Publisher Profile-Palgrave Macmillan Ltd.
Global Social Issues: An Encyclopedia
(2012, 978-0-7656-8292-5, $349) from Sharpe Reference
deals with a much broader topic and is intended for a
broad audience than SAGE’s Encyclopedia of Trauma.
Edited by veteran encyclopedia editor James Climent and
Christopher G. Bates of California State Polytechnic
Institute at Pomona, this three-volume set contains 136
dividual chapters discussing specific global issues that
would be of interest to upper division high school
students, undergraduates, and the interested lay reader.
Almost every chapter provides a section on
historical background while at the same time
trying to place a geographic perspective on the
issue by noting its importance and impacts in a
variety of countries and regions. In addition,
the current and future status of the issue is given
a solid airing. Generally, two primary source
documents, or excerpts from the document,
are provided for each issue — one historic, the
other contemporary. While sticking to a general
formula there is no exact template employed for
these chapter. As a result, some chapters offer
more comprehensive treatments. However,
each one fulfills its mission by providing a solid
foundation for further exploration. Value-added
features include a topic finder divided by broad
categories, lists of further readings for each
chapter, and a general index.

Global Social Issues: An Encyclopedia is
the type of reference work that students will
naturally turn to in order to locate background
information on a topic. Each chapter provides
a straightforward treatment that places the
issue in historic context while keeping a focus
on current status and recent developments.
In addition, each chapter offers solid leads
to books, journal articles, and Web resources
useful in furthering a student’s research. Lib-
raries serving undergraduates and high school
students with assignments on global issues will
find this set worth considering.
(It is also available on Sharpe Online Reference.)

The African American Electorate: a Sta-
tistical History (2012, 978-0872895089, $350)
is a two-volume set from CQ Press that claims to
be a “pioneering study” offering “the first
systematic and comprehensive longitudinal
analysis of the African America electorate in
America.” As one examines the highly detailed
table of contents, it becomes obvious that this
set will live up to its promise. This reference
is a treasure trove of statistical information
and narrative explanation uniquely focused
on the evolving story of African American
suffrage rights.

Utilizing a chronological approach, African
American Electorate traces this compelling
story from the electoral participation of
“Free-Women-and-Men-of-Color in Colonial
America to their electoral disenfranchisement
in the same era and into subsequent eras,”
followed by the slow but determined march
toward voting rights and full enfranchisement
after the Civil War. Interspersed throughout
are literally hundreds of statistical tables and
charts as well as numerous maps that help bring
the narrative to life.

Given the wealth of information contained
in these two volumes, a reader-friendly
arrangement along with helpful finding aids is
vital. Fortunately, attention has been paid to
these concerns. The detailed table of contents
referenced earlier is present in both volumes,
and investing time examining it gives the
researcher a solid grasp of the scope and com-
prehensiveness of the coverage. A general
index appears in both volumes and points to
useful narrative information as well as specific
tables, maps, and figures. Quotations and data
appear throughout, each chapter has a compre-
prehensive list of reference notes, and there is a
bibliography of all of the copyrighted sources
referenced at the end of Volume Two. There
is also a cumulative bibliography that includes
key data sources, government documents,
primary sources, periodical articles, and online
works that will prove of particular value to
scholars doing extensive research in this area.

African American Electorate: a Statistical
History is an impressive work of scholarship
on a very significant topic. Serious students of
African American electoral history will find it
an essential title. In fact, any student interested
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