



A Guide to Cross-cultural Communications

跨文化交际导读

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内容简介

本书通过对中、美、英三国的基本文化现象的介绍和比较,丰富读者的知识背景,拓展读者的交际空间。全书共分八章,通过精选的文化经典文章,以地道、流畅、优美,同时极具可读性的英语向读者全面介绍跨文化交际过程中必不可少的文化背景,同时配以拓展阅读材料和课后问答,词汇、翻译练习题目,既能帮助读者丰富自己的知识含量,又能提高读者的英文阅读水平和词汇储备。

本书适合非英语专业本科生使用,也可供英语专业本科、专科学

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Topography and Geography

Core Reading

Geographical and Social Features of China

Overview

Located in Southeast Asia along the coastline of the Pacific Ocean, China is the world's third largest country, after Russia and Canada. With an area of 9.6 million square kilometers and a coastline of 18,000 kilometers, its shape on the map is like a rooster. It reaches Mohe in Heilongjiang Province as its northern end, Zengmu Ansha (or James Shoal) to the south, Pamirs to the west, and expands to the eastern border at the conjunction of the Heilongjiang (Amur) River and the Wusuli (Ussuri) River, spanning about 50 degrees of latitude and 62 degrees of longitude. China is bordered by 14 countries and has 8 marine-side neighbors.

Social Features

The capital of China is Beijing and the largest city is Shanghai. More than one-fifth of the world's total population lives within China's borders. China gave birth to one of the world's earliest civilizations and has a recorded history that dates from some 3,500

years ago.

Physical Features

The vast land expanses of China include plateaus, plains, basins, foothills, and mountains. Defining rugged plateaus, foothills and mountains as mountainous, they occupy nearly two-thirds of the land, higher in the West and lower in the East like a three-step ladder.

The highest step of the typical 'ladder topography' is formed by the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at the average height of over 4,000 meters, with the Kunlunshan range, Qilianshan range and Hengduan mountain chain as the division between this step and the second one. The highest peak in the world, Everest, at 8844.43 meters high is known as 'the Roof of the World'.

On the second step are large basins and plateaus, most of which are 1,000-2,000 meters high. The Daxing'an, Taihang, Wu and Xuefeng Mountains divide this step and the next lower one. Plateaus including Inner Mongolian, Loess, Yungui Plateaus, and basins such as Tarim, Junggar, and Sichuan Basins are situated here.

The third step, abundant in broad plains, is dotted with the foothills and lower mountains, with altitudes of over 500 meters. Here are located famous plains: the Northeast, the North China, and the Middle-Lower Yangtze Plains, neighboring with each other from north to south. These well-cultivated and fertile lands produce abundant crops.

Major Mountain Ranges and Mountainous Resorts

China has large areas of mountainous land, about two-thirds of the country. The ranges mainly run from east to west and from northeast to southwest. Among these mountains, some reach to the sky, and others are lower with charming scenery. Out of the mountains throughout the world at the altitude of over 7,000 meters, over 50 stand in China.

A mountain has its unique character—magnificent, imposing or elegant. The Five Most Famous Mountains can be the representative of all Chinese mountains. Mt. Taishan in Shandong is the most revered; Mt. Shaolin Temple brought worldwide fame to the Song Mountain in Henan; Mt. Huashan in Shaanxi is precipitous; Mt. Hengshan in Shanxi has jagged ranges and Mt. Hengshan in Hunan is elegant in appearance.

Mt. Taishan

Taishan Mountain is located in the central of Shandong Province. In ancient time, it was called Mt. Daishan or Mt. Daizong and was renamed Taishan Mountain during the Spring and Autumn Period, that was 770-476 B. C. Taishan Mountain was included in the UNESCO world heritage list in 1987. The total area of the mountain is 426 square kilometers with a circumference of 80 kilometers.

The main peak, Jade Emperor Peak, rising 1,545 meters above sea level, is at the north of Tai'an city. The mountain is an early birthplace of China's ancient civilization and the area around was one of ancient China's political, economic and cultural centers. In history, there were total 72 emperors from Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties who built temples on it. After Qin Shihuang, numerous emperors and scholars from various historical periods went to Taishan Mountain, which accounts for the large quantity of precious cultural relics.

Mt. Songshan

Song Mountain lies in Dengfeng city, in the heart of Henan Province and about 80 kilometers east of its capital, Zhengzhou. Song Mountain has fine natural scenery. Its 72 mountains, grouped around the peaks of Mount Shaoshi and Mount Taishi, extend for about 70 kilometers from east to west. Besides these mountains, there are many valleys, caves, pools and waterfalls, each of which provides the visitor with a unique and wonderful experience. The landscape is so unique that it has been given the title of 'International Geological

Park' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The history of Song Mountain is as rich and interesting as its landscape. Its proximity to Luoyang, the ancient capital city of nine different dynasties, made it an essential place for emperors to offer sacrifices to their ancestors and the gods and to confer the crown to their heirs. This has left many sites of historic and cultural interest in this area. The beauty of the area's scenery also led to many scholars, eminent monks and famous Taoists chose this area as an important place to give lectures, explain Buddhist sutras and develop the teachings of different religions.

Song Mountain is the birthplace of China Zen Buddhism, and is the home of many wondrous temples, including Shaolin Temple, the largest pagoda forest in China. What makes Song Mountain different from the rest of the Five Mountains is its profound and extensive cultural history.

Mt. Huashan

Huashan Mountain is located in Huayin County, Shaanxi province. It is the Western Mountain of the Five Sacred Mountains. It is second highest to the Northern Mountain and praised as 'the First Odd Mountain in the World'.

Huashan Mountain boasts five imposing peaks with sheer precipices and overhanging rocks: the east one is called the Peak of the Rising Sun which is the best location to view sun-rising; the north one, the Peak of Cloud Terrace which is famous for cliffs on its three sides; the west one, the peak of Lotus; the south one, the Peak of Wild Geese which is the main peak and also the steepest of Huashan Mountain with an elevation of 2,083 meters; and the Central one, the Peak of the Jade Maiden, which links the east, west and south peaks. Each presents a unique scenic beauty, surrounded by over 70 minor peaks.

In ancient times, many emperors came here to make sacrifices to their ancestors, and celebrities visited Huashan Mountain leaving quite a lot of stone inscriptions of poems.

Mt. Hengshan in Hunan Province

Mt. Hengshan, also known as 'South Mountain', is located about 120km south of Changsha. It is one of the five sacred Buddhist mountains in China, although much of the mountain is also dedicated to Taoist belief. The mountain extends for 80 kilometers and there are a total of 72 peaks in all, the highest of which, the Wishing for Harmony Peak, rises to 1,298 meters above sea level.

At the foot of the mountain stands the biggest temple in southern China, the Grand Southern Heights Temple, which covers an area of 100,000 square meters and which is the largest group of ancient buildings in Hunan Province. The original temple is said to have dated back at least as far as the Tang Dynasty, although it was destroyed by fire at various stages. The present temple dates back to the Qing Dynasty and is based on Beijing's Imperial Palace.

Mt. Hengshan in Shanxi Province

Chinese recorded history tells us that Emperor Shun toured his northern domain years ago, and he was so impressed by the sight of Mt. Hengshan that he proclaimed it the 'North Mountain'. The renowned traveler Xu Xiake came to visit in Ming Dynasty and left behind Hengshan-inspired writings.

Mt. Hengshan is located about 62 kilometers south to Datong City of Shanxi Province. It attracts people by its natural sceneries and manmade landscaping.

Mt. Hengshan has been an age-old battleground. It is the bottleneck to Central Hebei Plain from Plateau beyond the Great Wall. Many emperors utilized Mt. Hengshan in national defense planning. Plenty of ancient battlefield relics litter the landscape with passes, fortresses, castles and beacon towers. These make Mt. Hengshan

unique among the famed mountains.

Major Rivers and Lakes in China

China abounds in rivers. More than 2,700 billion cubic meters of water flow along these rivers, 5.8 percent of the world's total. Most of the large rivers find their source in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and as a result China is rich in water-power resources, leading the world in hydropower potential, with reserves of 680 million kilowatts.

China's rivers can be categorized as exterior and interior systems. The catchment area for the exterior rivers that empty into the oceans accounts for 64 percent of the country's total land area. The Yangtze, Yellow, Heilongjiang, Pearl, Liaohe, Haihe, Huaihe and Lancang rivers flow east, and empty into the Pacific Ocean. The Yarlungzangbo River in Tibet, which flows first east and then south into the Indian Ocean, boasts the Grand Yarlungzangbo Canyon, the largest canyon in the world with 504.6 km long and 6,009 m deep. The Ertix River flows from the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to the Arctic Ocean. The catchment area for the interior rivers that flow into inland lakes or disappear into deserts or salt marshes makes up 36 percent of China's total land area. Its 2,179 km make the Tarim River in southern Xinjiang China's longest interior river.

The Yangtze is the largest river in China, and the third-longest in the world, next only to the Nile in northeast Africa and the Amazon in South America. Known as the 'golden waterway', the Yangtze River is a transportation artery linking west and east. The Yellow River is the second-largest river in China. The Yellow River valley was one of the birthplaces of ancient Chinese civilization. The Heilongjiang River is north China's largest while the Pearl River is the largest river in south China. In addition to those endowed by nature, China has a famous man-made river—the Grand Canal, running from Beijing in the north to Hangzhou in the south. It links five major rivers—the Haihe, Yellow River, Huaihe, Yangtze River and

Qiantang River.

The Yangzi River

The Yangzi is an extraordinary river in a number of ways. It is at the same time one of the country's most important transport routes, carrying a huge amount of cargo and passengers, yet also one of its most formidable barriers. The north and south of the country were for centuries effectively cut off from one another by this huge river, treacherous for its floods and the vast amount of water it drains from the heart of the Asian continent. It carries twenty-one times more water than the Yellow River. Such is the power it has had over the imagination that in the minds of Chinese people, it is seen as the division between the two halves of the country in cultural matters as well. North of it are wheat and dry grain eaters while to its south, rice is the staple.

The length of the river makes it the third longest in the world. It was not bridged until 1957, when a road-rail link at Wuhan was built. This increased the potential for north-south movement.

The earliest recorded name for the Yangzi River was simply jiang, now a general term for rivers in Chinese. Later it came to be known as Da Jiang 'Great River', or Chang Jiang 'Long River'. It is still called Chang Jiang in modern Chinese.

The Yellow River

The Yellow River is the second longest river in China, just next to the Yangtze River. The Yellow River is the birthplace of ancient Chinese culture and the cradle of Chinese Civilization. It takes its source from the northern piedmont of the Bayanhar Mountain Range in Qinghai Province, meandering across 9 provinces and finally emptying into the Bohai Sea at Kenli of Shandong Province.

The natural landscapes of the Yellow River are breathtaking and attractive, especially those in the Henan segment. As a huge dragon crouching on the central plains, the Yellow River begins to flow

northward from Kaifeng City. The Zhengzhou segment of the Yellow River is broad and grand. After entering Longmen, the steep precipices at both banks of the Yellow River seem to be cut by knife, and the river waves are surging and rushing forward.

Along the Yellow River, people can not only fully enjoy the natural scenery of the Yellow River, but also explore the Chinese history and culture. The multiplying and growing sites of Chinese ancients can be found along the Yellow River, such as the famous Yangshao Culture Site, the Birthplace of the First Ancestor Yellow Emperor, the Fuxi Mausoleum and the neighboring various cradles of surnames, the important ancient town Sanmen Gorge, the thousand-year-old ancient capital Luoyang, the commercial city Zhengzhou and the capital Kaifeng of the Song Dynasty. These are all the concrete exhibitions of the Yellow River culture, showing the rise and decline of China's history.

Geographical and Social Features of the US

Overview

The US has a land area of 9.3 million square kilometers. It is the fourth largest country in the world in size after Russia, Canada and China. It is located mostly in central North America, where its forty-eight states and Washington, D. C., the capital district, lie between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, bordered by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. Alaska and Hawaii are the two newest states in America. The state of Alaska lies in the northwest of the continent, with Canada to the east while the state of Hawaii lies in the central Pacific.

The United States is one of the world's most ethnically diverse and multicultural nations, the product of large-scale immigration from many countries. The most pronounced feature of the country, however, is not its size but its diversity. Its natural environment va-

ries from the arctic to the tropical, from rainforest to desert, from vast plains to cliffs and mountain peaks. It is often said that America is a nation with an abundance of geography, but a shortage of history.

There are four recognizable and definable topographic regions in the United States. They are, from east to west, the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain, the Appalachians and their foothills, the Interior Lowlands and the Cordillera, which includes both main mountain ranges and a variety of intermontane valleys, basins, and plateaus.

Major Mountain Ranges and Mountainous Resorts

The Mountain Ranges in the United States differ substantially from each other. The Appalachians on the east stretch almost unbroken from Alabama to the Canadian Border. They are much-eroded old mountains and are set back from the Atlantic by a broad belt of coastal lowland. To the west of the interior basin lies the mighty system of mountains that Spanish explorers named the 'Cordillera', which is a collective term for all the high rough country of the western third of the United States. The Cordillera is part of a global mountain system that enriches the pacific basin. It is geologically young, and contains great geological and topographical variety.

The western United States has almost no coastal plain, and the mountains along the pacific coast drop abruptly and spectacularly into the sea. This western country is both complicated and varied, containing not only some of the highest mountains in North America, but also a vast expanse of intermundane basins, plateaus, and isolated ranges.

Appalachian Mountains

The Appalachian Mountains are a vast system of North American mountain ranges, stretching 2,400 kilometers from Quebec in Canada to central Alabama in the United States. Major mountain ranges include the White, Green, Catskill, Allegheny, Blue Ridge, Great

Smoky, and Cumberland mountains. The highest peak, Mount Mitchell is located in North Carolina. It is 2,037 meters high, which is the highest point in the United States east of the Mississippi River, as well as in all of eastern North America.

The Appalachians have played an important role in the American history. They have long been a natural barrier to westward expansion of European colonial immigrants. The Appalachian Mountains are rich in coal and other resources such as iron, petroleum, and natural gas. They are well known for their ecological diversity and breathtaking natural beauty, among which Great Smoky Mountain National Park is the most visited national park in the nation.

Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountains, commonly known as the Rockies, are a major mountain range in western North America, stretching more than 4,800 kilometers from the northernmost part of British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in the United States. The ranges' highest peak is Mount Elbert in Colorado at 4,401 meters above the sea level.

The Rocky Mountains are known for their beautiful scenery with mountains, trees and big game. People visit the Rockies for many recreational activities like hiking, hunting, camping, skiing and lots of other sports.

The Rockies have very different seasons. In the winter there is deep snow, high winds, and sudden blizzards are common. At night it can get to minus 35 Fahrenheit or below! In the spring there is unpredictable weather. It could be wet or dry, cold or warm. In the summer there are sunny mornings, afternoon thunderstorms and clear nights. In the fall there are cool, crisp days, wind and decreasing precipitation. Every year the Rockies attract millions of tourists from all parts of the world to their scenic ranges, among which Yellowstone National Park, Great Teton National Park, Glacier National

Park and Rocky Mountain National Park are the most popular.

Alaska Mountain Range

The Alaska Range is a series of mountains in Alaska in the United States, stretching about 640 kilometers from the northwest to southeast. The Alaska Range sweeps through interior Alaska encompassing five ranges: Revelation Mountains, Kachatna Mountains, Central Alaska Range, Eastern Alaska Range and the Delta Mountains. Tallest of all North American peaks, Denali (Mount McKinley) is in the Alaska Range, towering above at 6193 meters.

The Alaska Range are very rich in glaciers, including the Canwell, Castner, Black Rapids, Susitna, Yanert, Muldrow, Eldridge, Ruth, Tokositna, and Kahiltna Glaciers. Through the Alaska Range runs four major rivers, which are the Delta, Nenana, Nabesna, and Chisna Rivers. The Nenana River is a popular destination for white-water rafting in Alaska.

Cascade Mountain Range

The Cascade Range is a major mountain range of western North America, extending from southern British Columbia through Washington and Oregon to Northern California. The Cascade Range is best known for its tall volcanoes and deep evergreen forests. While the North Cascades contain an extremely rugged cluster of jagged peaks, it is the long line of snowy volcanic ones running from Mount Baker south to Lassen Peak that dominate the range for its entire length. The highest peak in the Cascade range is Mount Rainier in Washington at 4,392 meters.

Major Rivers and Lakes

The United States of America has over 250,000 rivers, with a total of about 3,500,000 miles of rivers. The longest river in the US is the Missouri River, but the biggest in terms of water volume is the deeper Mississippi River. The longest undammed river in the contiguous US is the Yellowstone River.