



普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材



高等学校英语专业系列教材

英语国家社会与文化

Exploring English-speaking Countries

梅仁毅 主编



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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Exploring English-speaking Countries

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前 言

学习语言必须与了解、学习文化相结合。母语的学习如此，外语学习更是如此。我们常说要用对方（指母语国家人群）听得懂的方式进行表达，也就是说在进行交流时，要用符合对方文化习惯的方式进行表达。这就要求外语学习者了解、学习对方的政治、历史、社会和文化。给学习英语的学生提供一些所学语言国家的基本材料与信息，使学生有一定的了解，这就是编写此书的目的。

此书编写遵循以下原则：

1. 突出重点，不求面面俱到，但力求包含近期的变化与信息；
2. 历史、政治、社会、文化是侧重点。自然地貌、风土人情，虽有触及，但非重点，也不需死记硬背；
3. 在练习题的编写上，抓住重点，把握概貌，不要求学生记住所有的人名、地名、日期等细节；
4. 帮助学生把内容与语言结合起来，通过语言掌握内容，通过对内容的分析、讨论、表达提高语言的运用能力。为此，在编写时，我们力求语言简单易懂。我们希望通过这样的写法传达一个信息：学生通过自己掌握的英语，足以表达很多内容，从而增强学习的信心和运用语言的主动性。

此书包含了美国、英国、加拿大、澳大利亚、爱尔兰、新西兰六国。爱尔兰、新西兰两国是一般介绍英语国家概况的书籍所未收入的。我们认为这两国各有特征，不应排除。但在使用时，在时间安排上，仍应有

所侧重。美国是当今世界上唯一的超级大国，自应给予重视。英国、加拿大、澳大利亚也应有所侧重。同时，建议教师根据学生的实际水平和需要，有选择地使用本书的练习题，以巩固课堂教学的效果，不必要求学生每题都做。

本书是一项集体劳动的成果。其中，滕继萌负责撰写美国部分，程静英负责撰写英国部分，龚雁负责撰写加拿大部分，李又文负责撰写澳大利亚部分，爱尔兰专家 Jerusha McCormack 和王展鹏负责撰写爱尔兰部分（罗来明参与编写了部分注释），戴宁负责撰写新西兰部分。梅仁毅负责对全文进行审校和定稿。

时代在发展，形势在变化，尽管我们努力包含最新信息，但出版的程序与时间仍可能使内容有所落后。希望教师们在使用此书时能注意补充最新的、重要的发展，但必须少而精。这样就能激发学生关注变化、积极探索的主动性。通过阅读与上课，如能使大部分学生产生兴趣，主动探索，这将是我们的最大收获。

梅仁毅

北京外国语大学教授

2010年7月

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The United States

What is the essence of America? Finding and maintaining that perfect, delicate balance between freedom “to” and freedom “from”.

—Marilyn vos Savant, in Parade

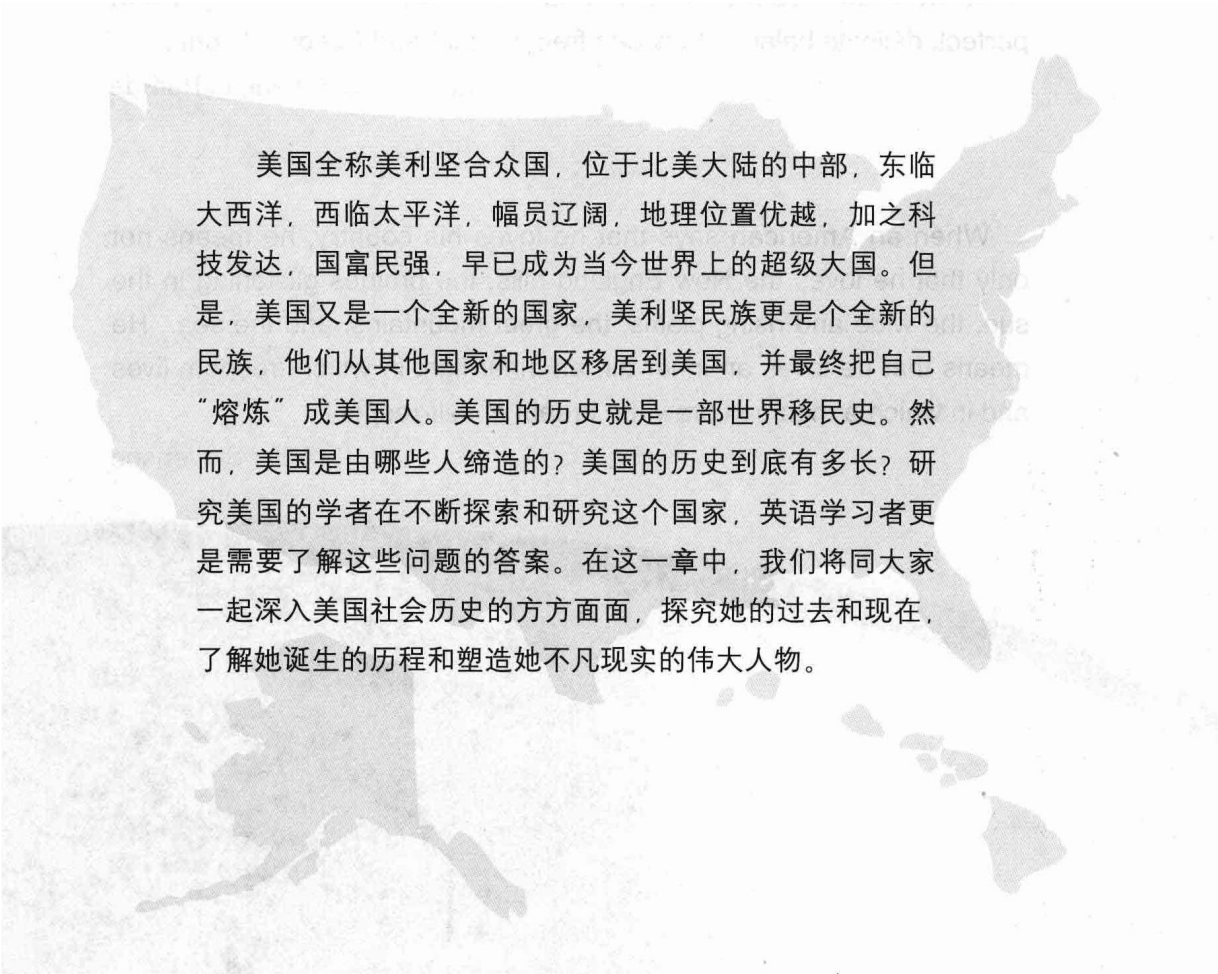
When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self-respect.

—Adlai Stevenson



Chapter 1

Land and History



美国全称美利坚合众国，位于北美大陆的中部，东临大西洋，西临太平洋，幅员辽阔，地理位置优越，加之科技发达，国富民强，早已成为当今世界上的超级大国。但是，美国又是一个全新的国家，美利坚民族更是个全新的民族，他们从其他国家和地区移居到美国，并最终把自己“熔炼”成美国人。美国的历史就是一部世界移民史。然而，美国是由哪些人缔造的？美国的历史到底有多长？研究美国的学者在不断探索和研究这个国家，英语学习者更是需要了解这些问题的答案。在这一章中，我们将同大家一起深入美国社会历史的方方面面，探究她的过去和现在，了解她诞生的历程和塑造她不凡现实的伟大人物。

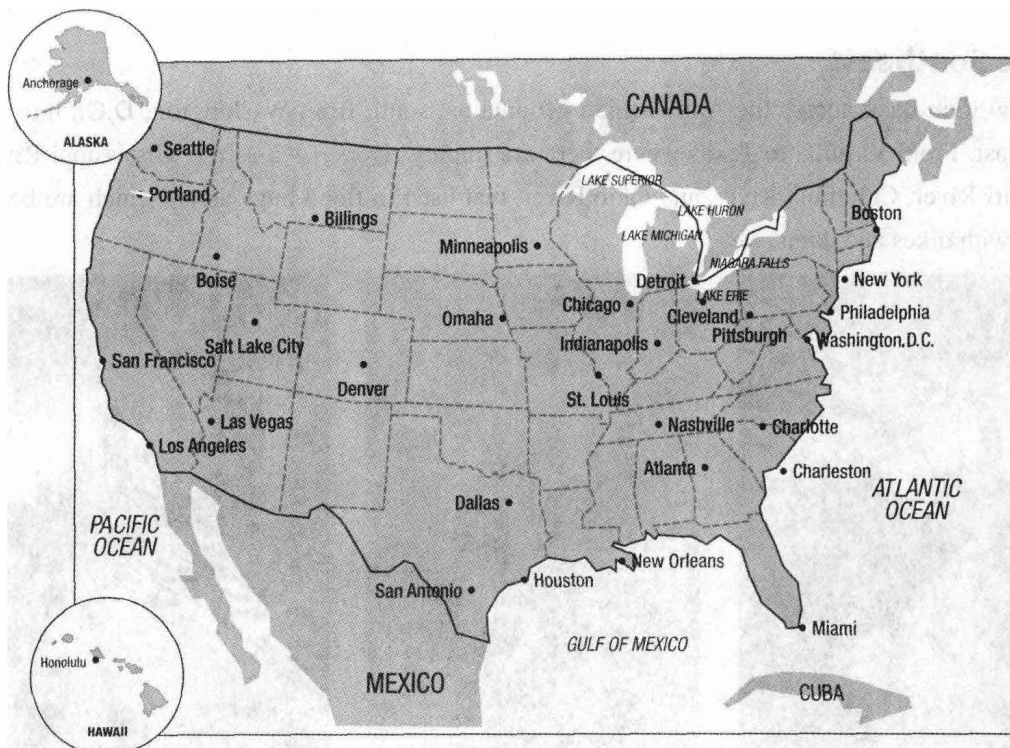


I. Geography

Stretching 4,500 kilometres from east to west and 2,500 kilometres from north to south, the main land mass of the United States offers almost every variety of climate and physical feature. Including the states of Alaska and Hawaii, the country covers an area of more than nine million square kilometres, Hawaii lying in the Pacific 3,200 kilometres away from the mainland, and Alaska 3,170 kilometres to the northwest. To understand some of its differences, let's divide the United States into six regions. Each region is distinctive from the others economically, geographically, and, in some ways, culturally.

1. The Northeast

New York City is the largest city in the Northeast and the financial centre of the United States. It was the welcoming port for most of the immigrants who saw, as they sailed into its harbour, the immense Statue of Liberty holding high her torch of freedom. There is another major seaport in the Northeast: Boston. Boston, 719 kilometres from Washington, D.C.¹, is the heart of New



Map of the United States

1 Washington, D.C.: 华盛顿特区, 为美国首都, 位于弗吉尼亚和马里兰之间的波托马克河畔, 与哥伦比亚特区具有同等范围。华盛顿由皮埃尔·L. 昂方设计, 于 1790 年被定为首都, 1800 年自费城迁此。

England¹ States. Along this narrow coastal strip from Washington, D.C. to Boston, more than 20 per cent of the population live in less than 2 per cent of the country's land area. Washington, D.C., at the southern end of this string of cities, has little industry and no skyscrapers.

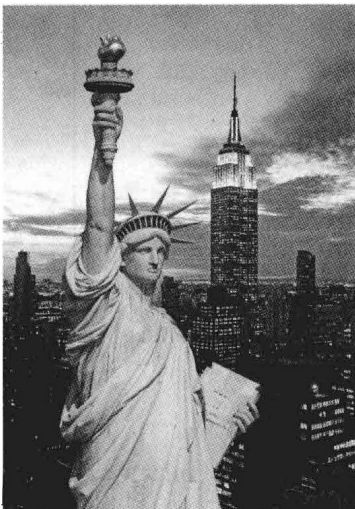
Look inland to Detroit, 1,000 kilometres northwest of New York City. Detroit was the birthplace of mass production of motor cars and today it is the headquarters of the country's car manufacturers. On to Chicago, the second largest city in the US stretching for 47 kilometres around the southwest shore of Lake Michigan. Chicago is a railway centre. It serves the Midwest but is included in the Northeast regional division, because it is part of the network of northern industrial and shipping centres.

2. The Central Basin

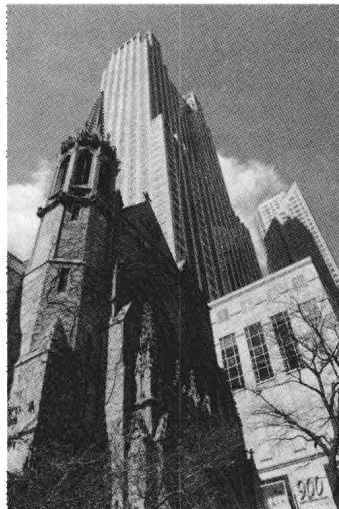
The gently sloping prairie land of the Central Basin was once the frontier to those who crossed the Appalachian Mountains². In Illinois there is a rich grassland. The fertile soil and long hot summers with enough rain are a farmer's dream. Farther north in Wisconsin and Minnesota, it is cooler and moister.

3. The Southeast

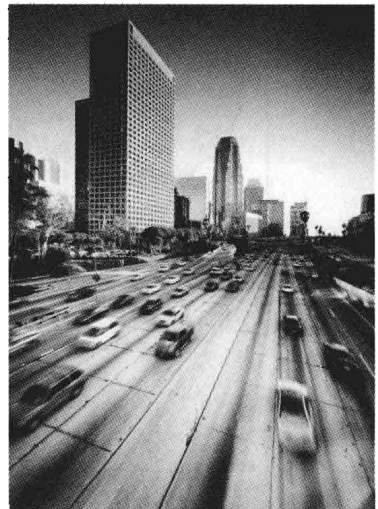
Now look back across the Appalachian Mountains, south from Washington, D.C., into the Southeast. From Virginia to Texas where there are mighty rivers, such as the Mississippi River, Missouri River, Columbia River, and Ohio River, that used to flood huge areas, which are being tamed with dikes and dams.



New York City



Chicago



Los Angeles

-
- 1 New England: 新英格兰地区。包括美国东北部的马萨诸塞、新罕布什尔、康涅狄格、罗得岛、佛蒙特和缅因六个州。
 - 2 Appalachian Mountains: 阿巴拉契亚山脉。



4. The Great Plains

The Great Plains is where the rain gives out, about halfway across Texas and Oklahoma. From here an imaginary line runs north and south almost through the middle of the US. It is called the 50-centimetre rainfall line. Farmers called it the “disaster line” because those who have tried to farm to the west, where rainfall drops below 50 centimetres a year, have suffered ruin in years of drought.

The weather in the Great Plains is harsh. The heat of the summer is scorching, and the winter is freezing. The wind blows fiercely, with few hills or forests to stop it, from Montana on the Canadian border to the state of Texas on the Mexican border. Water is precious. Its scarcity drove the settlers on across the plains as far as they could go. Only the Native Americans knew how to survive here. They captured the wild horses, descended from those that escaped from Spanish explorers in the 16th century, and hunted buffaloes that provided them with most of their food, clothing and tools.

5. The Mountains and Deserts

Like the Great Plains, the Mountains and Deserts region did not attract settlers at first. It was a fearful area, to be crossed as quickly as possible to reach the Pacific coast. The Rocky Mountains are the long backbone of this part of the North American continent—over 4,200 metres high and 560 kilometres wide in Utah and Colorado. Because of its unusual and varied natural beauty, much of this mountain and desert region has been preserved unspoiled in national parks—such as Yellowstone in Wyoming. There are few towns and they are far apart. The most successful settlers here were a group of Mormons¹, who settled in the desert by an enormous salty inland sea and in 1847 established the Salt Lake City.

6. The Coastal Valleys

In the Coastal Valleys there is rich soil, abundant water and mild climate, which makes this one of the richest farm areas in the US. All three Pacific coast states—Washington, California and Oregon—face the Orient across the Pacific Ocean. Los Angeles is one of the world’s largest metropolitan areas: 117,000 hectares. And nearby Hollywood is where motion pictures and many television shows are made. There are three major ports in the region, including the ports of San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, with San Francisco Bay being one of the world’s finest land-locked harbours.

II. The Population and Immigration

The first American settlers, beginning more than 20,000 years ago, were tribal people

¹ Mormon: 摩门教徒。该教突出上帝在一次特别启示中惠赐给其创始人的神圣真理，起初实行一夫多妻制，后废除。

wandering from continent to continent: hunters and families following animal herds from Asia to America, across a land bridge where the Bering Strait¹ is today. When Christopher Columbus² “discovered” the New World in 1492, about 1.5 million Native Americans lived in what is now continental United States. Mistaking the place for the Indies, Columbus called the Native Americans “Indians”. The continent was, incidentally, named after a later Italian explorer, Amerigo Vespucci, who, arriving in Brazil in 1499, believed the place was a new land. He promoted himself so well that he got his name attached to the new continent.



An Indian American singer

During the next 200 years, people from several European countries crossed the Atlantic Ocean to explore America, and set up trading posts and colonies. Native Americans suffered greatly from the European exploration and colonization.

The English were the dominant ethnic group among early settlers, and English became the prevalent American language. But people of other nationalities were not long in following. In 1776 Thomas Paine³, a spokesman for the revolutionary cause in the colonies and himself a native of England, wrote that “Europe, and not

England, is the parent country of America.” These words described the settlers who came not only from Great Britain, but also from other European countries, including Spain, Portugal, France, Holland, Germany, and Sweden. Nonetheless, in 1780 three out of every four Americans were of English or Irish descent.

Between 1840 and 1860, the United States received a great wave of immigrants. In Europe as a whole, famine, poor harvests, rising population and political unrest caused an estimated five million people to leave their homelands each year. During the late 19th century, so many people were entering the United States that the government operated a special port of entry on Ellis Island in the Harbour of New York City. It is now preserved as part of Statue of Liberty National Monument.

Among the flood of immigrants to North America, one group came unwillingly. These were Africans, 500,000 of whom were brought over as slaves between 1619 and 1808, when importing

-
- 1 Bering Strait: 白令海峡, 在亚洲大陆东北端和北美大陆西北端之间, 连接北冰洋和太平洋。
 - 2 Christopher Columbus: 克里斯托弗·哥伦布 (1451—1506), 意大利出生的西班牙航海家、新大陆发现者。
 - 3 Thomas Paine: 托马斯·潘恩 (1737—1809), 在美国独立战争中曾以他的革命小册子《常识》激励了美国人的反英斗志。



slaves into the United States became illegal. The practice of owning slaves continued, especially in the South, where many labourers were needed to work the fields. The process of ending slavery began in April 1861 with the outbreak of the American Civil War between the free states of the North and the slave states of the South. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln¹ issued the Emancipation Proclamation², which abolished slavery in those southern slave states. Slavery was abolished throughout the United States with the passage of the 13th Amendment to the country's Constitution in 1865.

Even after the end of slavery, American blacks were hampered by segregation and inferior education. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, African Americans, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.³, used boycotts, marches, and other forms of nonviolent protest to demand equal treatment under the law and an end to racial prejudice. In 1964, the US Congress passed laws prohibiting discrimination in voting, education, employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Today, African Americans constitute 12.7 per cent of the total US population. In recent decades blacks have made great strides, and the black middle class has grown substantially. In any case, perhaps, the greatest change in the past decades has been in the attitudes of America's white citizens. Younger Americans in particular exhibit a new respect for all races, and there is an increasing acceptance of blacks by whites in all walks of life and social situations.

It is also quite common to walk down the streets of an American city today and hear Spanish spoken. Today, there are about 27 million Spanish-speaking residents, who are now called Hispanics. About 50 per cent of Hispanics in the United States have origins in Mexico.

Today, Asian Americans are one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the country. About 10 million people of Asian descent live in the United States. They come from a variety of countries, including China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The steady stream of people coming to America has had a profound effect on the American character. The American people are famous for being independent and optimistic, and freedom-loving. Immigrants also enrich American communities by bringing aspects of their native cultures with them. For example, Chinese Americans celebrate their traditional Spring Festival with street fairs and other festivities. And ethnic restaurants can be found in many American cities.

1 Abraham Lincoln: 亚伯拉罕·林肯 (1809—1865), 美国第16任总统 (1861—1865), 共和党人。1861年当选总统后, 恰逢南北战争爆发。为了维护合众国的统一, 林肯采取大量革命性措施, 颁布《宅第法》和《解放宣言》, 取得内战的胜利。战后被南方种族主义暴徒暗杀。

2 Emancipation Proclamation: 《解放宣言》。南北战争期间, 由亚伯拉罕·林肯总统于1863年1月1日颁布的行政命令, 规定自即日起废除南部各州的奴隶制度, 宣布所有黑奴获得自由。因南部叛乱州当时尚未在联邦政府的控制中, 该宣言实际上并未解放任何奴隶。但它有力地促进了全国范围内的废奴运动。两年后的1865年, 国会通过的第13条宪法修正案终于正式废除奴隶制度, 从法律上宣布了黑奴的解放。

3 Martin Luther King, Jr.: 马丁·路德·金 (1929—1968), 20世纪50—60年代美国民权运动黑人领导人, 采用非暴力的方式与白人种族主义者抗争, 于1968年被暗杀。

III. History

1. The origin and the colonial period

Just when America was discovered by the human race is a large puzzle. But scholars around the world are convinced that the first American settlers arrived in this continent more than 20,000 years ago, from Asia to America, across a narrow land strip where the Bering Strait is today. Later they developed their own cultures and societies on the continent. Some lived in permanent

settlements, and others still wandered. In short, there was a great diversity of tribal nations, speaking over five hundred languages. The tribal people were later what we call Indians because Christopher Columbus mistakenly thought he had arrived in the country where the people of India lived. So for at least 150 centuries, the Indians' way of life meant "the American way of life".

It is widely believed that the first Europeans to reach North America were Vikings from Iceland, led by Leif Ericsson¹ about the year 1000. But the Vikings failed to establish a permanent settlement and soon lost contact with the new continent. In 1492, acting on behalf of the Spanish crown in search of shorter routes between East and West, the Italian navigator Christopher Columbus sailed west from Europe and landed on one of Bahaman Islands in the Caribbean Sea.

Among those who were eager to set their feet on the new Continent, the British seemed to gain an upper hand. In fact, the first successful English colony was founded at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. A few years later, English Puritans² came to America in the *Mayflower* to escape religious persecution. In 1620, the Puritans founded Plymouth Colony which later became Massachusetts.



Monument of Christopher Columbus, Barcelona, Spain

1 Leif Ericsson: 里夫·埃里克松, 10—11 世纪的挪威航海探险家, 曾率北欧海盗前往美洲, 据说到达过拉布拉多半岛。

2 Puritan: 清教徒。清教主义既是一种宗教教义, 也是一种价值观念, 主张简化宗教礼仪, 禁欲、苦行, 提倡勤俭廉洁的生活方式。