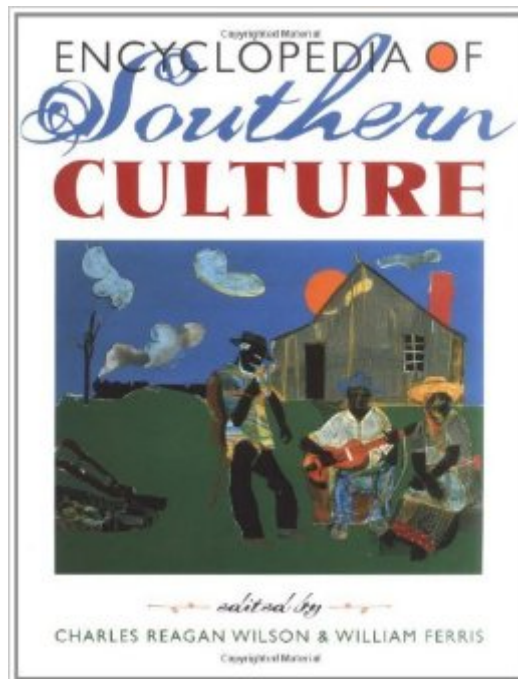


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Encyclopedia Of Southern Culture



Synopsis

The American South is a geographical entity, a historical fact, a place in the imagination, and the homeland of an array of Americans who consider themselves southerners. The region is often shrouded in romance and myth, but its realities are as intriguing, as intricate, as its legends. The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture is "the first attempt ever" notes U.S. News & World Report, "to describe every aspect of a region's life and thought, the impact of its history and policies, its music and literature, its manners and myths, even the iced tea that washes down its catfish and cornbread." There are many Souths, many southerners. The region's fundamental uniqueness, in fact, lies in its peculiar combination of cultural traits, a somewhat curious, often elusive blend created by blacks and whites who have lived together for more than 300 years. In telling their stories, the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture ranges from grand historical themes to the whimsical; from the arts and high culture (William Faulkner and Leontyne Price) to folk culture (quilts, banjos, and grits) to popular culture (Gilley's and *Gone With the Wind*). The Encyclopedia's definition of the South is a cultural one: the South is found wherever southern culture is found. Although the focus is on the eleven states of the former Confederacy, this volume also encompasses southern outposts in midwestern and middle-Atlantic border states, even the southern pockets of Chicago, Detroit, and Bakersfield. To foster a deeper understanding of the South's cultural patterns, the editors have organized this reference book around twenty-four thematic sections, including history, religion, folklore, language, art and architecture, recreation, politics, the mythic South, urbanization, literature, music, violence, law, and media. The life experiences of southerners are discussed in sections on black life, ethnic life, and women's life. Throughout, the broad goal is to identify the forces that have supported either the reality or the illusion of the southern way of life -- people, places, ideas, institutions, events, symbols, rituals, and values. The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture was developed by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. Contributors to the volume include historians, literary critics, sociologists, anthropologists, geographers, linguists, theologians, folklorists, architects, ecologists, lawyers, university presidents, newspaper reporters, magazine writers, and novelists.

Book Information

Hardcover: 1656 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; First Edition edition (September 18, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807818232

ISBN-13: 978-0807818237

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 3.1 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #277,083 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Reference](#) #130 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Literature](#) #139 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Mythology & Folklore](#)

Customer Reviews

This is a great book. I enjoy hours of reading it. All of my childhood memories of growing up in Little Rock come back. Being forced out of Arkansas to California to complete my education after Governor Faubus closed the schools, didn't dampen my view of the South. I plan to buy all of the new subjects that have just been published by these publishers.

This book is a wonderful, interesting look of the south and it's history and cultures.

Right off the bat, you should know that this book is gigantic and can be cumbersome. (The book is a good 4 inches thick). I also expected to receive a colorful cover on the book like the one that is pictured, but got a plain grayish-green cover instead. Just be aware that you might not get the book that is pictured. Also the book is a LITERAL encyclopedia with a topic and a description next to it, like in the old Encyclopedia Britannica. I have other books that call themselves "encyclopedias" but their format is looser and more conversational in tone, and therefore seem more accessible to me. But, that being said, the entries I have read so far are fascinating and quite informative about the South! I purchased the book as a kind of writer's aid, and I believe it will work very well in that regard. Although I can't help but be a little disappointed by the way this book is formatted, I will certainly give it a chance. It's going to take me a long time to get through it, but I'm very sure I will enjoy the journey, as I love everything about the South!

Recently relocated in the deep south, much is foreign to me. This encyclopedia touches on everything southern and is most enlightening. Fascinating reading.

Very good reading . Have bought 3 as gifts .

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