretroviral drugs to reduce deaths and mother-to-child transmission of the virus. They report on the ongoing research to develop vaccines, new prevention strategies, and treatment therapies for patients

who have developed resistance to today's drugs. They recognize the growing efforts to provide HIV care and prevention services in resource-poor settings and the continuing need to overcome the stigma and discrimination frequently faced by HIV-infected individuals. The authors conclude, "Now we must overcome the financial and logistical challenges, as well as those posed by stigma and discrimination, to make the availability of HIV treatment and prevention the rule, not the exception, for all the citizens of the world, rich and poor alike." Available at <http://www.nap.edu/issues/19.4/folkers.html>

POLITICAL SECURITY

7. Bush, China and Human Rights

By Rosemary Foot, *Survival*, Vol. 45, No. 2, Summer 2003, pp. 167-186.

The author notes that U.S.-China relations have improved since Sept. 11, largely due to China's expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance in counter-terrorism. Although the author notes that The Bush administration has overlooked certain areas of human-rights violations in the dramatic upheavals in U.S. foreign policy over the last two years, she believes that human rights remains "firmly on the map" with respect to U.S.-China relations. Foot describes the evolution of U.S. foreign policy with regard to human rights and China in particular, noting that the concepts of security and human rights are now entwined. Through most of the 1980s, the U.S. paid only intermittent attention to human rights in China, instead focusing on economic development; China was also seen as a tacit ally during the Cold War. All that changed after the Tiananmen Square massacre in June 1989, drawing a wide range of political and economic sanctions, and a heated debate in Washington on whether to link human-rights improvements with China's most-favored-nation trading status. The author draws a comparison between Sept. 11 and the Cold War, when human rights and other issues were given lower priority in what was seen as the greater importance of the struggle against communism. However, she notes that the "rhetorical war" over China's human-rights record has been won, and it is no longer impossible to ignore it in U.S.-China relations."

8. U.S. Power and Strategy after Iraq

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 4, July/August 2003, pp. 60-73.

Nye discusses the various views of America's role in the world after the second Gulf War, examining the arguments of the neoconservatives versus the more cautious traditional multilateralists. Nye explains that the use of hard power alone in an imperialistic manner could end up costing the U.S., currently as strong as Rome once was. Without the use of soft power -- persuasion and cooperation, rather than relying on military might alone -- the U.S. will have a more difficult time working with its allies. Nye argues that working with the UN and other multilateral organizations will help the neoconservatives in many of their goals, noting that "hard and soft power may sometimes conflict, but they can also reinforce each other." He describes the debate within the administration on the best approach. Nye advocates a careful blending of the two approaches or, at the very least, cautions against dismissing multilateralism.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

9. Benjamin Franklin Joins The Revolution

By Walter Isaacson. *Smithsonian*, vol. 14, no. 5, August 2003.

Benjamin Franklin, the Boston-born publisher of *Poor Richard's Almanac*, the inventor of bifocals and Franklin stove, the master negotiator and resourceful scientist, was also America's "most practical political thinker" says the author. In this article, the author describes the other side of Benjamin Franklin. Franklin, who retired as a printer in 1748, played a role in forging America's Independence, helping craft the Declaration of Independence itself, though after a change of heart. Walter Isaacson is also the author of a new biography, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*.



<http://usinfo.state.gov/topical/pol/usandun/>

10. In Praise of Nepotism

By Adam Bellow, *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 292, No. 1, July/August 2003, pp. 98-105.

The author notes that Americans are currently "living in a nepotistic Golden Age," a period in which public life abounds with relatives and offspring of prominent individuals in politics, business and the arts. While Americans have traditionally disapproved of nepotism, Bellow argues that today's American version can be described as "meritocratic nepotism" -- it originates chiefly from the initiative of the children, not string-pulling by powerful parents. Bellow, himself the son of novelist Saul Bellow, notes that the process works by a "natural osmosis... growing up around a business or vocation creates an early interest in the field. Bellow writes that the fifty years after World War II, which saw widespread class mixing, upward mobility and the rise of the meritocratic system, was unusual in American history. He believes that the new social stratification does not necessarily herald another "exclusive, inbred caste... but represents a corrective to the excesses of meritocracy." He concludes by noting that dynastic heirs "walk on very thin ice" in U.S. society, and are held to high standards. ●

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