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7-6-2014

Book Review of The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture Volume 19: Violence . Ed, by Amy Louise Wood

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Citation Information

Anderson, Joanna M.. 2014. Book Review of The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture Volume 19: Violence . Ed, by Amy Louise Wood. *Tennessee Libraries*. Vol.64(2).
http://www.tnla.org/?page=TL64_2_bookreviews#Wood_A._L. ISSN: 1935-7052

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Ed, by Amy Louise Wood**

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Book Reviews

Kathy Campbell, Book Reviews Editor

Wood, A. L. (Ed.). (2011). *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. Volume 19: Violence*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 368 pages. ISBN: 9780807872161

The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 19: Violence is a collection of entries of essays by scholars who specialize in the history and culture of the American South. The University of North Carolina Press and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi collaborated in creating a multi-volume work on understanding the Southern United States.

The Encyclopedia contains a General Introduction to the conception of *The Encyclopedia* and details the unexpectedly favorable responses to the series by critics. Also included in the General Introduction is a synopsis of the rise of academic research and studies in Southern American Culture in the past few decades. The Introduction to the volume briefly states what is contained in the volume.

The volume is a compilation of 101 entries that are actually essays discussing topics such as American Indians, Blacks, Whites, the poor, family feuds, antiabortion violence, the bowie knife, race riots, biographical information on specific figures in the American South, and even movies, such as *The Birth of a Nation* and *Deliverance*. Each essay is written by scholars who specialize in Southern American Studies. While a number of articles contain illustrations, the volume as a whole would have benefitted from the inclusion of more photographs. This reviewer noted a mistake in the section on "Films about Prison" where Burt Lancaster is mistakenly identified as the actor who played Paul Cullen in the 1974 version of *The Longest Yard* (Burt Reynolds played the role of the Paul "Wrecking" Crewe).

The entries are organized alphabetically into one of two different groupings with longer essays in one section and shorter essays in the other section. There is no explanation in the Introduction as to why this configuration was chosen and there doesn't seem to be an inherent reason either. Although there is an index to the volume, the organization of the book could prove to be very confusing to those who do not read academic literature.

The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Volume 19: Violence is perfect for libraries and archives who collect information about the South and would like short succinct information about various topics dealing with violence in the South and its context within all of the United States. It is a great source for Southern pop-culture as well.

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