

The Complete Guide to National Symbols and Emblems [2 volumes]

By James B. Minahan

These two volumes offer an unprecedented collection of flags, seals, and symbols used every day around the world.

- Entries are organized by region and then alphabetically by country
- An extensive print and nonprint bibliography directs students to sources for further research
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From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up—This handy ready-reference resource is arranged alphabetically by continent and then country. Each nation is analyzed in about four columns of text. Standard data such as official name, languages, religions, capital city, and type of government is included, as are more unusual facts such as flag meaning, patron saint, Internet identifier, national heroes, and "Significant Events in Formation of National Identity." In many ways, the set comprises an expanded, more comprehensive version of the country section of a world almanac. Information is stated in a nonbiased and straightforward fashion, and each entry contains the same elements when available. Country names are identifiable by the use of capital letters in a larger font size; subjects are in all capital letters as well, allowing readers to scan quickly for desired information. A section in the middle of each volume provides color flag and state-crest images. This set will be useful for country reports, and the details about national heroes will serve as a springboard to compare the traits that are valued in different locations.—*Beth McGuire, Fannett-Metal School District, Willow Hill, PA*

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From [Booklist](#)

This set is an impressive compilation of material that should be quite useful for anyone looking for current information about flags, anthems, athletic teams, cuisines, and such. The 200-plus entries cover independent nations of the world and some dependent states and territories that seek greater visibility, such as Wallonia (an autonomous region within Belgium) and Puerto Rico. Volume 1 covers Asia and Oceania, Central and South America, and Europe. Volume 2 covers the Middle East and North Africa, North America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa. National flags and coats of arms are shown in color. The alphabetical list of entries in each volume names each country; the guide to related topics in each volume enables the reader to identify entries within broad geographic areas. The index directs users to entries that mention specific individuals, such as Grace Kelly, and organizations. An appendix lists international organizations like the Commonwealth of Independent States, the North African Free Trade Agreement, and the International Olympic Committee and provides some information on each. In addition to information on symbols and emblems, the user can learn an area's population, official language(s), type of government, representative

religions, flora and fauna, national heroes, national motto, brief history, and more. Other useful information is included, such as national Internet identifiers, vehicle identification codes for licenses and stickers, passport cover descriptions, and national airline liveries. Persons using this source will want to keep a good atlas handy, as there are no maps and no indication of where within each continent the countries lie. Nevertheless, the work is filled with useful ready-reference information and is recommended for academic and public libraries. Also available as an e-book. --Sally Jane

Review

"This set is an impressive compilation of material that should be quite useful for anyone looking for current information about flags, anthems, athletic teams, cuisines, and such. . . . the work is filled with useful ready-reference information and is recommended for academic and public libraries." - **Booklist**

"...handy ready-reference resource...This set will be useful for country reports, and the details about national heroes will serve as a springboard to compare the traits that are valued in different locations." - **School Library Journal**

"This is a well-produced set, with a section in each volume for color illustrations of national flags and coats of arms. Summing Up: Recommended. Especially for larger collections; lower-level undergraduates and above, and general readers." - **Choice**

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