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Salem Press Announces a Brand-New History Titles: *The Ancient World: Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Societies*

Salem Press is pleased to add a new work to its popular line of history titles. *The Ancient World: Extraordinary People in Extraordinary Societies* is a 4-volume survey of the cultures and civilizations of the world from prehistory through 700 C.E. In addition to providing comprehensive coverage of the ancient Greeks and Romans, often regarded as the foundation of Western civilization, this work examines the civilizations, cultures, traditions, monuments and artifacts, wars and battles, and important personages from 11 regions of the ancient world: Near East, India, Far East, Rome, Africa, Central Asia, Oceania, Europe & the British Isles, Americas, Egypt & Alexandria, and Greece. The set combines material from Salem Press's 2002 *Encyclopedia of the Ancient World* with hundreds of brand-new essays for a total of 1,440 articles offering an unparalleled, cross-cultural view of the ancient world.

Each of the 11 world region sections begins with overviews designed to introduce the major themes of life in that region and anchor the reader in a specific ancient society. They include food, religion, government, architecture, art, literature and myth, warfare, trade, family life, city life, and more. Overviews also include detailed essays on groups of people specific to that time and place, including royals, nobles, soldiers, priests, tradesmen, peasants, slaves, and women. Following the grounding, big-picture overviews, readers are presented with A-to-Z entries of people and places specific to that ancient region—rulers, warriors, scholars, battles, and temples—and hundreds of photographs, maps, and images that bring the material in the overviews to life.

The time span covered in *Ancient World* ranges from prehistory to 700 C.E., and each essay includes a date, although a civilization or group might have existed beyond the given date. Occasionally, coverage has been extended a few hundred years to complete coverage of a topic (such as a civilization) that naturally ends at that later date. Ample cross-references guide readers to related entries throughout the four volumes to aid further understanding of the topic. The overviews include subheads throughout, guiding the reader to specific geographical areas or topics of interest. The alphabetically arranged entries that follow the overviews include ready-reference top matter highlighting pertinent information such as date, location, significance of cultures and civilizations, birth and death dates, associated civilizations, and major role or position of important military and cultural leaders. Essays on traditions, monuments, artifacts, documents, and places include the date, location, associated civilizations, and significance.

Essays on wars and battles include the date, locale, associated civilizations, and significance, plus subheads such as “Background,” “Action,” and “Consequences” to make the material easy to understand and absorb. Pronunciations for many of the less familiar names and places used in essay titles appear at its first mention.

Front matter featured in this encyclopedia includes:

- A detailed Table of Contents that includes all Overviews and A-Z entries for all regions
- A guide to pronunciation for terms used in this work
- A list of maps of the ancient world
- List of contributors and their affiliations
- Editor’s Introduction

Back matter includes:

- A chronological listing of all entries as well as a general time line of significant events of the ancient world
- Selected calendrical systems and the system of months related to those calendrical systems to help readers understand the varying approaches to measuring time in the ancient worlds
- A glossary with definitions of more than 160 words found within the text
- A bibliography organized by major categories
- A subject index

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