



tables highlighting the debates.

From Booklist The format of this new reference source makes it especially useful for working with groups who are studying current social problems. It is divided into eight slender volumes--so that one student can read about Animal rights while others, for example, pay attention to Capital punishment, Euthanasia, Hate crimes, Obesity, Stem cell research, Urban sprawl, or any of the many other topics considered to be the major social concerns in the U.S. today. More than 160 entries are between 6 and 16 pages long. Each includes historical background on the issue; a discussion of current problems, debates, and possible future developments; a chronology; fairly extensive lists of references and Web sites to consult for further information; a glossary; and, in most cases, one or more selected primary documents. The chronology for Air pollution begins with 1306, when Edward I of England banned the burning of sea coal; describes Los Angeles' first "smog attack," in 1943; and traces the efforts of the American Lung Association and others to clean up the air. The article concludes with the need for basic awareness, ongoing education, and a global effort to address this problem. Volumes 1-7 include the "Topic Finder," enabling the reader to find all of the A-Z entries that fall under such broad subjects as "Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Issues," "Economic and Class Issues," "Education Issues," and more. A "Cross Reference Index," also helpfully repeated in the first seven volumes, points students interested in, say, racial profiling to the specific entries Civil rights; Criminal rights; and Redlining, loan discrimination, and predatory lending, among others; it takes the place of see also references within entries. A comprehensive set index is found in volume 8. Most of the contributors are from academia, but the articles are written for a wider audience. Anyone who wants to know more about the problems the world faces and, in particular, any student who has an assignment to learn about a particular social issue will find this set useful. The combination of convenient format and historical perspective, thought-provoking questions, and direction to sources of additional information makes this a recommended resource for high-school and public libraries. Sally Jane Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved