

# SALEM PRESS

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## **Salem Press Announces the Eighth Volume in the Brand-New Series *Countries, Peoples & Cultures: North America & the Caribbean***

*Countries, Peoples & Cultures: North America & the Caribbean* is the eighth volume of a new nine-volume series from Salem Press. *Countries, Peoples & Cultures* offers valuable insight into the social, cultural, economic, historical, and religious practices and beliefs of nearly every country around the globe. With nine comprehensive, up-to-date volumes spanning every major world region, this in-depth reference source is one of the most thorough compilations of its kind on the market today. The large nations discussed in this title include: Canada, Mexico, and the United States-individually, and the Caribbean island nations together as a whole.

Canada is home to nearly 36 million people, with more than half of the population being British or French descent. It is made up of ten provinces and three territories along with two official languages, English and French. Canada consists of a few different geographic regions; the basin area consists of boreal forest, the interior plains, and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence lowlands. Canada also has highland regions consisting of major mountain ranges, large rivers, and large lakes. The main political parties of Canada are the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, and the social-democratic New Democratic Party. Next is the Caribbean region which is an island area defined by the Caribbean Sea in its southern reaches and the Atlantic Ocean in the north. The region's population is currently over 39 million. Politically, the region is diverse, ranging from communist Cuba to various democratic republics. Mexico follows, which is separated from the United States by the Rio Grande along its northeastern boundary and by a land border along its northwestern boundary. Its population is close to 120 million, with about three-fifths of its people being mestizos, about one-fifth American Indians, and most of the rest being of European ancestry. Its principal language is Spanish, although there are dozens of Indian languages in use locally. The geography of Mexico is varied, at the core of the country lies the high Mexican Plateau, which is enclosed by mountain ranges and there are also two major peninsulas. Lastly, is the United States which contains over 3.5 million square miles, with most of the population, which stands at over 320 million being of European descent. The United States is a federal republic with two legislative houses, a judiciary, and a chief executive. There are over fifty states and over a dozen dependencies.

### **About the Series**

Every volume in the *Countries, Peoples & Cultures* series contains **Country Profiles** that explore each nation's background, practices, beliefs, laws, peoples, and more, ensuring users receive a complete, three-dimensional understanding of the countries they research. Every profile contains a picture of the country's flag and two large colored maps—one highlighting the country's location in its region of the world and the other detailing the capital, major cities, and major natural landmarks. An Introduction provides general information about each country, such

as its Population, Official Language(s), Physical Size, Climate, Currency, and National Motto/Anthem. Subsequent sections dive deep into a diverse array of topics, including: Environment & Geography (Topography, Plants & Animals); Customs & Courtesies (Greetings, Gestures & Etiquette, Eating/Meals, Visiting); Lifestyle (Family, Housing, Food, Life's Milestones); Cultural History (Art, Architecture, Music, Drama, Literature); Culture (Arts & Entertainment, Cultural Sites & Landmarks, Libraries & Museums, Holidays, Youth Culture); Society (Transportation, Transportation Infrastructure, Media & Communications); Social Development (Standard of Living, Water Consumption, Education, Women's Rights, Health Care); Government (Structure, Political Parties, Local Government, Judicial System, Taxation, Armed Forces, Foreign Policy, Dependencies, Human Rights Profile); and Economy (Industry, Labor, Energy/Power/Natural Resources, Fishing, Forestry, Mining/Metals, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Tourism). Each profile also includes full color photographs, valuable tables of information—such as “Do You Know?” facts—and a comprehensive Bibliography.

Additionally, two helpful appendixes are included. Appendix One contains information about **World Governments**, focusing on 21 different types of governments found around the world today, from Commonwealth to Treaty System. Every profile includes sections detailing the government's Guiding Premise, Typical Structure, Role of the Citizen, and Modern-Day Examples. Appendix Two profiles **World Religions**, concentrating on 10 of the world's major religions, from African Religious Traditions to Sikhism. Each profile in this appendix includes information on the religion's Number of Adherents, Basic Tenets, Major Deities, Sacred Texts, Major Figures, Major Holy Sites, Major Rites & Celebrations, Origins, and more. Finally, a scholarly **Introduction** by the Editor and an alphabetical **Index** are also provided for the reader's convenience.

**The following titles make up the entire *Countries, Peoples & Cultures* series:**

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| • <i>Central &amp; South America</i>    | • <i>East &amp; Southern Africa</i>        |
| • <i>Central &amp; Southeast Asia</i>   | • <i>West &amp; Central Africa</i>         |
| • <i>Western Europe</i>                 | • <i>North America &amp; the Caribbean</i> |
| • <i>Eastern Europe</i>                 | • <i>East Asia &amp; the Pacific</i>       |
| • <i>Middle East &amp; North Africa</i> |  |

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