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museum descriptions have been omitted, as they change regularly. Over 30 color plates and one color map of Egypt have been added. Numerous cross-references ensure that readers do not miss anything relevant to a chosen topic or place. Included are 18 maps, numerous ground plans (some detailing artwork locations and meanings), “further reading” recommendations, a list of kings and dynasties, travel tips, information on cities and towns, and indexes to people and places. Armchair travelers and true tourists will benefit from reading this in-depth, scholarly guide.

Summing Up: Recommended. ★★ Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.—N. Mactague, Aurora University

50-1244 [Internet Resource]
Open Knowledge Repository, from the World Bank. URL: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/
[Visited Aug’12] The Open Knowledge Repository is a project from the World Bank to preserve and make available to the public its vast storehouse of publications. Launched in April 2012, the site comprises World Bank resources published from 2005 to 2012, including reports, academic books, journals, and working papers. The site is simple and easy to use. The home page features new titles and a search box for the entire website. Content can also be browsed by collections, authors, publication date, topics, or titles. The six main collections are Annual Reports and Independent Evaluations, Journals, Working Papers, Books, Economic and Sector Work Studies, and Sector/Thematic Studies. A small collection titled Multilingual Content offers some of the publications in 12 languages. An advanced search provides filters (e.g., by topic, region, or country) as well as sort options. The help section includes Site Statistics such as the top 50 items most viewed and downloaded.

All items include an abstract, a link to the full text, metadata, a permanent link, and a statistical information section that shows the countries from which the item was accessed. Although most of the World Bank information is now available through Open Knowledge Repository, the World Bank plans to continue offering World Bank e-Library (CH, Dec’04, 42-1976), a subscription-based product, which offers enhanced functionality, MARC records, the ability to personalize content alerts and bookmarking content, and access to current articles published in the World Bank Research Observer and World Bank Economic Review. With this new resource, the World Bank has taken an enormous step in improving access to its publications. See also, the World Bank’s Open Data (CH, Sep’10, 48-0059), a rich repository of statistical data, which is also free to the public. Summing Up: Highly recommended. ★★★ All levels.—L. Camacho, Brigham Young University

50-1245 DS786 2011-46580 CIP

Powers (Australian National Univ.) and Templeman (Monash Univ., Australia) offer a comprehensive dictionary that includes an informative introduction to the history of Tibet’s land, people, religion, and politics, and a useful explanation of regional Tibetan language and the Wylie transliteration system. Also featured is an extensive chronology that begins at 27,000 BCE with the early Neolithic period and settlements in Chu bzang, and extends to April 2011, when bLo bzang seng ge was elected second bKa’ blon khris pa. Readers also will find a helpful glossary of common phonetic spellings and Wylie transliteration equivalents; a listing of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the book; and a thorough bibliography that is categorized by numerous subjects, including language and literature, the Mongol empire, empire, and Tibetan borderlands. Black-and-white maps are at the beginning of the book, with black-and-white photographs scattered throughout. More than 1,000 brief alphabetical entries discuss the key events, people, social issues, foreign relations, and policies that make this vast country distinct. This will be a valuable resource for a variety of audiences interested in Tibet or in Asian studies or history. Summing Up: Highly recommended. ★★★ Academic, research, and public libraries; lower-level undergraduates and above, and general readers.—T. S. H. Chan, SUNY Oneonta

50-1246 DS119 2011-50994 CIP
Schell, Terri. Middle East conflict: v.1: Primary sources; v.2: Almanac; v.3: Biographies; v.4: Cumulative index, by Terri Schell with Sonia G. Benson; Jennifer Stock, project ed. 2nd ed. Gale, part of Cengage Learning, 2012. 4v bibl index ISBN 9781414486079, $225.00

At first glance this second edition (1st ed., 2006) from Gale’s U XL publishing arm, which focuses on secondary school readers, appears to be a questionable purchase for an academic library. Side-bar text definitions in the Primary Sources volume include basic words like negate and coerced. However the scope of the work encompasses a clear, up-to-date overview and perspectives on the Middle East in an accessible format. Thus this set offers useful background and readings for an undergraduate course focused on a politically charged area. The three main volumes, which can be purchased separately, provide identical prefatory material with glossary, events time line, and volume index. Additional readings and websites are incorporated for each multipage entry, and relevant maps, illustrations, and easily scanned headings enhance the text. The Almanac features 16 chapters of historical background, ranging from ancient civilizations through the 2011 Arab Spring. Biographies profiles 35 notable individuals from the region, e.g., Golda Meir, Osama bin Laden, Amin al-Husayni, and Pierre Gemayel. Primary Sources begins with the 1937 Peel Commission Report and extends through the Arab Spring, including political documents and speeches. Also featured are artists’ perspectives and excerpts from personal accounts such as Terry Anderson’s Den of Lions (1993) and Souha Béchara’s Resistance: My Life for Lebanon (2003). Each source includes historical context, a “What happened next ...” section, and study questions to provoke analysis. The combined set, with the cumulative index (v.4), constitutes a more extensive and valuable reference resource than each volume alone. The available electronic version (not reviewed)—if it features hyperlinks between entries in separate volumes—might be an even more advantageous option. Summing Up: Recommended. ★★ Lower-level undergraduates and general readers.—J. M. Hutton, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

50-1247 HF3021 2011-50442 CIP

Skrabec (Univ. of Findlay) has produced an accessible reference work for American business history. Although based on stand-alone descriptions of historical events, it reads more like a single fascinating story with 100 short chapters. Arranged chronologically, most entries are two or three pages long and range from the privatization of the Plymouth Colony in 1623 to the bankruptcy of General Motors in 2009. According to the introduction, the events were selected because of their importance to the commercialization of new inventions or