

Atlas of the Pacific Islands, by Max Quanchi. Milton, Queensland: John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd; Honolulu: Bess Press, 2003. ISBN 1-57306-154-9; iv + 156 pages, maps, gazetteer. US\$24.95.

Although this atlas has been expressly designed for those who “live and study in the Pacific region,” the title of this well-illustrated volume is something of a misnomer. It is rather a secondary-school-level world atlas with a substantial focus (about 40 percent of the 156-page text) on the Pacific Islands region, including Australia. The Pacific Islands and comprehensive World sections are supplemented by a 34-page world gazetteer. The volume opens with a useful, 4-page “atlas skill” section, which includes concise presentations on standard subjects such as map keys, latitude/longitude, and map scale. Page layouts are generally attractive with a creative and information-rich mix of maps, photos, graphs, and additional satellite and computer generated images. In some cases, however, there appears to have been an unfortunate tendency to compress too much material onto each page. Graphics and accompanying font sizes are sometimes too small for easy comprehension. As an example, a graphic on compass reading on page 4 has microscopic compass bearing numbers that are essentially unreadable. Even when larger graphics are employed, opportunities are sometimes missed. On an attractive, full-page map of the Pacific Ocean sea floor there is no attempt to convey the dynamics of crustal plate move-

ment so critical to an understanding of regional volcanism, earthquakes, and general geological process. This plate tectonic information is, however, conveyed elsewhere in the text as part of a much smaller, unrelated sidebar.

Both the World and Pacific sections of the atlas are peppered with a total of twenty-seven useful “case study” sidebars grouped under three major themes: the physical world, the human world, and conservation and management. Examples of Pacific Island case studies include the Rock Islands of Palau, the geologic evolution of Pacific islands, impacts of the Bikini nuclear testing, and tourism in Vanuatu. Strangely, a sidebar on “Exploring the Pacific Region” focuses solely on European explorers, thus missing entirely one of the most dramatic events of humankind, the initial long-distance colonization of the Pacific, initiated by the early water crossing to Australia from the Lesser Sunda Islands and culminating with the rapid Polynesian settlement of remote Oceania. This sidebar also includes a photo of Thor Heyerdahl’s *Kon-Tiki* raft, a logo for his thoroughly discredited “westward-drifting” theory of Polynesian settlement. In spite of this specific criticism, it is clear that considerable thought went into selection and development of the sidebar materials and themes that bring into focus a range of complex physical, cultural, and environmental issues in the region.

The 60-page Pacific Islands section of the atlas opens with an initial 12 pages on broad thematic elements (eg, land tenure and agriculture,

urbanization and natural resources). This is followed by 1- to 2-page map/graphic spreads on each of the region's political entities. These are well done, although one might question why Sāmoa and American Sāmoa are separated by many pages in this section. A valuable "Pacific Statistics" table at the conclusion of this section is somewhat compromised by the absence of year-specific data sources; "latest available at time of publication" could frustrate students looking for a concise socioeconomic citation.

Overall, the reviewers can recommend this volume as a useful student resource for the Pacific region.

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The Captain Cook Encyclopaedia, written and edited by John Robson. London: Chatham Publishing, 2004. ISBN 1-86176-225-9; 288 pages, figures, maps, appendixes, bibliography, index. US\$49.95.

The Captain Cook Encyclopaedia, edited and largely written by John Robson, is an attractive, well-illustrated guide to the life and voyages of Captain James Cook. The book is also connected to a Web site that offers some additional, but currently limited, information and links: <<http://www.captaincookencyclopaedia.com>> (note the English spelling). It is written for a general readership and would be accessible to readers who have little knowledge of Cook's voyages.

Up until the publication of this encyclopedia, the best reference source on Cook was the index in J C Beaglehole's monumental *Life of Captain Cook* (1974). The biography still has a greater number of entries and sometimes a more comprehensive discussion, but the encyclopedia is better organized as a reference work and has some more up-to-date entries, such as a half-page discussion of "Endeavour replica," a half-page discussion of the "Captain Cook Society (CCS)," and other entries that talk about portraits, stained glass, and stamps. While Beaglehole focuses on Cook's biography, the encyclopedia also considers Cook as a historical and cultural icon, which is often more interesting than the details of the voyages themselves.

The appendixes to the encyclopedia are also very useful. In addition to lists of books and logs, there is an appendix that lists relevant libraries, archives, and museums, giving their addresses and Web sites; a list of the crew, with some biographical information; and a gazetteer of places named after Cook and his crew (although this does not include things such as streets).

The trivia embedded in the encyclopedia makes Cook, his voyages, and his subsequent mythological presence fascinating.

Evaluating an encyclopedia, however, is different from evaluating a regular book. Most books make arguments or narrate events, but an encyclopedia is supposed to offer a sense of an entire subject. With an encyclopedia, it is not the coherence of the narrative or the argument that mat-