



Encyclopedia of National Dress [2 volumes]: Traditional Clothing around the World

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This two-volume set presents information and images of the varied clothing and textiles of cultures around the world, allowing readers to better appreciate the richness and diversity of human culture and history.

- Contributions from over 50 experts in their field
- Dozens of photographs
- A bibliographic listing of further reading and references with each section

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Encyclopedia of National Dress [2 volumes]: Traditional Clothing around the World From ABC-CLIO Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up-Intended for students who need a greater understanding of how individual dress is influenced by culture, available materials, and climate, the information in this set is broken down either by country or by regions that include a few countries. While every nation is not represented, all major cultures of the world are here, covered in 1,500- to 7,000-word articles that offer background information and detail on men's and women's dress-explaining the materials used and the various types of clothing observed where more than one ethnic group lives in a country or region. Articles close with lists of mainly print further-reading suggestions. Access is enhanced by the cross-referenced entry guide and the index that allow readers to compare different types of clothing between countries quickly. While its rich, descriptive language attempts to give readers a full picture of dress around the world, the lack of large color illustrations limits this set's use; the small black-and-white pictures and drawings provided don't add much. Doreen Yarwood's *Illustrated Encyclopedia of World Costume* (Dover, 2011) covers some of the same material but its alphabetical-by-clothing arrangement makes it less useful for country studies. Valerie Steele's *Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion* (Scribners, 2004) is mainly set up like Yarwood's book but presents some information by region. Both also have black-and-white illustrations. Patricia Rieff Anawalt's *The Worldwide History of Dress* limits the number of words used, but makes up for that with large color pictures and breaks down the information by region then country. This ABC-CLIO work could be an additional purchase for libraries that have Anawalt's book.-Ann West LaPrise, Huron School Dist., New Boston, MI(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Even as the world becomes more global and homogeneous, members of different cultures and countries still express their distinctions through their clothing. *Encyclopedia of National Dress* attempts to identify the type of dress that best expresses the identity of more than 130 nations or autonomous regions. In some cases, such as the Japanese kimono, this is straightforward; in others, particularly younger countries like Israel, it can be more challenging. Ranging from 1,500 to 7,000 words, articles begin with brief historical and geographical context (derived from the CIA World Factbook) in order to inform the discussion in the main body of each entry, "People and Dress." Depending on the region, subsections describe such topics as materials and techniques, iconic types of garments, sartorial differences among ethnic or religious groups, and jewelry and body modification, such as tattooing or body painting. As the introduction acknowledges, with the adoption of Western dress by cultures throughout the world, folk dress in many countries is increasingly limited to festivals or ceremonies. Even identifying a particular type of dress that exemplifies an entire country can be a challenge—there are two chapters devoted to Australia, for example, to differentiate between the dress of Aboriginal Australians and European settlers, as well as four devoted to particular regions of the U.S.—Hawaii, Hispanic West, New England, and Native North America. Each article includes a handful of photographs; however, the images are black and white and generally small. Although the text describing the national dress of the various countries is detailed, it is no substitute for an image, especially when the importance of color or detail is being emphasized. Color photos, preferably larger, would have been a valuable addition. Despite this flaw, the set will provide students with a user-friendly resource for country reports or other social-studies research. Supplementary materials, such as a list of museums with strong national dress/textile collections and a selected bibliography, also suggest additional avenues for more in-depth study. Recommended for large public and high-school library collections. --Lindsay Harmon

Review

"Matters of race, gender, and class form part of the content in each entry, since those elements may be differentiated, depending on the country, by garments, jewelry, accessories, makeup, body paint, and body modifications. . . . Recommended." - **Choice**

"This work has many strengths. It makes it clear from the start that most examples of clothes preserved in museums around the world belonged to the aristocracy and the elite, and are not representative of what ordinary citizens would wear. . . . [F]or those looking for an addition to their fashion or general history collection, this is an excellent, accessible, and affordable option." - **Reference Reviews**

"Traditional costumes from more than 130 nations, regions, and islands are detailed in 80-plus entries. The basic entry format is an overview of the nation's history and geography, a synopsis of typical style of clothing for men and women, and, in some cases, mention of jewelry, special occasion/regional dress, and body modification/body art. The nontechnical, straightforward material is written by specialists, such as fashion historians and museum curators, many of whom reside in the country of which they write. Articles of clothing are well described and often accompanied by black-and-white photographs." - **Library Journal**

"Overall, the *Encyclopedia of National Dress* offers a good introduction to an important visual marker of any cultural group's clothing." - **ARBA**

Users Review

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Brian Bottoms:

Typically the book *Encyclopedia of National Dress* [2 volumes]: *Traditional Clothing around the World* will bring one to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book *Encyclopedia of National Dress* [2 volumes]: *Traditional Clothing around the World* is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Eugene Obrien:

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