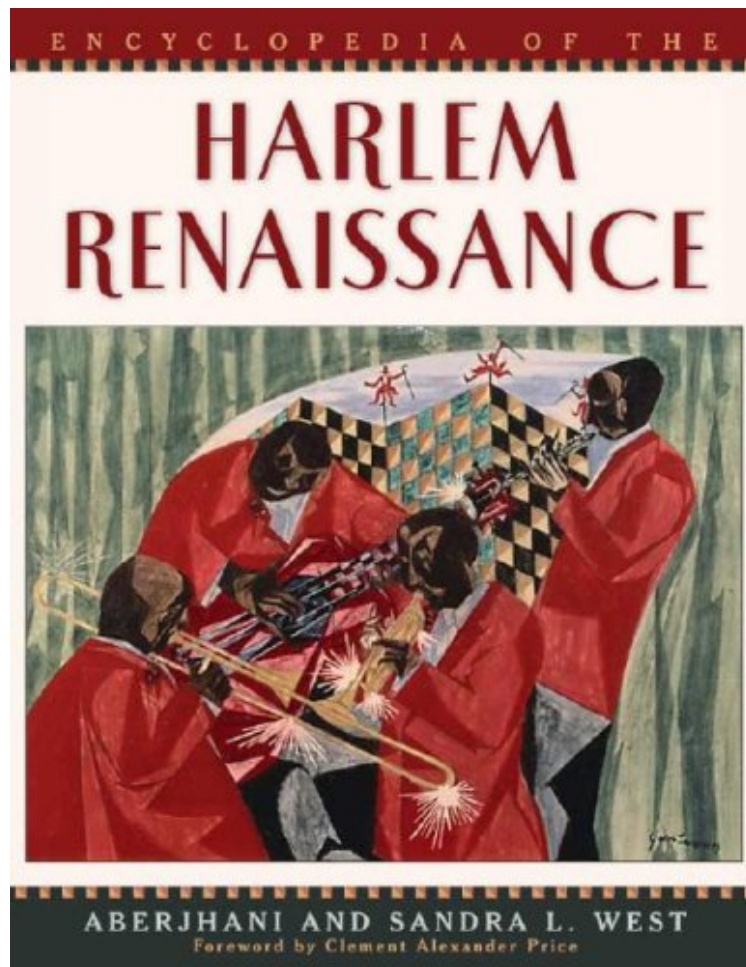


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Sandra L. West, Aberjhani
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Sandra L. West, Aberjhani : Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance (Facts on File Library of American History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance (Facts on File Library of American History):

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Can't believe I'm the first to review this...By David H. Peterzell PhD PhDI'm absolutely, positively NOT an expert on this topic. I'm interested in the topic for its own sake, and I'm also interested in cultural and environmental factors that foster creativity. I have kept this book in my car for the last couple weeks, and I find myself reading a passage or two here and there. I've been reading it along with Abdul-Jabbar's recent book. There are quite a few books out there on the Harlem Renaissance, and the last 100 years of African-American history. I'm not familiar with most of them.Here's why I loved THIS book.The writing is superb. The passages are about 1-4 pages each, and they confront the reader with the snap, crackle and pop of concise, crisp

journalistic prose. The authors have a knack for deepening knowledge while causing the reader to want to know even more about the topic. The portraits tend to be descriptive without being judgmental, which adds credibility to the passages and force to the general topic. At the same time, the authors seem psychologically savvy, providing internally consistent life histories in many instances. There's a phenomenal amount of information here about remarkable people and places. The scholarship appears to be quite good, with helpful references following each passage. This review is a work in progress, so stay tuned. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE LIVES!** By kip EXCELLENT resource for anyone studying the Harlem Renaissance! There are so many great stories, facts, and photos in this you won't be able to put it down! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Young Amer Chrstn Schl Students so grateful to have this.

In the decades of the 1920s and 1930s in Harlem, New York City, there developed a unique awakening of mind and spirit, of race consciousness and artistic advancement. This declaration of African-American independence became known as the Harlem Renaissance and this is a study of the era.

From School Library Journal Grade 9 Up--Originating in the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to urban centers in the North and Midwest, the Harlem Renaissance flourished in new ideas in political thought; artistic achievements in the theater, music, literature, and the visual arts; and the establishment of civil rights organizations, unions, and other associations. This encyclopedia is a comprehensive alphabetical listing of more than 370 topics that exemplify this movement. Each entry is followed with suggestions for further reading. Appendixes include a glossary of Harlem Renaissance slang; 12 maps including those of the Confederate states, the Great Migration, and New York City; and a list of museums and centers that feature works from the period. The black-and-white photographs are primarily of individuals and there are occasional reproductions of artwork. The illustrations vary in quality, but do add to the text. Previous knowledge of the period, such as that found in Ann Graham Gaines's *The Harlem Renaissance in American History* (Enslow, 2002) or Veronica Chambers's *The Harlem Renaissance* (Chelsea, 1997), would help students use this encyclopedia effectively.--Ann Joslin, Erie County Public Library, PA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Although numerous reference works contain significant entries on the Harlem Renaissance, this is the first encyclopedia devoted to the movement. Entries are ordered alphabetically and cover famous names (Duke Ellington, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston); influential organizations (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Universal Negro Improvement Association); popular black magazines and newspapers (Amsterdam News, Chicago Defender, Pittsburgh Courier); musicals (Hot Chocolates, How Come?); notable places ancillary to the awakening in Harlem (Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.); and other topics (Howard University, Patrons, Rent party). Entries on nonblack people who had an effect on the time period, like Fiorella LaGuardia, illustrate the comprehensiveness of the volume. Most entries are half a page, though some stretch over a few pages. The volume is liberally filled with photos and graphics that bring the time period to life. All entries are followed by a further reading list. Additionally, there is a compiled bibliography at the end of the book. Cross-references are plentiful and helpful. A brief (three-page) foreword, entitled "Race, Blackness, and Modernism during the Harlem Renaissance," provides a historical context and background for the entries, as does the introduction, "Black Phoenix Rising." A "Glossary of Harlem Renaissance Slang" in appendix A defines terms such as dogs (feet) and kicks (shoes). Appendix B contains maps delineating subjects like African American population, states with laws banning interracial marriage, and train routes used to migrate northward. Even a somewhat detailed map of Harlem is provided. A chronology begins in 1619, when the first slaves came to Virginia, and continues up until the present day. Indexing is detailed but not comprehensive; the index entry Talented Tenth, for example, misses the references to "Talented Tenth" in the W. E. B. DuBois entry. Overall, this is a fine resource--one could read it like a book, from cover to cover. Recommended for high-school, public, and academic libraries. RBBC Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. From the Author The story behind *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance* has probably been told best in the personal essay "Strength to Carry On," which is included in *The American Poet Who Went Home Again*. I had quit my job as a bookstore manager in order to serve as a fulltime caregiver and was working as a freelance journalist while also writing the novel that eventually would become *Christmas When Music Almost Killed the World*. I had serious doubts about tackling a project as monumental as the first published encyclopedia on the Harlem Renaissance. After several rounds of debates with myself and consultations with co-author Sandra L. West, I decided such an encyclopedia was overdue and if my pen was required to help make it happen, then help make it happen I would. Not only would it allow me to publicly express my gratitude for all that authors such as James Weldon Johnson, Zora Neale Hurston, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Langston Hughes had given to my life, but it would also allow me to provide educators with a powerful teaching tool and general readers with an entertaining inspiring guide to one of the most creatively brilliant and inspiring periods in American history. What writer wouldn't want to rise to such a wonderful challenge? --Aberjhani