The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History. Ed. by Stanley N. Katz. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr., 2009. 6 vols. alkaline $750 (ISBN 978-0-195-13405-6).

The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History is a major new reference work in international legal history. This unique encyclopedia synthesizes and integrates developments of legal systems around the world, providing the user with in-depth treatment in the following eight areas: ancient Greek law; ancient Roman law; Chinese law; English common law; Islamic law; medieval and post–medieval Roman law; South Asian, African, and Latin American law; and United States law. However, it should be noted that there is unequal treatment of legal topics. The editor-in-chief provides two reasons for the disparity in treatment. First, he has chosen to emphasize the areas where good scholarship is available, explaining that "existing scholarship in legal history is quite unevenly distributed as to geography and time periods" (xxiii). Second, he acknowledges that the audience for this work is "by definition English-speaking, [and] some bias in favor of the United States and the other countries in the English legal tradition is appropriate" (xxiii). Nonetheless, this encyclopedia would be an ideal reference work for those researching comparative issues in law, politics, history, and religion.

The six-volume encyclopedia contains 621 alphabetically arranged topical and country-specific entries and more than 350 black-and-white illustrations. Additionally, select topics are further divided into subtopics. For example, the entry "Chinese Law, History of" is divided into seventeen subtopics. This work also features expertly annotated up-to-date references at the end of each entry. Moreover, there are detailed cross-references directing the user to appropriate topical headings. For example, a user searching for information on

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Confucianism is directed to "Chinese Law, History of, *subentry* on Eastern Zhou, Warring States (464–221 BCE), and Qin State and Empire (c. 350–206 BCE). Finally, the encyclopedia features a topical outline, a case index, and a 265-page general index.

Stanley N. Katz, the editor-in-chief, is a lecturer with the rank of Professor of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He has authored and edited numerous articles and books. The area editors are affiliated with academic institutions, and the contributors are alphabetically listed in a directory that further details academic affiliations and area of authorship.

The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History is recommended for advanced undergraduate and graduate studies in law, politics, history, and religion.—*Jacquelyn N. McCloud, J.D., Student, School of Library and Information Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio*