

*In celebration of the Nation's 200th
birthday, spectacular fireworks illumi-
nate the national monuments in
Washington, D.C., on July 4, 1976.*

一九七六年七月四日庆祝建国两百周
年之际,华盛顿国家
纪念碑大放烟花,蔚为壮观。

美国概况

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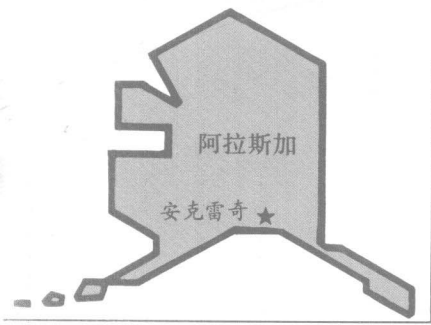
美国地图

各区·各州·主要城市

各区

- 太平洋西岸
- 落矶山脉各州
- 西南部
- 中西部
- 南部
- 大西洋中部各州
- 新英格兰

★ 主要城市



This is
AMERICA

美国概况

Foreword

“Americans have all a lively faith in the perfectibility of man, they judge that the diffusion of knowledge must necessarily be advantageous, and the consequences of ignorance fatal; they all consider society as a body in a state of improvement, humanity as a changing scene, in which nothing is, or ought to be, permanent; and they admit that what appears to them today to be good, may be superseded by something better tomorrow.” The words of a French visitor to the United States, Alexis de Tocqueville, written in 1840 still reflect characteristics of most Americans. They live in a country marked by vast diversity and constant change. Statistics alone about the United States, its geography, the economy, the culture and how people live and work fill volumes.

This booklet attempts to introduce a vast and complex nation, to provide a bit of information that may encourage a reader to seek more. Of necessity, the editors have simply touched upon a variety of aspects of American life—enumerating facts that will be surpassed and replaced each changing day, but which convey the general magnitude of the subjects.

前言

“美国人都有坚强的信念，相信人类有精益求精的天性；他们认为传播知识终归是有好处的，愚昧无知后果不堪设想；他们都把社会看作是一个在步步改良的组织，人类则处于一变再变的境地，什么事都不是也不该墨守成规，历久不变。他们承认，今天看来是美好的一切，可能就会让明天更美好的一切所取代。”这是一位在美国作客的法国人阿勒克西·德·托克维尔在一八四〇年讲的话，现在还可以反映出大部分美国人的特性。他们住在一个五花八门，变化多端的国家里。历来已经有不少专书列出详尽的统计数字叙述美国这个合众国，叙述美国的地理、经济、文化、以及美国人生活工作的情形。

这本小册子旨在介绍一个地大物博的国家，提供一点零星资料，希望引起读者的兴趣，看更多有关的读物。篇幅所限，编者只能简略谈谈美国生活的形形色色；人事天天在变，书里枚举的事实，难免会物换星移，事过境迁，可是，这到底也反映出其中每样事情的要旨。

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The Land and the People

THE UNITED STATES is a varied land—of forests, deserts, mountains, high flat lands and fertile plains. Almost every kind of climate may be found but the country lies mostly in the temperate zone. The continental United States stretches 4,500 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. It borders Canada on the north, and reaches south to Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. A fast railroad train, traveling 96 kilometers an hour, takes more than 48 hours to cross the country.

A jet plane crosses the continental United States from east to west in about five hours. Taking off from an Atlantic coast airport, the plane is soon flying over the gentle slopes of the Appalachian Mountains. Then, for hundreds of kilometers it crosses the fertile fields of the farm belt of the great Middle West. To the north, on clear days, passengers may see the five Great Lakes located between the United States and Canada. Continuing into the West, the plane flies over vast prairies and rough cattle-grazing country. Soon the snow-topped Rocky Mountains appear in the distance. After crossing these high ranges, the plane can almost glide down into the rich valleys of California and, finally, to a landing not far from the beaches of the Pacific Ocean.

New York Harbor handles more of the nation's waterborne foreign trade than any other port. In background, are the world's tallest buildings.

纽约港的水运对外贸易货运量在全国居第一位。图中远处为全世界最高的建筑物。





土地 和人民

美国是一个多采多姿的国家——有森林、沙漠、山脉、平坦的高地和肥沃的平原。在它的境内几乎每种气候都可以找到，但它大部分位于温带。美国本部东临大西洋，西濒太平洋，两岸相隔四千五百公里。北面与加拿大毗邻，南面一部分濒墨西哥湾，另一部分与墨西哥接壤。一列以九十六公里时速疾驰的火车，须逾四十八小时始能横越美国。

喷气式飞机横越美国大陆，由东向西飞约需五小时。飞机从大西洋海岸的机场起飞，不久便飞越阿巴拉契亚山脉的和缓斜坡，然后经过中西部农业地带绵延数百公里的肥沃田野。天气晴朗的日子，乘客北望可以遥遥的见到位于美国和加拿大之间的五大湖。继续西行，飞机飞越辽阔的草原和崎岖不平的牧场，不久便远远的见到峰峦积雪的落矶山。飞越这一些高山峻岭之后，飞机几乎可以从高空向加利福尼亚州肥沃的盆地滑翔而下，最后在离太平洋海滨不远的机场着陆。

A constant stream of people and traffic fills New York's Fifth Avenue. "The Avenue" is famed for its many outstanding stores and shops.

纽约第五街行人车辆川流不息。这条街以许多大百货店和商店闻名。

Including the states of Alaska and Hawaii, the United States covers an area of 9 million square kilometers. Alaska borders on northwestern Canada; Hawaii lies in the Pacific 3,200 kilometers from the mainland. Alaska is the largest in area of the 50 states, and Texas, in the southern part of the country, is second in size. Texas alone is larger than France, and Alaska is twice as big as Texas.

From the Appalachian Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West, the center of the country is drained by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their branches. These rivers form a 19,000-kilometer system of waterways that are connected to the Great Lakes in the north by a canal. The Mississippi is one of the world's great rivers; it was known to American Indians as the "father of waters." Water from the source of its main branch, the Missouri River, flows about 6,400 kilometers from the northern Rocky Mountains, to the mouth of the Mississippi in the Gulf of Mexico.

Other important rivers are the Yukon in Alaska, about 3,000 kilometers long; the Rio Grande, which flows for some 3,200 kilometers and forms part of the United States-Mexico border; the Columbia, which rises in western Canada and continues in the United States for about 1,900 kilometers west of the Rocky Mountains; and the Colorado, which begins in the Rocky Mountains and flows southwest for some 2,300 kilometers. For 342 of these kilometers the Colorado flows through the magnificent Grand Canyon, carved through the ages by the river's waters. Other well-known rivers include the Hudson, which meets the Atlantic Ocean at New York City; the Potomac, bordering the national capital at Washington; and the Ohio, a branch of the Mississippi that flows west from the Appalachian Mountains.

The 'Melting Pot'

The United States has long been known as a "melting pot," because many of its people are descended from settlers who came from all over the world to make their homes in the new land, which was sparsely populated by native Indian tribes. The first immigrants in American history came from England and the Netherlands. Attracted by reports of great economic opportunities and religious and political freedom, immigrants from many other countries flocked to

把阿拉斯加及夏威夷两州包括在内，美国面积达九百万平方公里。阿拉斯加与加拿大西北部接界；夏威夷位于太平洋上，离本土三千二百公里。五十州中，面积最大的，首推阿拉斯加，南部的得克萨斯州次之。单是得克萨斯的面积，已超过法国，而阿拉斯加的面积又两倍于得克萨斯州。

位于美国东部阿巴拉契亚山和西部落矶山之间的中部地区，由密西西比河、密苏里河及两河的支流排灌。这些河流构成总长达一万九千公里的水运系统，通过一条运河与北部大湖相通。密西西比河是世界最长的河流之一；美洲印第安人称之为“万水之源”。若从其发源于落矶山北部的最大支流密苏里河的源头算起，至墨西哥湾的密西西比河口，全长差不多六千四百公里。

其它重要河流，有阿拉斯加的育空河，长约三千公里；格兰河，全长约三千二百公里，成为美国和墨西哥两国一部分边界的界河；哥伦比亚河源自加拿大西部，流入美国，沿落矶山西面南下一千九百公里；科罗拉多河发源于落矶山，西南流，共长二千三百公里，其中三百四十二公里流经壮丽的大峡谷，而大峡谷是经科罗拉多河的河水穷年累世地冲击而成。其它著名的河流有哈得逊河，经纽约市流入大西洋；波托马克河，流经首都华盛顿边缘；俄亥俄河，是密西西比河支流，自阿巴拉契亚山西流而下。

“民族熔炉”

美国一向以“民族熔炉”著称，因为美国大部分人民都是当年移民的后裔，这些移民从世界各地到这个新土地上定居落户，当年这些新土地上还疏疏落落住着一些土生的印第安人。美国历史上首批移民来自英格兰和荷兰。世界各国的人听说美国经济发展机会很大，宗教与政治自由，纷纷涌了过来，人数越来越多，一



This is the famous Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii.

这是夏威夷檀香山著名的威基基海滩。

the United States in increasing numbers, reaching a peak in the years 1880-1914. Between 1820 and 1980 the United States admitted almost 50 million immigrants. 300,000 are admitted annually. In addition since 1980 refugees from Cuba, Eastern Europe and the so-called “boat people” from Southeast Asia have been the major refugee groups immigrating to the U.S. By 1980 some 415,000 IndoChinese had settled in the U.S.; during that same year more than 80,000 Cuban refugees also arrived.

Some 1,360,000 American Indians, descendants of North America's first inhabitants, now reside in the United States. Most live in the West, but many are in the south and north central areas. Of the more than 300 separate tribes, the largest is the Navaho in the Southwest.

Black people were first brought to America from Africa as slaves. They were declared free initially by Abraham Lincoln's



Anchorage is the largest city in the state of Alaska. Although it is near the Arctic Circle, the summers can be very warm.

安克雷奇是阿拉斯加州第一大城；这里虽然接近北极圈，夏天有时还是很热。

八八〇年到一九一四年达到顶峰。从一八二〇年到一九八〇年，美国前后批准了差不多五千万移民入境。每年批准入境达三十万人。此外，自一九八〇年以来，移居美国的难民主要是古巴人、东欧人和来自东南亚的所谓“船民”（海上难民）。截至一九八〇年，大约有四十一万五千个印支难民被安置到美国；同年内，也有八万多古巴难民到达美国。

目前居住在美国境内的印第安人约一百三十六万名；他们是北美洲土著的后裔。他们大部分定居西部，但也有不少在中部的南北地区。印第安人分属三百多个不同的部落，其中以西南部的拿发和部落人数最多。

黑人最初是被当做奴隶从非洲运到美国来的。一八六三年亚

Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, but slavery was not abolished irrevocably until ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865, following the Civil War. Their descendants now make up nearly 12 percent of the population. They once lived mainly in the agricultural South but now are scattered throughout the nation. In the mid-western city of Chicago, for example, there are almost two million black residents—more than three times as many as in 1940. New York State has the largest black population—2,402,000, an increase of close to one million in 20 years.

In Hawaii, more than a third of the residents are of Japanese descent, a third are Caucasians, about 15 percent are of Polynesian background, and the others are mainly of Filipino, Korean and Chinese descent.

Every 10 years the United States makes a complete count, or census, of its people and industries. When the first count was made in 1790 the new nation had fewer than 4 million people, almost all living along the East Coast. Today, there are more than 226 million. In the past 20 years many people have moved to the western and southern parts of the country. California, on the Pacific Coast, now has the nation's largest population and the Atlantic Coast state of New York is second. Another western state, Colorado, is growing almost twice as fast as the nation as a whole. Some other western states have had spectacular population booms: Arizona has more than doubled its population since 1960 while Nevada has almost tripled its population in the same period. The southern state of Florida, known for its pleasant climate, has almost twice the number of residents it had in 1960.

The United States now has more than 77 million young people (between the ages of 5 and 24)—5 million less than in 1960. And there are 25.5 million persons over the age of 65, one-third more than in 1960.

The American people are always on the move—from one part of the country to another, from one city to another, from farm to city, from the city to the suburbs. One in five Americans moves to a new home every year seeking new job opportunities, a better climate, or for other reasons. Many industries have scattered their factories, often far from the parent plant, and many of their workers have decided to try the new locations.

Today three out of four Americans live in towns, cities or