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Outstanding Title!
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Encyclopedia of geography, ed. by Barney Warf.  SAGE Publications, 2010.  6v bibl
index  afp ISBN 9781412956970
<http://worldcatlibraries.org/wcpa/isbn/9781412956970>, $805.00 (reviewed in
CHOICE April 2011).

This set is outstanding in both scope and comprehensiveness. Other geographical
encyclopedias tend to be more narrowly focused (e.g., human geography, world
geography), limited in content, or both. In this six-volume set, Warf (Univ. of
Kansas; editor, Encyclopedia of Human Geography, CH, Jan'07, 44-2471) worked with
942 authors to create a work of 1,224 entries, including more than 900 images and
3,000-plus pages. The subject is organized into six categories: physical
geography; human geography; nature and society (agriculture, environment and
people, hazards, disasters, pollution, etc.); methods, models, and GIS
(cartography, GIS, qualitative and quantitative techniques, and remote sensing);
the history of geography; and people, organizations, and movements (over 150
biographies and 40 organizations). All entries are arranged alphabetically, and
the main entries for the set are repeated in each volume.

Volume 1 provides additional functionality by grouping entries within the six
major categories into two to six subcategories, allowing readers to easily
identify broad topics of interest. Detailed access is provided via a remarkable
200-page index at the end of volume 6. Warf acknowledges that entries are not
comprehensive portraits, but rather essential overviews. Entries generally range
in length from one to three pages, and are accessible to undergraduate students
and the lay public. Larger topics, such as human geography, remote sensing, and
history of cartography, are often 5-6 pages but can exceed 15. Many entries are
accompanied by colored tables, graphs, charts, or photographs, and often are
based on recent data. Cross-references to additional entries show the
interrelatedness of topics. Finally, each entry has a further reading list
ranging from 2 to 15 sources. Summing Up: Essential. A must for academic
libraries and larger public libraries; lower-division undergraduates, upper-
division undergraduates, and general readers.

--K. P. McDonough, Northern Michigan University

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