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Salem Press Announces the Ninth Volume in the Brand-New Series *Countries, Peoples & Cultures: East Asia & the Pacific*

Countries, Peoples & Cultures: East Asia & the Pacific is the ninth 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.

East Asia encompasses the area formerly known as the Far East. The countries included in this region are China (both mainland China and Taiwan), Japan, Mongolia, and the Koreas. Vast majorities of this region are partly or entirely encircled by giant mountain ranges. From the Tarim Basin, in the far western section, eastward, there are some 5 million square miles of high plateau and interior drainage, where no river reaches the sea and some rivers simply expire in the desert. Below these highland areas stand the floodplains of eastern China. This region is made up of three great rivers: the Yellow (Huang) in the north, the Yangtze (Chang) in the middle, and the Xi in the south. This is where the majority of China's nearly 1.4 billion inhabitants live. To the extreme northeast, across the Yellow sea, lie North and South Korea, occupying a peninsula of eroded mountains rimmed by coastal strips. North and South Korea together are home to some 75 million people. To the west of the Koreas are the Japanese Islands, even more mountainous than the Korean Peninsula and situated along one of the world's major fault zones. Honshu is the largest island and is referred to as the Japanese mainland. Japan's population is about 127 million. Finally, Taiwan, off mainland China, is one of the most densely populated countries of the world, with over 23 million people living on an island of just under 14,000 miles.

Oceania is the collective name for the groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean lying between the southeastern shores of Asia and the western shores of the Americas, together with the continent of Australia and the island nations of New Zealand and Papua New Guinea (sometimes referred to as Australasia). The lands of Oceania are generally grouped according to their inhabitants and settlement histories into Melanesia (e.g. Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji), Micronesia (e.g., Marshall Islands, Mariana Islands, Caroline Islands, Kiribati), and Polynesia (e.g. Samoa, Hawaii, Tonga, Tuvalu, Easter Island). New Zealand is usually considered part of Polynesia; while Australia stands apart in having its own rather unique settlement history.

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

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