



展望(Prospect)全国高等院校英语专业系列精品教材

英美历史文化概况

(英文版)

董晓波 主编



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*Introduction to the History and
Culture of Britain and America
(English Edition)*

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of Britain and America (English Edition)**

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“展望 (Prospect) 全国高等院校英语专业系列精品教材”由对外经济贸易大学出版社联合我国多所重点本科大学推出。教材针对全国本科院校英语专业设计, 内容涵盖英语专业必修和选修课教学, 包括基础技能、语言学、文学、文化、商务等方面, 囊括当前我国高校英语专业所开设的大部分课程, 并充分考虑到我国英语教育的地区差异和不同院校英语专业的特点, 为英语教学提供更多的选择。

展望系列教材在内容选材上反映了各个学科领域的最新研究成果, 除了帮助学生打下扎实的语言基本功外, 在编写上更着力培养学生分析问题、解决问题的能力, 并提高学生的思辨能力和人文、科学素养, 培养健康向上的人生观, 使学生真正成为我国新时代所需要的英语专门人才。

本系列教材的作者为学科带头人和一线优秀教师, 教材充分体现了当今大学英语专业教育的发展方向和水平。具体书目包括《基础英语教程第一册》、《基础英语教程第二册》、《基础英语教程第三册》、《基础英语教程第四册》、《英语听力教程》、《英语口语教程第一册》、《英语口语教程第二册》、《英语阅读教程第一册》、《英语阅读教程第二册》、《英语阅读教程 1-2 册辅导用书》、《英语视听说》、《商务英汉视译教程》、《英语写作教程第一册》、《英语写作教程第二册》、《实用英语学术论文写作》、《英汉/汉英口译基础教程》、《大学汉英翻译教程 (第三版)》、《大学英语通用翻译教程》、《大学汉英翻译教程》、《英汉口译基础教程》、《学术类论文写作手册 (第三版)》、《美国历史文化概况 (英文版)》、《英国历史文化概况 (英文版)》、《中国历史文化概况 (英文版)》、《英美历史文化概况 (英文版)》、《英美报刊高级阅读教程》、《英美国概况》、《英国文学简史》、《美国文学简史》、《英美文学作品选读》、《英语语言学教程》、《实用英语文体学教程》、《实用英语文体写作》、《应用文体翻译教程》、《经贸英语文章选读》、《经贸英语翻译》、《经贸英语口语译》、《商务英语写作》、《跨文化交际》、《国际商务礼仪》、《语言学导论 (第二版)》

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Preface

序

随着全球化时代国际交往的深入，国家间跨文化合作日益增多；同时，各行各业对具有扎实的外语知识技能和广博的全球文化知识的人才的需求也日益迫切。教育部公布的《大学英语课程教学要求》也明确地把学生“文化意识”的培养列入到英语教学中，认为在英语教学中培养学生的文化意识与培养学生的语言意识、语言技能同等重要。语言教学不仅包括语言知识的教学，也包括文化知识的教学。《美国历史文化概况》（英文版，2010 版）、《英国历史文化概况》（英文版，2012 版）出版后深受欢迎，为了进一步配合教学，完善、充实该系列教材，满足全国众多高校英美概况一学期教学的需要，我们特编写了《英美历史文化概况》（英文版）一书。

本书遵循通识、博雅的教学理念，从中国学生实际出发，从不同方面向中国学生介绍了世界上主要的两个英语国家——英国和美国的历史与文化现象。全书共分两个篇章，分别是英国篇和美国篇，这两个篇章又分别包含 10 个章节，即涵盖了英美两国历史上的重大时期，如工业革命、世界大战、经济大萧条等，又涉及两国文化的方方面面；宏观方面涵盖了领土与环境、政体、法律、节庆日、黑人奴隶制、宗教与信仰等，微观方面则包含了文学、艺术、教育、音乐、电影、科技、城市等大量内容，可谓是英美两国历史文化的一部缩影。全书语言材料真实地道，主要取材于国外报刊杂志以及相关历史文献资料，穿插图表、照片等真实的视觉材料，表现手段活泼，效果生动直观。为了让学习者更好地掌握各个方面的知识，阅读语篇后对文章中的难点、难句、专有名词做了翔实明确的注释，以方便学习者使用、查询。同时还附有各种练习，供学习者练习或自我检测（练习答案和教学课件可以登录 www.uibep.com 下载）。补充阅读部分主要推荐经典的书目、影视作品、名诗欣赏以及英文歌曲等学习资料，延伸课堂教学，激发学生的学习热情。

本书结构安排系统合理，突出学生的主体地位。因此，无论对广大学生还是对英美两国历史文化感兴趣的其他学习者来说，本书都是一本了解该国、积累历史文化知识、开阔视野、启发思路的良好读物。

本书是为全国高等院校英语专业学生和非英语专业本科生、研究生编选的融文化与历史知识为一体的新型教材。它可以作为英语专业知识基础课——英美国家文化、英美国家历史方向

的专业课教材,也可以作为高等院校非英语专业本、专科学生和研究生公选课教材或课外泛读教材,也可供历史学专业英美国家史方向和对英美国家问题饶有兴趣的学生及希望通过对英美国家历史与文化的学习来提高英语技能的读者使用。

本教程由董晓波主编,陈钟梅、于银磊副主编,王宇轩、陈辉、孙海英、蔡斌参编。在整个编写过程中,我们力求臻于完美,但是限于水平及一些不可避免的因素,定不乏偏颇和疏漏,恳请广大读者朋友和同行不吝指正,以臻完善。

董晓波

2014年8月22日于南京

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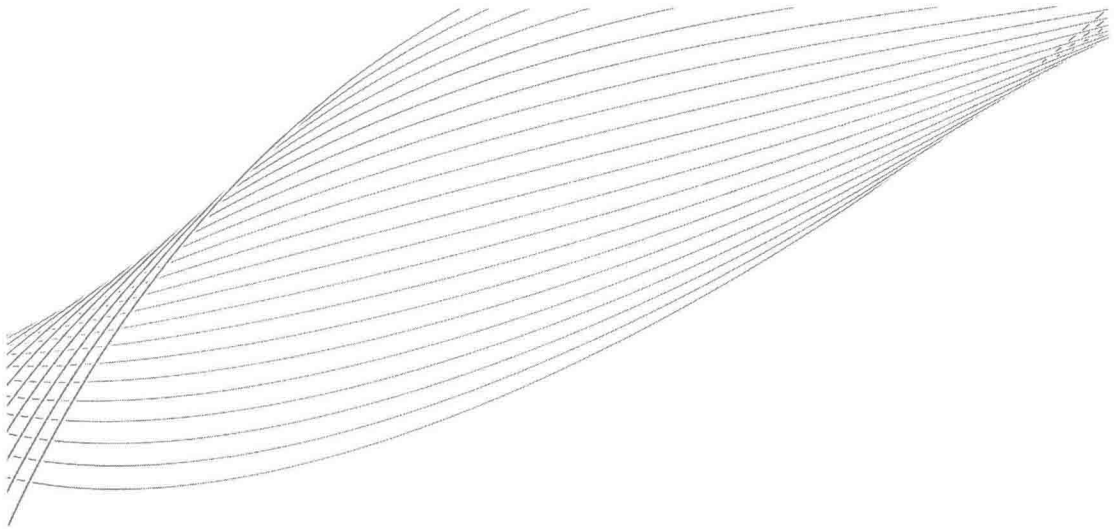
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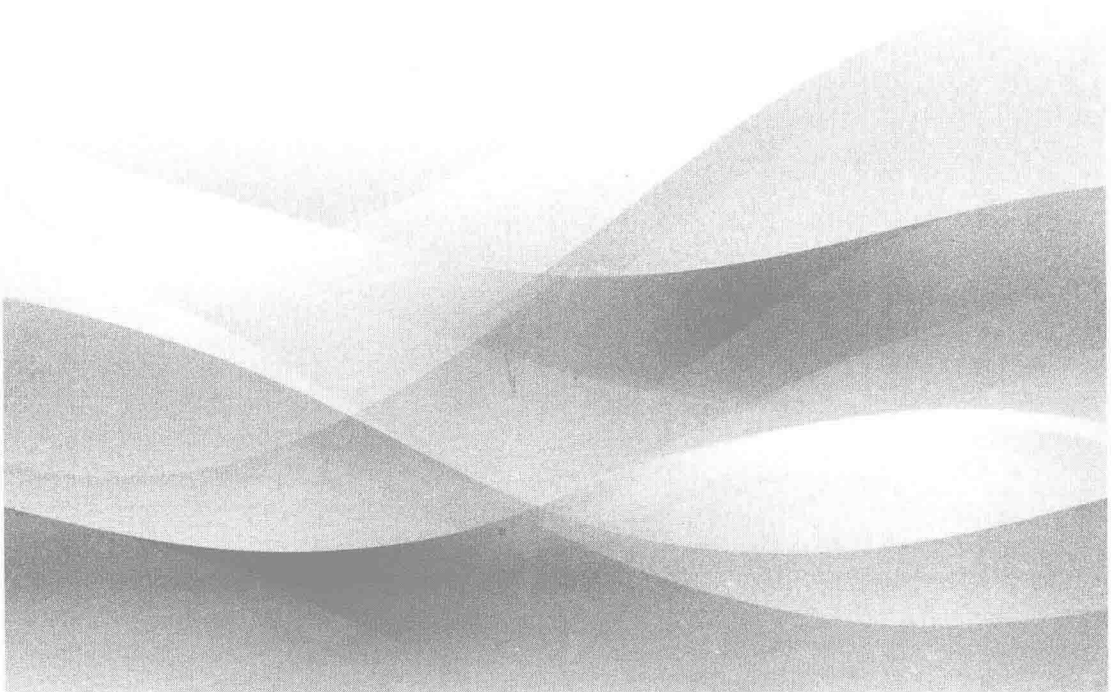
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British History and Culture



Geography, Climate and People



Section 1 Geography

1. Geographical Features

The total area of the United Kingdom is approximately 243,610 square kilometers (94,060 sq mi). The country occupies the major part of the British Isles archipelago and includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland and some smaller surrounding islands. It lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea with the south-east coast coming within 35 kilometers (22 mi) of the coast of northern France, from which it is separated by the English Channel. As of 1993, 10% of the UK was forested, 46% used for pastures and 25% used for agriculture. The Royal Greenwich Observatory in London is the defining point of the Prime Meridian.

Scotland accounts for just under a third of the total area of the UK, covering 78,772 square kilometers (30,410 sq mi) and including nearly eight hundred islands, predominantly west and north of the mainland; notably the Hebrides, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands. The topography of Scotland is distinguished by the Highland Boundary Fault—a geological rock fracture—which traverses Scotland from Arran in the west to Stonehaven in the east. The fault line separates two distinctively different regions namely the Highlands to the north and west, and the lowlands to the south and east. The more rugged Highland region contains the majority of Scotland's mountainous land, including Ben Nevis which at 1,343 meters (4,406 ft) is the highest point in the British Isles. Lowland areas, especially the narrow waist of land between the Firth of Clyde and the Firth of Forth known as the Central Belt, are flatter and home to most of the population including Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, and Edinburgh, its capital and political centre.

Wales accounts for less than a tenth of the total area of the UK, covering 20,779 square kilometers (8,020 sq mi). Wales is mostly mountainous, though South Wales is less mountainous than North and mid Wales. The main population and industrial areas are in South Wales, consisting of the coastal cities of Cardiff, Swansea and Newport, and the South Wales

Valleys to their north. The highest mountains in Wales are in Snowdonia and include Snowdon (Welsh: Yr Wyddfa) which, at 1,085 meters (3,560 ft), is the highest peak in Wales. The 14, or possibly 15, Welsh mountains over 914 meters (3,000 ft) high are known collectively as the Welsh 3000s. Wales has over 1,200 km (750 miles) of coastline. There are several islands off the Welsh mainland, the largest of which is Anglesey (Ynys Môn) in the northwest.

Northern Ireland accounts for just 14,160 square kilometers (5,470 sq mi) and is mostly hilly. It includes Lough Neagh which, at 388 square kilometers (150 sq mi), is the largest lake in the British Isles by area. The highest peak in Northern Ireland is Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains at 852 meters (2,795 ft).

The United Kingdom lies between latitudes 49° to 61°, and longitudes 9° W to 2° E. Northern Ireland shares a 360-kilometre (224 mi) land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The coastline of Great Britain is 17,820 kilometers (11,073 mi) long. It is connected to continental Europe by the Channel Tunnel, which at 50 kilometers (31 mi) [38 kilometers (24 mi) underwater] is the longest underwater tunnel in the world.

England accounts for just over half of the total area of the UK, covering 130,395 square kilometers (50,350 sq mi). Most of the country consists of lowland terrain, with mountainous terrain north-west of the Tees-Exe line; including the Cumbrian Mountains of the Lake District, the Pennines and limestone hills of the Peak District, Exmoor and Dartmoor. The main rivers and estuaries are the Thames, Severn and the Humber. England's highest mountain is Scafell Pike [978 meters (3,209 ft)] in the Lake District. Its principal rivers are the Severn, Thames, Humber, Tees, Tyne, Tweed, Avon, Exe and Mersey.

The United Kingdom has sovereignty over seventeen territories which do not form part of the United Kingdom itself: 14 British Overseas Territories and three Crown Dependencies.

The fourteen British Overseas Territories are: Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Antarctic Territory, the British Indian Ocean Territory, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Pitcairn Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus. British claims in Antarctica are not universally recognized. Collectively Britain's overseas territories encompass an approximate land area of 667,018 square miles (1,727,570 km²) and a population of approximately 260,000 people. They are the remnants of the British Empire and several have specifically voted to remain British territories.

The Crown Dependencies are British possessions of the Crown, as opposed to overseas territories of the UK. They comprise the Channel Island Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey in the English Channel and the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. Being independently administered jurisdictions they do not form part of the United Kingdom or of the European Union, although the UK government manages their foreign affairs and defense and the UK Parliament has the authority to legislate on their behalf. The power to pass legislation affecting the islands ultimately rests with their own respective legislative assemblies, with the assent of the Crown (Privy Council or, in the case of the Isle of Man, in certain circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor). Since 2005 each

Crown dependency has had a Chief Minister as its head of government.

The British Overseas Territories are fourteen territories of the United Kingdom which, although they do not form part of the United Kingdom itself, fall under its jurisdiction. They are remnants of the British Empire that have not acquired independence or have voted to remain British territories. The name “British Overseas Territory” was introduced by the British Overseas Territories Act 2002, and replaced the name British Dependent Territory, which was introduced by the British Nationality Act 1981. Before 1981, the territories were known as Crown colonies.

Apart from the British Antarctic Territory, which has no permanent inhabitants and the Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus and the British Indian Ocean Territory, which are military bases, the overseas territories all have permanent populations. Collectively they encompass an approximate land area of 667,018 square miles (1,727,570km²) and a population of approximately 260,000 people. The British Antarctic Territory is part of a mutual recognition agreement with four other sovereign nations and their Antarctic territories. The UK is a participant in the Antarctic Treaty System. The territories of Jersey, and Guernsey, and the Isle of Man, though also under the sovereignty of the British Crown, have a different constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom, and are classed as Crown Dependencies. The British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are distinct from the Commonwealth of Nations, a voluntary association of countries which mostly have historic links to the British Empire.

2. Rivers and Mountains

The main rivers in Great Britain run from north to south, keeping well to the west to the basin of the River Severn, the longest river in the UK. Westward flowing streams reach the Atlantic in relatively short distances. The Clyde in Scotland, the Eden and the Mersey in Northwest England, and the Welsh Dee and Teifi are the only significant rivers. The drainage that flows into the Severn estuary covers a large area in central and eastern Wales and the greater part of seven English countries. Thereafter, the Bristol Avon and the Parret catchments take the water parting somewhat to the east, but subsequently, with the exception of the TawTorridge valleys, it runs very close to the west coast in Devon and Cornwall.

The rivers flowing east are longer, several coalescing into wide estuaries. The fast-flowing Spey, Don, Tay, Forth, and Tweed of eastern Scotland run generally across impermeable rocks, and their discharges increase rapidly after rain. From the northern Pennines, the Tyne, Wear, and Tees flow independently to the North Sea, but significant estuary groupings occur. A number of rivers drain into the Humber, including, after it leaves the Pennines, the important Trent. To the south, another group of rivers enter the Wash after sluggishly draining a large flat countryside. The big drainage complex of the Thames dominates the south and the east of England. The source of the Thames is in the Cotswolds and, after being joined by many tributaries as it flows over the Oxford Clay, the mainstream breaches the chalk escarpment. A number of tributaries add their charges farther downstream, and the total drainage converging on the Thames Estuary

exceeds 4,000 square miles. The rivers flowing into the English Channel are mainly short, as are those in Northern Ireland, with the exception of the Erne, the Foyle, and the Bann.

The chief mountain ranges are the Pennines in the middle, the Cambrians in the west and the Grampians in the North of Great Britain. Besides, there are some small mountains such as Mountains of Antrim, Mourne Mountains and Sperrin Mountains in the Northern Ireland. Ben Nevis (1,343 meters in Scotland) is the highest mountain in the UK. Scafell Pike (978 meters) is the highest mountain in England and Snowdon (1,085 meters) is the highest in Wales, but the second highest mountain in the UK is Ben Macdhui (1,311 meters) in Cairngorm Mountains of the Grampians, Scotland.

Notes

1. **The English Channel**, often referred to simply as the **Channel**, is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates Great Britain from northern France, and joins the North Sea to the Atlantic. It is about 560 km (350 mi) long and varies in width from 240 km (150 mi) at its widest, to only 34 km (21 mi) in the Strait of Dover. It is the smallest of the shallow seas around the continental shelf of Europe, covering an area of some 75,000 km² (29,000 sq mi).
2. **The Republic of Ireland**, described as Ireland, is a state in Europe occupying approximately five-sixths of the island of Ireland, which was partitioned in 1921. It shares its only land border with Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom on the north-east of the island. The state is otherwise surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the Celtic Sea to the south, St George's Channel to the south east, the Irish Sea to the east.
3. **The Channel Tunnel**, (also referred to as the Chunnel) is a 50.5-kilometre (31.4 mi) undersea rail tunnel linking Folkestone, Kent in England with Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais near Calais in northern France beneath the English Channel at the Strait of Dover. At its lowest point, it is 75 meters (250 ft) deep. At 37.9 kilometers (23.5 mi), the Channel Tunnel possesses the longest undersea portion of any tunnel in the world, although the Seikan Tunnel in Japan is both longer overall at 53.85 kilometers (33.46 mi), and deeper at 240 meters (790 ft) below sea level.
4. **The Lake District**, also commonly known as the Lakes or Lakeland, is a mountainous region in North West England. A popular holiday destination, it is famous for its lakes and its mountains (or fells), and its associations with the early 19th century poetry and writings of William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets. The central, and most visited, part of the area is called the Lake District National Park which was designated as a National Park in 1951. It is the largest of thirteen National Parks in England and Wales, and second largest in the UK (after the Cairngorms).
5. The River **Thames** is a major river flowing through southern England. While it is best known because its lower reaches flow through central London, the river flows alongside several other towns and cities, including Oxford, Reading, Henley-on-Thames, Windsor, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond.
6. **The Commonwealth of Nations**, normally referred to as the Commonwealth and formerly known as the British Commonwealth, is an intergovernmental organization of fifty-four independent member states. All but two (Mozambique and Rwanda) of these countries were

formerly part of the British Empire, out of which it developed. The member states cooperate within a framework of common values and goals as outlined in the Singapore Declaration. These include the promotion of democracy, human rights, good governance, the rule of law, individual liberty, egalitarianism, free trade, multilateralism, and world peace. The Commonwealth is not a political union, but an intergovernmental organization through which countries with diverse social, political, and economic backgrounds are regarded as equal in status.

Exercises

I. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the most suitable words. Change the form when necessary.

approximately
encompass

pasture
remnant

rug
comprise

assembly
jurisdiction

sovereignty
voluntary

1. Although the enemy _____ the city, the citizens fought back bravely.
2. A thick, woolen _____ covers the floor behind the desk.
3. The former president addressed a large _____.
4. The medical team _____ five doctors and two nurses.
5. The time is _____ ten o'clock.
6. Even today _____ of this practice remain.
7. Its neighboring country demanded _____ over the island.
8. The UN court has no _____ over non-members.
9. Mr. Smith did a lot of work for a _____ organization.
10. Sheep are grazing in the lush green _____.

II. Translate the following phrases or expressions into English.

解释, 说明

以……为特征

被认为是, 被称为

和……共享

沿海城市

英国海外领地

英国王国属地

和……相反

除……之外

军事基地

III. Comprehension of the text

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

1. The United Kingdom occupies the major part of the British Isles archipelago and includes the

- island of Great Britain, the north-eastern two-sixth of the island of Ireland and some smaller surrounding islands. ()
2. The topography of Scotland is distinguished by the Highland Boundary Fault, which traverses Scotland from Arran in the west to Stonehaven in the east. ()
 3. Glasgow is the capital and political centre of Scotland and Edinburgh is its largest city. ()
 4. Wales is mostly mountainous, though South Wales is less mountainous than North and mid Wales. ()
 5. Lough Neagh is the largest lake in the British Isles by area and the highest peak in Northern Ireland is Slieve Donard. ()
 6. England occupies over half of the total area of the UK, covering 130, 395 square kilometers. ()
 7. The United Kingdom has sovereignty over seventeen territories which do not form part of the United Kingdom itself: three British Overseas Territories and fourteen Crown Dependencies. ()
 8. The Crown Dependencies are British possessions of the Crown, same as overseas territories of the UK. ()
 9. Being independently administered jurisdictions they do not form part of the United Kingdom or of the European Union, although the UK government manages their foreign affairs and defense and the UK Parliament has the authority to legislate on their behalf. ()
 10. The territories of Jersey, and Guernsey, and the Isle of Man, though also under the sovereignty of the British Crown, have the same constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom, and are classed as Crown Dependencies. ()



Section 2 Climate

The United Kingdom straddles the geographic mid-latitudes between 50°N–60° N from the equator. It is also positioned on the western seaboard of Eurasia, the world's largest landmass. These boundary conditions allow convergence between moist maritime air and dry continental air. In this area, the large temperature variation creates instability and this is a major factor that influences the often unsettled weather the country experiences, where many types of weather can be experienced in a single day.

Regional climates in the United Kingdom are influenced by the Atlantic Ocean and latitude. Northern Ireland, Wales and western parts of England and Scotland, being closest to the Atlantic, are generally the mildest, wettest and windiest regions of the UK, and temperature ranges here are seldom extreme. Eastern areas are drier, cooler, and less windy, and also experience the greatest daily and seasonal temperature variations. Northern areas are generally cooler, wetter and have a slight bigger temperature range than southern areas. Though the UK is mostly under the influence of the maritime tropical air mass from the south-west, different regions are more susceptible than others when different air masses affect the country: Northern Ireland and the