American Prisons and Jails: An Encyclopedia of Controversies and Trends

Rob Tench
*Old Dominion University, ftench@odu.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/libraries_fac_pubs](https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/libraries_fac_pubs)

Part of the *Collection Development and Management Commons*

**Original Publication Citation**


This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at ODU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Libraries Faculty & Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of ODU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@odu.edu.
related to extraterrestrials. In this revised and updated third edition of a work originally published in the 1990s, Clark (Unnatural Phenomena) and ufology researchers, investigators, and folklore experts cover a variety of topics, from abductions and sightings to conspiracy theories and the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind. There are more than 100 new entries and updates that provide context to the glut of declassified UFO-related documents released by the U.S. government since the last edition. The contents are treated objectively, presented with facts “as they are known,” including instances in which good reason exists to doubt the sincerity of informants. An expanded bibliography lists every source, including more than 4,000 books, articles, letters, and government documents.

VERDICT Recommended for general readers and researchers interested in UFO phenomenon.

—Gary Medina, El Camino Coll., Torrance, CA


Two giants of horticulture collaborate to produce a book of considerable heft—a “bible” for tree nerds. Both authors are plantmen, but Dirr comes from academia (emeritus, horticulture, Univ. of Georgia; Manual of Woody Landscape Plants), while Warren is a retired tree breeder and nurseryman. Urging readers to “choose wisely, plant carefully, and plant often,” Dirr and Warren present more than 2,400 species and cultivars suitable for the temperate northern hemisphere (“tree” is defined in terms of mature height—15 feet as the rough lower limit). Each profile includes common and botanical names, details on foliage, flowers, seeds, fruits, cones, native range, availability, adaptability, and popular uses in landscapes. Recommendations and disapprovals are plainly stated, as in the good (any oak), the bad (Callery pear), and the ugly (Siberian elm). Most of the nearly 3,000 color photographs were taken by the authors and strongly support their observations on arboreal form and texture. The writing entertains with its lively stylistic mix of technical, impressionistic, and, occasionally, irreverent approaches to tree selection.

VERDICT Readers familiar with Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs will miss its generous back-of-book selection aids, and some will find the current volume’s index erratic, especially concerning common names. But these are quibbles: Dirr and Warren have given those who plant, care, and love trees an essential reference.


SOCIAL SCIENCES


According to the Worleys (criminal justice, Lamar Univ.), Americans comprise five percent of the world’s population but almost one-quarter of its prison inmates. In addition, the editors estimate that $80 billion is spent annually on jails in this country. As the title indicates, this work’s focus is on U.S. correctional systems and practices, although there is a scattering of information on foreign prisons. In an excellent introduction, the editors provide a brief sketch of the historical development of U.S. prisons, succinctly detailing the reasons for the country’s rise in incarceration rates, from 96 prisoners per 100,000 citizens in the early 1970s to the current 698 prisoners per 100,000. Besides expected entries on famous inmates and...

Beginning with a powerful introduction by Carol Gill (emeritus, disability & human development, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago) on disability as a civil rights issue and a foreword on the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this two-volume set explores milestones in study of disability and human development—to produce a comprehensive reference. This up-to-date work covers efforts to weaken the ADA in 2018 and contains entries by scholarly contributors on everything from ableism, advocacy, and autonomy to citizenship, language, and stigma. Standout entries on ethics and voting rights reinforce the importance of the continued fight for equal access. The collection is intersectional, showing how race, gender, sexuality, and class directly impact care. While the editors claim the work is not exhaustive, they still offer a comprehensive time line, including a chronology of laws starting with the Smith-Sean Act of 1918, and a well-rounded list of Supreme Court cases, such as Olmstead v. L.C. (1999). VERDICT Filling a need for historical and cultural information on an understudied subject, this title highlights the economic and political power of people with disabilities and should be an essential resource.—Stephanie Sendaula, Library Journal

TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY
National Geographic Almanac 2019.

Dubbed National Geographic’s “first-ever” almanac for adults, this title doesn’t disappoint. With more than 400 pages and its trademark exceptional photography, the volume rings in 2019 by presenting and answering readers’ questions about everything from science and nature to history and geography. The book opens with trending topics including weather extremes, plastic, space travel, gene editing, and developments in urban environments. Topical themes and eye-popping pictures will satisfy trivia buffs, curious questioners, and science nerds alike. Need to know more about homo sapiens? Curious about natural wonders such as manatees and hummingbirds? Want to identify the highest point on Earth? Deepest lake? Wonders in your backyard? Browseable infographics and chapter-leading “quiz master” questions will satisfy. VERDICT A hefty yet thoroughly absorbing reference for most public libraries.—Sharon Verbeten, Brown Cty. Lib., Green Bay, WI