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Preface

Welcome to *The Mystery of History*. It is an honor and a privilege to be addressing you in the fourth and final volume of this world history series — this time subtitled "Wars of Independence to Modern Times (1708 to 2014)." While I have personally grown weary of the wars and conflicts of the three centuries covered, I have developed a new appreciation for the heroes and heroines who played their roles well in world history and left us with incredible stories of hope and inspiration! But before we can get to these stories, allow me to share a few disclaimers.

First, I humbly acknowledge that though I have spent years researching this time period, there may be typos, inaccuracies, or errors embedded in these pages. None are intentional! Our publishing team of well-qualified editors and historians asks for your grace ahead of time for what may have slipped past us and for your patience while we make ongoing corrections as necessary. Inevitably, the contents of world history, or our understanding of it, *will* change as long as mankind continues to dig up the past and explore the depths of it.

Second, though this is a "world" history course, there is a greater amount of attention given in this volume to the history of the Western Hemisphere. This imbalance is in no way meant to imply superiority of any ethnicity, sex, or culture, but rather it is a reflection of the history most pertinent to my audience.

Third, without reservation, this book is written from a Christian worldview. As a former career missionary, I openly share my faith in Christ through the platform of world history that God has given me, while seeking to address other faiths with dignity and respect. My basis for truth is the inspired Word of God and the timeless Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Fourth, please know that each volume in this four-volume series is more advanced than the last in regard to reading level *and* content. I would describe each volume as jumping up "about" two grade levels. This means that if Volume I is on a 3rd/4th-grade level, then *this* volume is on a 9th/10th-grade level. Now, because most homeschool families are using this course to teach multiple grade levels at the same time, I have done my best to provide creative, age-appropriate activities to keep younger and middle school students engaged through even the most difficult material. But be aware that numerous parts of the twentieth century (like the subject of the Holocaust) may be disturbing and should be skipped entirely by some children, or retold by you in terms you feel are appropriate. While I am a proponent of using tough topics to teach life lessons of good and evil, only you will know when the time is right to address sensitive subjects with your students.

Last, for encouragement, fellowship, questions, resources, or updates on new products, please join any of *The Mystery of History* Yahoo support groups. To subscribe, visit:

- Volume I: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory1
- Volume II: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory2
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For the Sake of the Mystery,
Linda Lacour Hobar
May 2014