

● 徐晓晴 张红岩 王 威 主编

英语国家 社会与文化

SOCIETY & CULTURE

英 联 邦 篇



◆ 苏州大学出版社

英语国家社会与文化

(英联邦篇)

主 编 徐晓晴 张红岩 王 威

苏州大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语国家社会与文化. 英联邦篇/徐晓晴, 张红岩,
王威主编. —苏州: 苏州大学出版社, 2008. 9
ISBN 978-7-81137-125-3

I. 英… II. ①徐…②张…③王… III. ①英语—阅读教
学—高等学校—教材②英国—概况③澳大利亚—概况
④加拿大—概况 IV. H319.4; K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2008)第 148816 号

英语国家社会与文化

(英联邦篇)

徐晓晴 张红岩 王 威 主编

责任编辑 汤定军

苏州大学出版社出版发行

(地址: 苏州市干将东路 200 号 邮编: 215021)

宜兴文化印刷厂印装

(地址: 宜兴市南漕镇 邮编: 214217)

开本 787mm×960mm 1/16 印张 57.25(共 2 册) 字数 1 087 千

2008 年 9 月第 1 版 2008 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-81137-125-3 定价: 88.00 元

(共 2 册)

苏州大学版图书若有印装错误, 本社负责调换
苏州大学出版社营销部 电话: 0512-67258835

《英语国家社会与文化》(英联邦篇)

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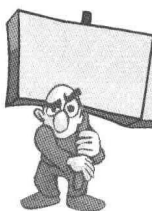
随着中国对外开放日益深入、北京奥运会成功举办,一方面,中国展示了其独特的悠久历史和璀璨的华夏文化,而另一方面,外国文化尤其是英语国家的文化不断涌入中国,中国人民正源源不断地汲取外来文化的营养,充实着自己的文化。目前,很多中国人都非常渴望了解英美等国家的社会和文化。在这样的一个背景下,我们编辑出版了这套丛书。希望这套丛书有助于人们更深入地了解英美等国家的社会和文化,去实现他们的愿望和理想。

《英语国家社会与文化》包括美国篇和英联邦篇,而英联邦篇又包括英国、加拿大、澳大利亚三个部分。该套丛书从不同视角如地理、政治、历史等介绍英语国家社会与文化。丛书中每单元包括中文导读,主要从某一领域概括性地作一介绍。每单元精选了三篇英语文章,分别选自权威媒体,具有经典性、趣味性和科学性,其中含有中国视角。文章中文化含义较强的短语、句子等都有注释,并配备了相关思考题和参考文献。

丛书内容丰富,选材新颖,视角独特,可读性强,非常适合英语专业学生教学和备考英语专业八级需要,也适合对于相关英语国家社会与文化感兴趣的人士自学之用,而对于那些欲出国学习和工作的人士该套丛书也会令他们受益匪浅。

出版者

2008年9月



Contents 目录

英国部分

(The United Kingdom)

Chapter One	Geography	(3)
Chapter Two	History	(22)
Chapter Three	Politics	(63)
Chapter Four	Economy	(92)
Chapter Five	Literature	(115)
Chapter Six	Education	(143)
Chapter Seven	The English Language	(170)
Chapter Eight	Mass Media	(193)
Chapter Nine	Religion	(216)
Chapter Ten	Sports and Recreations	(239)

加拿大部分

(Canada)

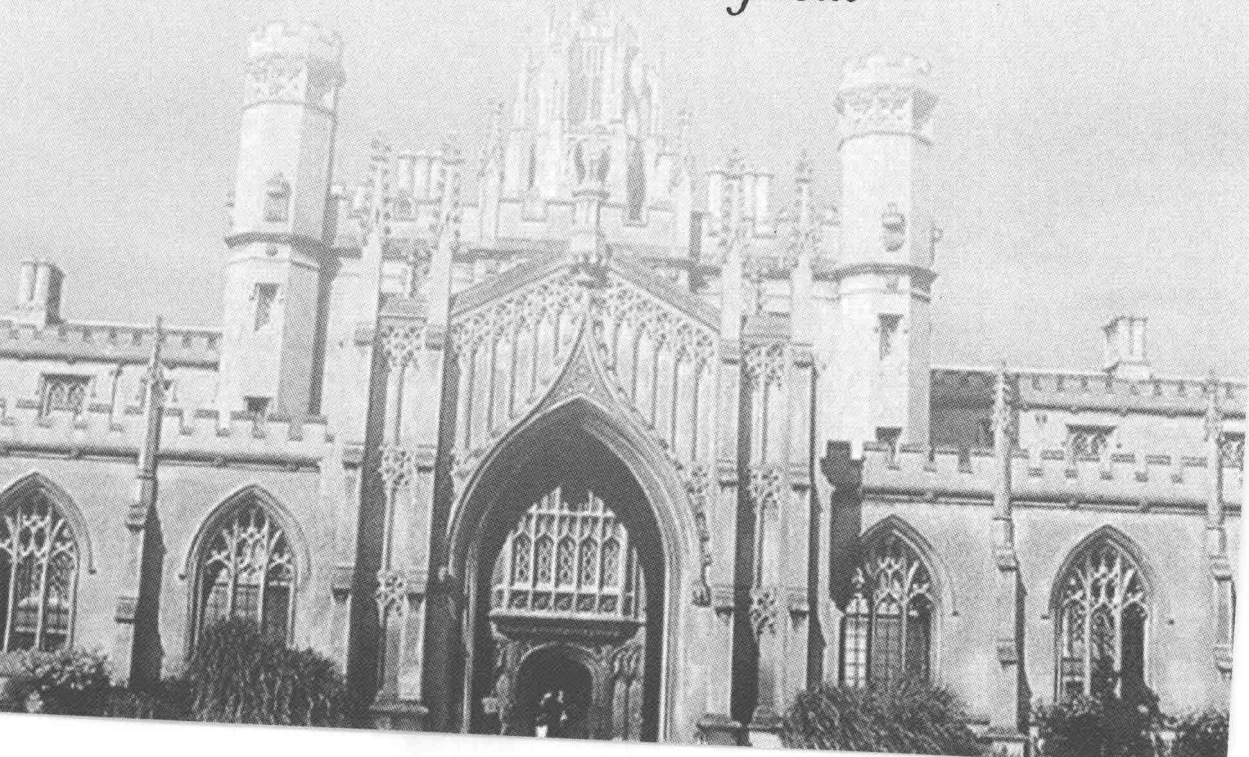
Chapter One	An Empty Land	(269)
Chapter Two	History	(285)
Chapter Three	Politics	(310)
Chapter Four	Races	(331)
Chapter Five	Economy	(354)
Chapter Six	Education	(381)
Chapter Seven	Culture and Social Life	(404)

澳大利亚部分
(Australia)

Chapter One	The Oldest Continent	(427)
Chapter Two	History	(439)
Chapter Three	Government and Administration	(451)
Chapter Four	People, Religion and Culture	(463)
Chapter Five	Economy	(475)
Chapter Six	Education	(487)

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国
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The United Kingdom





Chapter One

Geography

导 论

自然地理

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国,简称联合王国,通称英国。它由大不列颠岛上的英格兰、苏格兰和威尔士以及爱尔兰岛东北部的北爱尔兰共同组成,还包括一些英国海外领地。英国本土位于欧洲大陆西北面的不列颠群岛上,被北海、英吉利海峡、凯尔特海、爱尔兰海和大西洋包围。面积 24.4 万平方千米(包括内陆水域),英格兰地区 13.04 万平方千米,苏格兰 7.88 万平方千米,威尔士 2.08 万平方千米,北爱尔兰 1.41 万平方千米。东隔北海,南以多佛尔海峡和英吉利海峡同欧洲大陆相望。它的陆界与爱尔兰共和国接壤。海岸线总长 11 450 千米。

地形: 英格兰自西向东分为 4 个部分。以塞文河流域为中心的米德兰平原、海拔 200 米左右的高地、伦敦盆地、威尔德丘陵。威尔士境内多山,地势崎岖。苏格兰和其周围的许多小岛全境均属山岳地带,只有中部较为低平。北爱尔兰地区湖泊较多,英国的第一大湖——讷湖/内伊湖(Neagh)卧波其间,沿湖为平原。

河流: 塞文河长 354 千米,泰晤士河长 346 千米。北爱尔兰的讷湖/内伊湖(396 平方千米)面积居全国之首。

气候: 英国属温带阔叶林海洋性气候,终年温和湿润。通常最高气温不超过 32℃,最低气温不低于零下 10℃,平均气温 1 月为 4℃—7℃,7 月 13℃—17℃。多雨雾,秋冬尤甚。年平均降水量约 1 000 毫米。北部和西部山区的年降水量超过 2 000 毫米,中部和东部则少于 800 毫米。每年 2 月至 3 月最为干燥,10 月至来年 1 月最为湿润。全国气候类型为温带海洋性气候。

人文地理

据英国国家统计局公布的数字显示,截至 2006 年 7 月,英国人口达到 6 058.7 万,其中英格兰人 5 076.29 万,苏格兰人 511.69 万,威尔士人 296.59 万,北爱尔兰人 174.16 万。官方和通用语均为英语。威尔士北部还使用威尔士语,苏格兰西北高地及北爱尔兰通用盖尔语。居民多信奉基督教新教,主要分英格兰教会(也称英国国教圣公会,其成员约占英成人的 60%)和苏格兰教会(也称长老会,有成年教徒 66 万)。另有天主教会和印度教、犹太教及伊斯兰教等较大的宗教社团。

当世界航海事业不发达、人类历史上文化发达的中心还在东方的亚洲,而欧洲的经济、文化中心还在地中海沿海的时候,英国被认为处在世界的边缘,它是罗马帝国的边疆属地,大洋限制了它的发展。地理大发现后,欧洲殖民主义者开始到美洲、非洲、亚洲、大洋洲掠夺殖民地,国际贸易的干线逐渐从地中海转移到大西洋。英国正处在这条干线上,重要的地理位置促进了它的发展,伦敦很快成为世界的贸易中心,英国迅速发展成为“世界工厂”。当前,英国仍处在世界最重要的工业带北美与西欧之间的关键部位,两工业带之间以及西欧与亚、非之间联系的航路多经过英国或其周围,对于英国现代经济的发展十分有利。

当世界航海事业落后、现代武器出现以前,海洋是英国免受战争威胁的屏障,岛国位置使其本土 9 个世纪没有遭到外国军队的袭击。由于它的边境多为海疆,可以集中力量建设海军,使其很快成为世界海上强国。另外,当英国的海上力量强大起来之后,它又利用靠近大陆的有利位置参加欧洲的政治、经济活动,进而掠夺、控制某些国家。

英国面对西欧许多大河的出海口,像易北河、威悉河、莱茵河及塞纳河等分别流入北海和英吉利海峡。英国可以通过这些河流加强与欧洲特别是西欧各国的联系。

英国虽地处北纬 50° 以北,但由于受西风及北大西洋暖流的影响,冬暖夏凉,大部分地区不结冰,利于作物生长和内河航运业发展。加上海岸线漫长而曲折,港湾多优良而不封冻,这些有利于发展海上运输业。它东边的北海,地处北大西洋暖流与北冰洋寒流交汇处,渔业资源丰富,是世界著名的渔场;北海海底丰富的石油资源,对英国的经济发展也极为有利。

阅 读

**Passage One***

Geography of the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or UK, is in Western Europe. It comprises the island of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and the northeastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland), together with many smaller islands. The mainland areas lie between latitudes 49°N and 59°N (the Shetland Islands¹ reach to nearly 61°N), and longitudes 8°W to 2°E . The Royal Greenwich Observatory², in South East London, is the defining point of the Prime Meridian³. The United Kingdom has a total area of about 244,000 km², almost a quarter-of-a-million square kilometres.

The UK lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, and comes within 35 km (about 22 miles) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel⁴. Northern Ireland shares a 360 km international land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel ("Chunnel")⁵ bored beneath the English Channel, now links the UK with France.

Physical Geography

The physical geography of the UK varies greatly. It includes the chalk cliffs of Kent and Dorset, the rolling hills and fields of southeast England, the granite cliffs of Cornwall, the mountains of Wales, the uplands of the Peak District and the Pennines, the lakes and mountains of Cumbria, the Scottish lowlands, highlands and islands, and the fields, lakes and mountains of Northern Ireland. The country can be roughly divided into highland and lowland along the Tees-Exe line⁶.

The overall geomorphology⁷ of the UK was shaped by the combined forces of tectonics⁸ and climate change, in particular glaciation⁹.

The exact centre of the island of Great Britain is disputed. Depending upon how it is calculated it can be either Haltwhistle in Northumberland, or Dunsop Bridge in Lancashire.

Geology

The geology of the United Kingdom is varied and diverse. This gives up to the wide variety of landscapes found across the UK. This variety, coupled with the early efforts of UK based scientists and geologists to understand it, has influenced the naming of many geological concepts, including many of the geological periods (for example, the Ordovician Period¹⁰ is named after the Ordovices, a people of early Britain; the Devonian Period¹¹ is named after the county of Devon in Southwest England).

The oldest rocks in the UK are gneisses¹² which date from at least 2,700 Ma ("Ma" means "millions of years ago") in the Archaean Period¹³, which are found in the far north west of Scotland and in the Hebrides, with a few small outcrops elsewhere. South of the gneisses are a complex mixture of rocks forming the Northwest Highlands and Grampian Highlands in Scotland. These are essentially the remains of folded sedimentary rock¹⁴, deposited over the gneiss, from 1,000 Ma, with a notable 7 km thick layer of Torridon Sandstone being deposited about 800 Ma, as well as the debris deposited by an ice sheet 670 Ma.

The remains of ancient volcanic islands underlie much of central England with small outcrops visible in many places. Around 600 Ma, the Cadomian Orogeny (mountain building period) caused the English and Welsh landscape to be transformed into a mountainous region, along with much of northwest Europe.

The Welsh Skiddaw slate deposits formed at around 500 Ma, during the Ordovician Period. At about this time, around 425 Ma, North Wales (and South Mayo in Ireland) experienced volcanic activity. The remains of these volcanoes are still visible, for example, Rhobell Fwar, dating from 510 Ma. Large quantities of volcanic lava and ash known as the Borrowdale Volcanics covered both Wales and the Lake District, still seen in the form of mountains such as Helvellyn and Scafell Pike.

In the Silurian Period¹⁵, between 425 and 400 Ma, the Caledonian fold mountains formed (the Caledonian Orogeny), covering much of what is now the UK to perhaps 8,000 feet (about 2,438 m) thick. Volcanic ashes and lavas deposited during this period are still found in the Mendip Hills and in Pembrokeshire.

Volcanic deposits formed Ben Nevis in the Devonian Period. Sea levels varied considerably, with the coastline advancing and retreating from north to south across England, and with the deposition of numerous sedimentary rock layers. The Old Red Sandstone of Devon gave the period its name, though deposits are found in many other places.

During the Carboniferous Period¹⁶, around 360 Ma, the UK was lying at the

equator, covered by the warm shallow waters of the Rheic Ocean, during which time the Carboniferous limestone was deposited, still found in areas such as the Mendip Hills and the Pennines. The coal measures were formed at this time, in river deltas, swamps and rain forests. Coal can be found in many areas of the UK, as far north as Sutherland and as far south as Kent, though it has largely been mined in the Midlands, northern England and Wales. Also formed were the Millstone Grits¹⁷.

During the Permian and Triassic Periods¹⁸, much of the UK was beneath shallow seas, leading to the deposition of sedimentary rocks such as shale, limestone, gravel, and marl. The seas finally receded to leave a flat desert with salt pans.

At the beginning of the Jurassic Period¹⁹ the UK was underwater again, leading to the deposition of sedimentary rocks which now underlie much of England from the Cleveland Hills of Yorkshire to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset, including clays, sandstones, and the oolitic limestone of the Cotswold Hills. The burial of algae and bacteria below the mud of the sea floor during this time resulted in the formation of North Sea oil and natural gas.

In the Cretaceous Period²⁰, much of the UK was again below the sea and chalk and flints were deposited over much of Great Britain. These are now notably exposed at the White Cliffs of Dover, and form Salisbury Plain, the Chiltern Hills, the South Downs and other similar features.

The last volcanic rocks in the UK were formed in the early Tertiary Period²¹, between 63 and 52 Ma, with the major eruptions that formed the Antrim Plateau and the basaltic columns of the Giant's Causeway. Further sediments were deposited over southern England, including the London clay, while the English Channel consisted of mud flats and river deposited sands.

The major changes during the last few million years, during the Quaternary Period²², have been brought about by several recent ice ages, leaving a legacy of U-shaped valleys in highland areas, and fertile (if often stony) soil in southern UK.

Mountains and Hills

The ten tallest mountains in the UK are all found in Scotland. The highest peaks in each part of the UK are:

- Scotland: Ben Nevis (Nevis Range, 1,344 metres)
- Wales: Snowdon (Cambrian Mountains, 1,085 metres)
- England: Scafell Pike (Cumbrian Mountains, 977 metres)
- Northern Ireland: Slieve Donard (Mourne Mountains, 852 metres)

The ranges of mountains and hills in the UK include:

- Scotland: Cairngorms, Cheviot Hills, Scottish Highlands, Southern Uplands, Grampian Mountains
- Wales: Brecon Beacons, Cambrian Mountains, Snowdonia, Black Mountains, Preseli Hills
- England: Chilterns, Cotswolds, Dartmoor, Lincolnshire Wolds, Exmoor, Lake District, Malvern Hills, Mendip Hills, North Downs, Peak District, Pennines, Salisbury Plain, South Downs, Shropshire Hills, Yorkshire Wolds
- Northern Ireland: Mourne Mountains, Antrim Plateau, Sperrin Mountains

The lowest point of the UK is in the Fens of East Anglia, in England, parts of which lie up to 4 metres below sea level.

Rivers and Lakes

The longest river in the UK is the River Severn (220 mi, about 354 km) which flows through both Wales and England.

The longest rivers in the UK by country are:

- England: River Thames (215 mi, about 346 km)
- Scotland: River Tay (117 mi, about 188 km)
- N. Ireland: River Bann (76 mi, about 122 km)
- Wales: River Tywi (64 mi, about 103 km)

The largest lakes in the UK by country are:

- N. Ireland: Lough Neagh (147.39 sq mi, about 381.74 km²)
- Scotland: Loch Lomond (27.46 sq mi, about 71.12 km²)
- England: Windermere (5.69 sq mi, about 14.74 km²)
- Wales: Lake Vyrnwy (3.18 sq mi, about 8.24 km²)

The deepest lake in the UK is Loch Morar with a maximum depth of 309 metres (Loch Ness is second at 228 metres deep). The deepest lake in England is Wastwater which descends to 79 metres (about 258 feet).

Artificial Waterways

As a result of its industrial history, the United Kingdom has an extensive system of canals, mostly built in the early years of the Industrial Revolution, before the rise of competition from the railways. The United Kingdom also has numerous dams and reservoirs to store water for drinking and industry. The generation of hydroelectric power is rather limited, supplying less than 2% of British electricity mainly from the Scottish Highlands.

Coastline

The UK has a coastline which measures about 12,429 km (although this is a somewhat arbitrary figure since, being a fractal, the length of the coastline will

increase as the resolution with which it is measured decreases). The heavy indentation of the coastline helps to ensure that no location is more than 125 km from tidal waters.

The UK claims jurisdiction over the continental shelf, as defined in continental shelf orders or in accordance with agreed upon boundaries, an exclusive fishing zone of 200 mi (about 322 km), and territorial sea of 12 mi (about 19 km).

Inlets

- Cardigan Bay
- Lyme Bay
- Bristol Channel
- Thames Estuary
- Morecambe Bay
- Solway Firth
- The Wash
- Humber Estuary
- Firth of Forth
- Firth of Tay
- Moray Firth

Climate

The climate of the UK varies, but is generally temperate, though significantly warmer than some other locations at similar latitude, such as central Poland, due to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream. In general, the south is warmer and drier than the north.

The prevailing winds are southwesterly, from the North Atlantic Current. More than 50% of the days are overcast. There are few natural hazards, although there can be strong winds and floods, especially in winter.

Average annual rainfall varies from over 3,000 mm (about 118 inches) in the Scottish Highlands down to 553 mm (about 21.8 inches) in Cambridge. The county of Essex is one of the driest in the UK, with an average annual rainfall of around 600 mm (about 26 inches), although it typically rains on over 100 days per year. In some years rainfall in Essex can be below 450 mm (about 17.7 inches), less than the average annual rainfall in Jerusalem and Beirut.

The highest temperature recorded in the UK was 38.5°C (101.3°F) at Brogdale, near Faversham, in the county of Kent, on August 10, 2003. The lowest was -27.2°C (-16.96°F) recorded at Braemar in the Grampian Mountains, Scotland, on February 11, 1895 and January 10, 1982 and Altnaharra, also in

Scotland, on December 30, 1995.



Passage Two*

Human Geography of the United Kingdom

Demographics

According to the 2001 census, the United Kingdom's population was 58,789,194—the third-largest in the European Union (behind Germany and metropolitan France) and the 21st-largest in the world. Its overall population density is one of the highest in the world.¹ Almost one-third of the population lives in England's southeast and is predominantly urban and suburban, with about 7.7 million in the capital of London. The United Kingdom's high literacy rate (99%) is attributable to universal public education introduced for the primary level in 1870 and secondary level in 1900 (except in Scotland where it was introduced in 1696. Education is compulsory from the ages of 5 to 16. About one-fifth of British students go on to post-secondary education. The Church of England and the Church of Scotland function as the official national churches in their respective countries, but the major religions found in the world are represented in the United Kingdom.

The majority of people in the UK is white, and located as they are on a group of islands close to continental Europe, the British Isles have been subject to many invasions and migrations, especially from Scandinavia and the continent, including Roman occupation for several centuries. Contemporary Britons are descended mainly from the varied ethnic stocks that settled there before the 11th century. The pre-Celtic, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norse influences were blended² in Britain under the Normans, who had lived in Northern France. Although Celtic languages are also spoken in Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, and Northern Ireland, the predominant language is English, which is a West Germanic language descended from Old English, and featuring a large amount of borrowings from Norman French.

The first national census of the UK population was organised in 1801; the civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths commenced in England and Wales in 1837; and the first tentative attempt by the state to compile statistics on migration was included in the census of 1841. Prior to 1801, the chief source of information on the demography of the country was provided by the clergy's registration of baptisms, marriages, and burials that had occurred in their parishes, supplemented by