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Salem Press Announces the Third Volume in the Brand-New Series *Countries, Peoples & Cultures: Western Europe*

Countries, Peoples & Cultures: Western Europe is the third 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.

Geographically, Europe is the western extension of the earth's largest landmass, Eurasia. *Western Europe*, in turn, is simply the western portion of Europe, as distinguished from central and eastern Europe. In the modern era, the western/non-western divide corresponds with the boundaries established during the Cold War, when the Soviet Union led a bloc of Soviet-influenced countries in the eastern and central regions and the non-communist countries of the western region stood in opposition to them. Thus, today's western Europe consists of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Switzerland in the center of the region; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Ireland in the north, and Andorra, Greece, Italy (plus Vatican City), Malta, Monaco, San Marino, Spain, and Portugal in the south. The landforms of Europe present a wide diversity, from below-sea-level flatlands and steep fjords along the Atlantic to blocky plateaus and high, crested mountains farther inland. For all of its physical diversity, Western Europe is in many ways just as diverse with respect to its people. Linguistically, for example, two main branches of family of human languages are represented here: Germanic languages and Romance languages. Throughout European history, linguistic differences have played a major role in the growth of nationalism and the development of distinct national cultures.

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 &

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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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