

because they focus on legal issues of great importance. The West Memphis Three (1993-1994) deals with unlawful police procedures and dubious convictions; the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012 hinges on the subjective claim of George Zimmerman, the killer, that he believed himself to be in danger – a defence against homicide under Florida law. Some legislation also receives coverage: the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2002) lays down new procedures for the management and accountability of public companies and Arizona SB1070 deals with the hot topic of undocumented immigrants.

The book is good on some of the most sensitive issues of the day. These issues aggravate debate in America but they can never be fully resolved because the legal disputes around them mirror political differences: examples are the use of the Death Penalty, especially where the mentally ill are concerned, Police Corruption and Brutality, Background Checks for buying Guns and that eternal chestnut, whether prison exists to Punish, Deter or Rehabilitate. There are also a limited number of articles on methods and procedures: FBI Surveillance, No-Knock Warrants and Police Body Cameras. Lastly there is some material on institutions such as Supermax Prisons and Immigration Detention Centres. It is worth noting that all the entries focus on specific issues – there are no articles on drugs, police, FBI or prisons in general.

The *Encyclopedia* is a book of its time and many of the articles in it might not have found inclusion 20 years ago. They are today's "fashionable" offences (forgive my flippancy). In this category, I would include Anti-Gay Hate Crime, Campus Responses to Sexual Assault, Cyber-Bullying, Hate Crimes against Muslims, Identity Theft, Medical Marijuana, School Shooter Profiles, Victim Impact Statements and so on. Some of these may have been real issues two decades ago but they did not make the headlines they do today.

Now to the oversights. A good deal of the book deals with blatant crime – crimes which outrage individual rights or disturb the public peace. But there are other crimes which are "systemic" and seemingly victimless. They are almost integral to America's system of society but the book has very little to say about them. Environmental crime is an issue of grave concern to everybody but it gets just one article even though its consequences are potentially disastrous. White-collar crime is

neglected as well although insider dealing on Wall Street can net billions. The crimes of Kenneth Lay (Enron) Bernie Ebbers (World.Com) and Bernard Madoff, the author of Ponzi schemes, ruined countless people's lives. American courts take these cases extremely seriously but apparently the *Encyclopedia* does not. The sentences reveal the gravity of the crimes: Lay died before sentencing but Jeffrey Skilling, his CEO, got 24 years in jail; Ebbers got 25 and Madoff will die there.

Organised crime gets off lightly as well. One article deals with New Mafia Groups and RICO is mentioned in the index (the Racketeering-Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act, 1970) but the treatment it receives ends there. Terrorism is touched upon under FBI Surveillance and Extraordinary Rendition but this topic also deserves more attention than it gets. In all four cases, the book's rather oblique coverage is insufficient to do the subject justice.

In general, this is a useful collection of articles on many aspects of the theme but there are too many holes in the coverage. It is hard to believe that enough thought went into planning the book. It ends with a bibliography (there is also further reading after each article) and a 50-page section of Personal Reflections by various writers. Navigation of the e-book, as here reviewed, is easy. In print, it occupies two volumes but I have not seen them.

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The Encyclopedia of Central Banking

Edited by Louis-Philippe Rochon and Sergio Rossi

Edward Elgar

Cheltenham and Northampton, MA

2015

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Review DOI [10.1108/RR-04-2017-0086](https://doi.org/10.1108/RR-04-2017-0086)

With central banks looming larger in the public consciousness in the wake of the great recession of 2008, perhaps more attention than ever is being paid to central banks and their activities. So far as I am aware, this *Encyclopedia* breaks new ground in being the

first devoted exclusively to central banking, defined in the book's introduction as "the variety of policy targets, strategies and instruments used by monetary authorities all around the world". The *Encyclopedia* does not eschew, though, pertinent theories and concepts. It succeeds in its aim of being "a voluminous, but synthetic work".

The alphabetically arranged 244 articles written by 154 contributors deal with a wide range of relevant topics including theories (e.g. Gresham's Law), practices (e.g. Quantitative Easing), concepts (e.g. Financial Bubble), people (e.g. Alan Greenspan), laws (e.g. the Glass-Steagall Act) and institutions (e.g. the European Central Bank). The authors are mostly at academic institutions with a handful currently working for central banks. The *Encyclopedia* is written with a keen eye to the 2008 recession and its possible lessons. The articles vary somewhat in length but not by very much, being about two pages each. They are notably well done: sophisticated and very informative without wasting words. The articles often provide the views of different – even including so-called "heterodox" – economic schools of thought on the subject. For example, the article on Free Banking cites the views of the Austrian School, the Banking School and the New Monetary Economics. Sometimes the authors forthrightly express their own opinions. For example, in the article on the euro-area crisis, the author writes, "(O)n the whole, the euro-area crisis shows that a single monetary policy for a structurally and economically different series of countries does not work properly [. . .]". Each article has references – sometimes quite a few – listed at the end and cross-references to other articles in the *Encyclopedia*. While well-written and rich in content, there is a major, and surprising, flaw in that there is no index (only the print edition is being reviewed; there is an electronic version as well).

The audience likely to benefit most from *The Encyclopedia of Central Banking* is one with some economic knowledge but without deep familiarity of central banking or monetary theory, for example undergraduate economics and finance students. Those with little economic knowledge will find many of the articles difficult to understand. This work is likely most useful for college and bank libraries.

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The Global Water Crisis: A Reference Handbook

David Newton

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Contemporary World Issues

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Keywords Water supply, Water management, Environmental management, Guides and handbooks

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Part of ABC-CLIO's *Contemporary World Issues* series, this work offers a broad overview of water-related problems faced throughout the world today. It deals with a selection of contemporary challenges and solutions to the complex set of problems characterised as a global water crisis.

The work introduces basic topics in encyclopedic entries of a couple of pages with each one containing a significant amount of cited references as well as further reading. A Perspectives section includes individually authored essays and case studies that attempt to reveal the complex nature of water issues. A Profiles section includes essays about notable individuals and significant organisations. A brief Data and Documents section contains a small number of tables and a collection of primary documents, largely legal resources, court case summaries and laws (including, for example, the Colorado River Compact). A very useful feature of the work for undergraduate students is an Annotated Bibliography where a paragraph is used to indicate the content of each work in the bibliography. However, the annotated bibliography is limited to books and articles published in the most recent years, that is, few years before the publication of this work. A selection of works from a broader period may have been more beneficial to students attempting to gain basic knowledge of this field. The work ends with a chronology of important events in water management covering over 8,000 years of human history. The work also contains a glossary, as has been a common practice in textbooks and some encyclopedic works for many years, but upon