



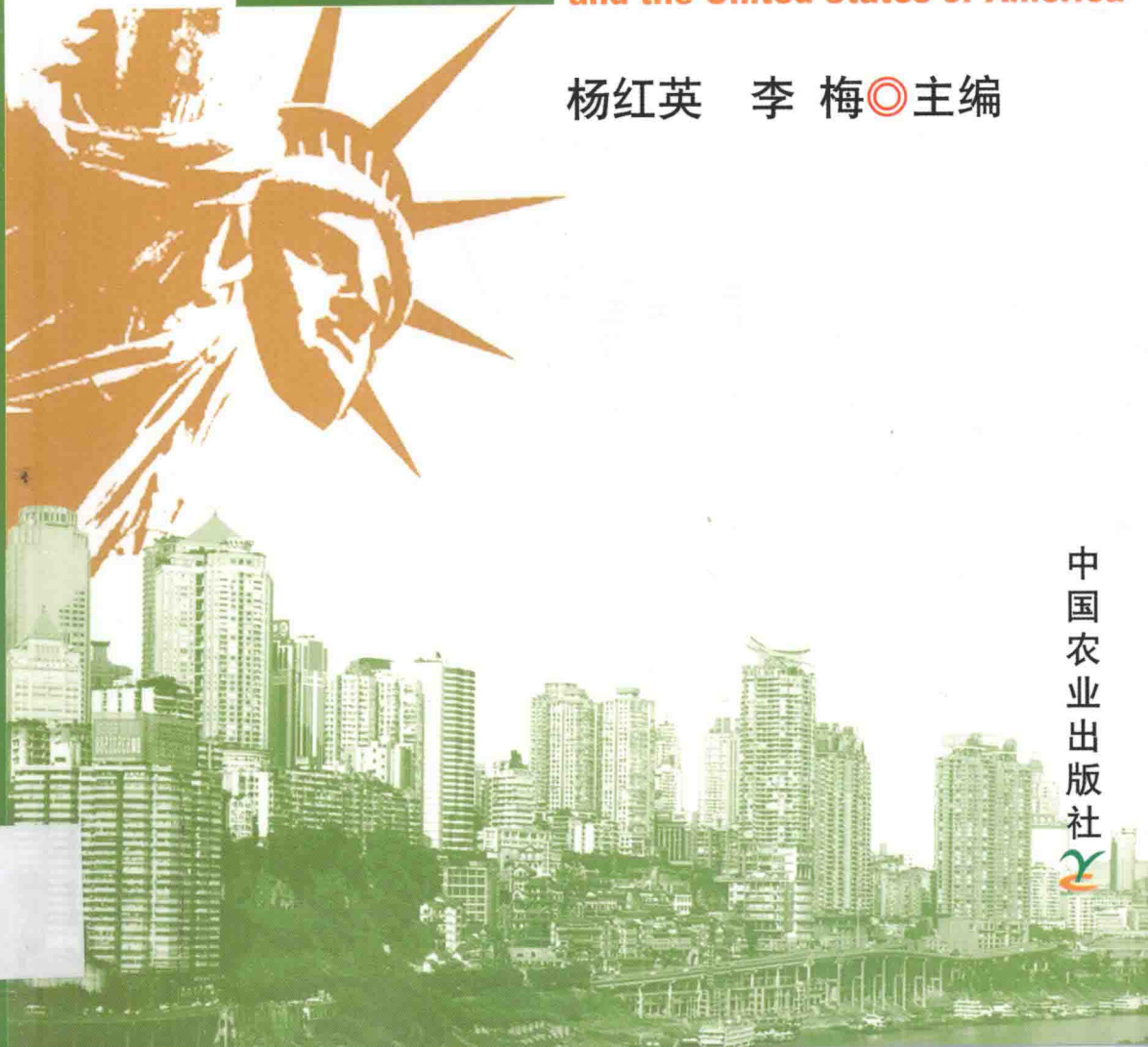
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全国高等农林院校“十二五”规划教材

英美概况

A Survey of the United Kingdom
and the United States of America

杨红英 李梅◎主编

中国农业出版社



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英美概况

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A Survey of the United Kingdom and the United States of America

P 前言

Preface

今天的中国飞速发展，与世界各领域在积极的接轨，但与西方世界在政治、历史、文化诸方面的较大差异，让中国学生在理解西方文化，尤其是发生文化碰撞时捉襟见肘，相形见绌。语言并不是他们唯一的困难，背景知识的缺乏反倒成为难以逾越的鸿沟。然而多年来，大学外语教学却很少重视这些文化背景知识，造成大学生不了解甚至误解英美的思维方式、价值观念及生活方式。为了增强大学生对文化差异的敏感性，促进其语言实际应用能力，我们组织编写了英美概况一书。

本书的适用对象是高校非英语专业的学生。语言是文化的一面镜子，高校非英语专业学生对大学英语的学习不仅仅是掌握听说读写就能满足的，英美概况的学习对非英语专业学生来说是重要的，然而当前现有的英美概况教材大多是针对英语专业的学生，对非英语专业学生来说，难度较大，内容较为繁琐。同时绝大部分高校没有重视这方面的学习，导致了这些学生对英美两国基本知识的匮乏，从而对英语一知半解，不能从更深层次上掌握英语。基于当前这种情况，我们希望本教材的编写能够帮助学生了解英国和美国的地理、历史、政治、文化等方面的基本知识，有助于他们了解英美的思维方式、价值观念、生活方式，以此更好地掌握和运用英语语言，同时提高他们的跨文化交际意识。

本书的编书原则是：



第一，在辩证的观点和历史的观点的基础上，从发展的角度客观、辩证地分析英美两个国家的重大历史事件，政治、经济、社会生活等领域，如实地反映两个国家的面貌。

第二，在内容的选择上，我们遵循的原则是范围广，有侧重。本教材涉及英美两个国家的地理、历史、经济、政治、教育、社会生活等多方面内容，同时，又突出重点，叙述尽量简明扼要。

第三，在本书的编排上，在每一章后增加了练习题，包括选择、填空、简答及论述题，让学生对课本的学习更加有针对性，使重点更加明确，让每一篇章方便学生梳理和掌握。

第四，本书的编写也是为了适应和跟进大学英语教学改革的思想理念，本教材除了强调英语语言技能知识的培养，更加注重英语学习的实用性和人文性，帮助培养学生深入批判思考的能力。

本书的完成是集体智慧的结晶。参与本书编写的人员全部是工作在教学第一线的骨干教师。英国部分第一章、第二章由任秋兰老师编写，第三章、第四章由符娟娟、种法娟老师编写，第五章、第六章由李梅、王珍、王丽慧老师编写，第七章由任秋兰、梁伟老师编写，第八章由任秋兰、梁伟、李梅老师编写。美国部分第一章、第二章由刘培昕老师编写，第三章、第四章由符娟娟老师编写，第五章由李梅老师编写，第六章由李梅、王丽慧老师编写，第七章由刘培昕、梁伟老师编写，第八章由任秋兰、梁伟、李梅老师编写。全书由杨红英老师统稿。

由于编者水平有限，加之编写时间有限，难免会有疏漏和欠妥之处，望读者朋友批评指正。

编者

2013年7月

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...PART 1

THE UNITED KINGDOM



CHAPTER 1

THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

FOCUS

- Name and Location of the UK
- Physiographic Features
- Climate and Weather
- People
- Major Cities





1.1 Name and Location of the UK

The official name of Britain is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which is shortened to the UK. It is made up of four constituent parts: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus a large number of big and small coastal islands. The total area of the country is 244,100 square kilometers. Britain is situated in Northwestern Europe and is separated from the European continent by the North Sea, the Strait of Dover and the English Channel. It is an **insular** country, the coastline of which runs 12,429 kilometers. To the west of it lies the Atlantic Ocean, across and beyond it is America.

1.2 Physiographic Features

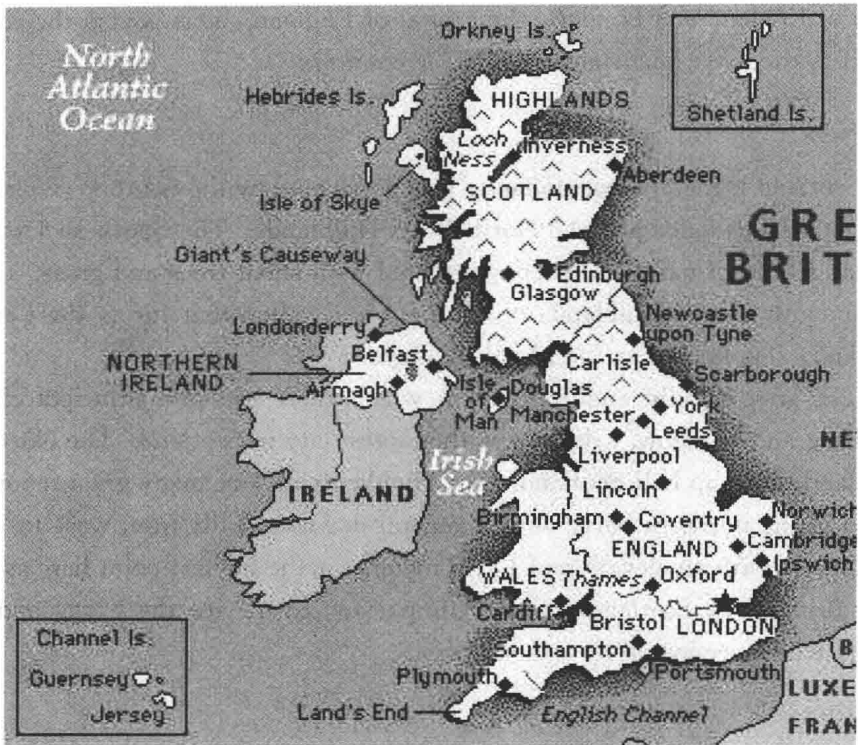
British Isles lie off continental Europe. The largest of the islands is Great Britain which consists of England, Scotland and Wales. The next largest **comprises** the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland which belongs to the UK. The landscape of the country is quite varied, ranging from the hills and mountains in Scotland and Wales to the flatland in England.

England

England is the largest, most populous and wealthiest country in the UK. It is predominately made up of flatlands which are mainly in the east and the south. So the country is sometimes called the lowland Zone.

The Pennines is a kind of upland, forming the backbone of England, extending from the Scottish border almost as far south as Birmingham. The Lake District, well-known for its unique lakes, is situated on the western side of the Pennines. It consists of a crude radial arrangement of lakes set spectacular U-shaped valley among jagged mountains.

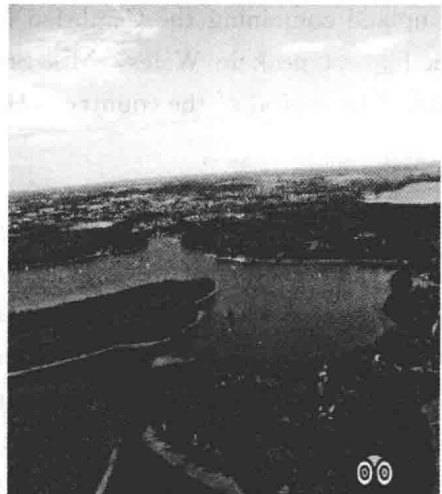
Because of its beautiful lakes and misty hills, the area has the finest scenery in Britain. It is also well-known in the history of English literature as



The map of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

the home of three English poets: Robert Southey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. They wrote a lot of poems about the beauty of the area.

The longest river both in England and Britain is the Severn River, with 338 kilometers (210 miles) in length. It flows through the Midland of England and empties into the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol. The second longest river is the Thames River which is 332 kilometers long. It runs through the



The Lake District



south of England and London, the capital of England. This is also the reason why it is the most important river in the country.

Scotland

Scotland is mainly **mountainous**. It is dominated by the Southern Uplands, the Central Lowlands and the North West Highlands. The Southern Uplands present a view of moorland country covered with small trees and grass. Lying to the south of the Highlands of Scotland is a valley that forms the Central Lowland, also known as the Middle Valley.

The area is hilly and rolling, in which there are two principal cities: Edinburg and Glasgow. Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland. The Northern Highland takes up half Scotland. The Highlands include many great mountain chains in the northern part, with a general downward tilt from west to east. Ben Nevis, with an elevation of 1,343 meters, is the highest point here as well as in Britain. In Scotland the most important rivers are the Clyde and the Forth, which are joined by a canal.

Wales

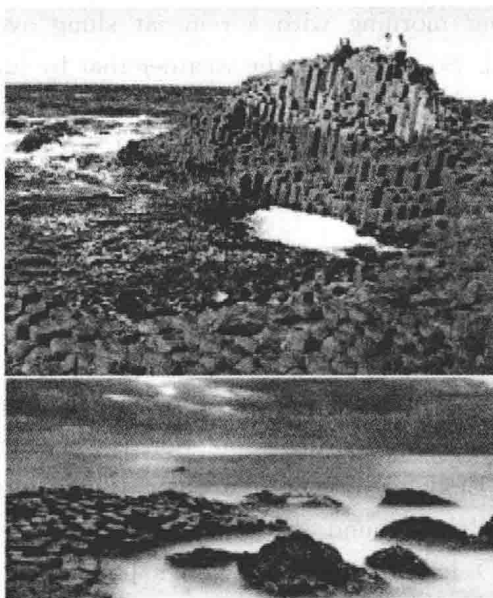
Wales takes up less than 9% of the whole island. Similar to Scotland, Wales is mostly mountainous. Most of Wales is occupied with Welsh Massif, an upland containing the Cambrian Mountains and descending into England. The highest peak in Wales, Mt. Snowdon rises to 1,085 meters above sea level. The capital of the country is Cardiff, a port city.

Northern Ireland

Not far across from Scottish coast is Northern Ireland, the smallest among the four nations in Britain. The capital of the country is Belfast, an industrial city. The country consists of hilly highlands similar to those of Scotland. **Lough Neagh**, the largest lake both in Northern Ireland and British Isles, can be found in the centre of the valley. In the north, a broad plateau, leads to the splendid north coast where the Giant's Causeway can be seen near suburb of Belfast. Giant's Causeway, formed sixty million years ago, is a stretch of basaltic rock **pillars** weathered to different heights and presenting a stepped



surface on the north coast of Northern Ireland, 37,000 columns formed by cooling lava.



Giant's Causeway

1.3 Climate and Weather

Although Britain has a latitude between 50° and 60° North and is as close to the North Pole as eastern Siberia, its climate is much warmer than it should be for such high latitude and much milder than that of places at similar latitude, Alaska in the United States, and Heilongjiang Province in China. The United Kingdom enjoys a very mild climate due to the North Atlantic Drift which is a continuation of a warm current that flows from the Straits of Florida in a generally northeastern direction. It flows past Britain and the various rivers carry the warm water inland. This makes the climate warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer than countries at the same latitude. Generally speaking, Britain enjoys a maritime type of climate: changeable, unpredictable and rainy.

The weather is so changeable that even the most reliable English weather