

SALEM PRESS

Published & Distributed by Grey House Publishing

For Immediate Release

December 10, 2015

Contact: Jessica Moody, VP Marketing
(800) 562-2139 x101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Salem Press Announces the Fifth Volume in the Brand-New Series *Countries, Peoples & Cultures: Middle East & North Africa*

Countries, Peoples & Cultures: Middle East & North Africa is the fifth 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 Middle East and North Africa are often discussed together because of the profound cultural and historical importance of Islam and the Arabic language in those areas. Both the religion and the language were spread from the Arabian Peninsula beginning in the 7th century and continue to dominate much of the region.

Although there is no universal agreement as to the boundaries of the Middle East, a broad census holds that it is the area of southwest Asia that extends into Europe (via Asia Minor or the Anatolian Peninsula) and northwest Africa (Egypt, Sudan). It includes the following states: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine (a *de jure* state), Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, and Sudan. As a cradle of ancient civilizations, this “middle” zone lying amid three continents has long been of great strategic importance. It also has been, beginning in the latter half of the 20th century, of fundamental economic importance because of its vast oil resources. Deep political and religious divisions, the cause of several major wars in recent decades, have kept the area in almost continuous turmoil and moreover have occasionally threatened the peace of the world.

North Africa is more easily defined. It comprises Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. It corresponds largely with the so-called Arab Maghreb, or the mountainous desert situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert. The region contains vast unpopulated and sparsely populated areas; most of its population and its economic activity are concentrated in comparatively small areas.

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • <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> | |

FREE ONLINE ACCESS

Libraries and schools purchasing the printed version of any Salem Press title receive complimentary online access to that title on Salem's new online database, <http://online.salempress.com>. Combining Salem's Literature, History, Health, Science, and Careers titles, students and researchers can now access all of their Salem content on one comprehensive site.

Countries, Peoples & Cultures: Middle East & North Africa

Pub. Date: October 2015

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-61925-798-6

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-61925-799-3 | 600 Pages | \$125.00

Publisher: Salem Press