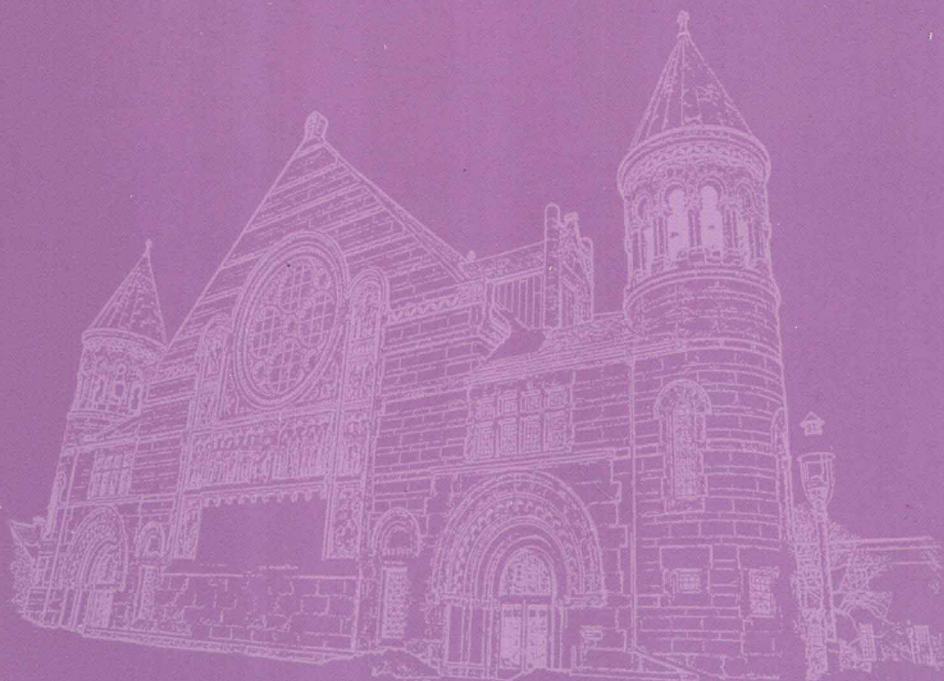


外语语言文学系列教材



新编英语国家概况

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19 世纪和 20 世纪早期是世界上最强大的国家,享有“日不落帝国”之美誉。后来因为两次世界大战和 20 世纪下半叶的经济滞胀,它失去了昔日的荣光,因而有学者将英国定格为“二流发达国家”。尽管如此,英国仍是一个在世界范围内拥有巨大影响力的举足轻重的强国。2011 年,其国内生产总值为 24,212 亿美元,人均 GDP 达 38,630 美元。英国在科学、工程和技术方面所取得的成就令世人瞩目。英国有 70 多人荣获诺贝尔科学奖,是除美国之外获取该奖项人数最多的国家。从牛顿到霍金,英国的巨大科学成就举世公认。而英国的伦敦仍然是世界最大的国际外汇市场和国际保险中心,也是世界上最大的金融和贸易中心之一。

提起美国,国人皆知。自 1870 年以来,美国国民经济就高居全球首位。美国具有高度发达的现代市场经济,其国内生产总值和对外贸易额均居世界首位,是世界上最大的商品和服务贸易国。2011 年,美国的国内生产总值已超过 15 万亿美元,人均 GDP 达 47,284 美元。美国是目前世界上唯一的经济、科技和军事超级大国。

除英美两国以外,我们在书中对另外四个相当发达的英语国家作了较为详细的介绍。加拿大这个国土面积比中国还大的国家,人口却只有中国的四十分之一。该国具有发达的经济、丰富的资源以及宽松的政策,是世界上最富有的国家之一,也是西方七大工业国和世界十大贸易国之一。2011 年,加拿大人均 GDP 达 50,436 美元,排名世界第九。该国制造业和高科技产业发达,制造业、建筑、采矿构成其国民产业经济的三大支柱。可以说,加拿大是一个具有现代化工业科技水平且能源与资源充足的发达国家。

澳大利亚是一个后起的发达资本主义国家。与加拿大相似,澳大利亚的产业经济也是以制造业、建筑业和矿业为主。2011 年,人均 GDP 达 65,477 美元,排名世界第六,在 2000 万人口以上的国家中排名第一,远高于美国、英国等其他主要英语国家。值得注意的是,澳大利亚常被描绘成一个以农业为主的国家,给人留下偏僻、落后的印象,事实上,这些都是误解。澳大利亚先后有六位科学家获得诺贝尔奖。澳大利亚拥有许多科学发明和科技成就,运用于现代人类领域,足以让澳大利亚人无比骄傲和自豪,如:检查怀孕妇女的超声波成像技术、拯救过无数生命的西药盘尼西林、完整记录飞机飞行过程的黑匣子记录仪、以电为动力的心脏起搏器等。

新西兰是一个现代、繁荣的发达国家。2011 年的人均 GDP 为 36,648 美元,排名世界第二十三位,和 2008 年相比,减少了 3,000 美元。在过去二十年中,新西兰成功地从以农业为主的经济转型为具有国际竞争力的工业化自由市场经济。新西兰气候宜人、环境清新、风景优美、资源丰富,人民生活水平和生活质量相当高,排名联合国人类发展指数第三位。我们必须提到的是:新西兰是第一个承认中国市场经济地位的发达国家,也是第一个与中国开展双边自由贸易协定谈判的发达国家,并

于2008年4月7日正式签署《中华人民共和国政府和新西兰政府自由贸易协定》，建立了中国—新西兰自由贸易区。

爱尔兰是一个有着五千多年悠久历史的国家。该国在历史上是一个以农牧业为主的国家，有“欧洲庄园”之称。自20世纪80年代以来，爱尔兰以软件、生物工程等高科技产业带动国民经济发展，并以良好的投资环境吸引了大量海外投资，完成了由农牧经济向知识经济的过渡。自1995年起，爱尔兰国民经济持续高速增长，被誉为“欧洲小虎”。2011年的人均GDP为45,853美元。爱尔兰的自然风景美丽如画，是一个平和安宁的国家。

鉴于书中内容广泛，信息丰富，课时有限，我们建议教师在讲解时有所取舍，一个学期16周(32课时)授完。具体可按英美两国各4周，其余国家各2周组织教学，留1周的机动时间。

本书是由6所高校的专业教师历时近3年共同编写完成的。英国部分(第一章)由陈凯负责，参编人员有朱玉霜(第一节和第六节)，李文浩(第五节)，陈凯(第二节、第三节和第四节)；美国部分(第二章)由吴钟明负责，参编人员有郭萍(第一节)，邹晶(第二节)，邸明(第三节)，李慷(第四节)，张玉珍(第五节)，高聪儒、吴钟明(第六节)；加拿大部分(第三章)和澳大利亚部分(第四章)由林莉负责，参编人员有Robert Stanelle(加拿大)，柳笛、林莉(澳大利亚)；新西兰部分(第五章)和爱尔兰部分(第六章)由潘蕾负责，参编人员有张杨静(新西兰第二节和第六节的第1、6、7小节，爱尔兰第一节和第六节)，许雪芬(爱尔兰第二节、第三节、第四节和第五节)，潘蕾(新西兰第一节、第三节、第四节、第五节、第六节的第2、3、4、5小节)。郭萍负责美国、澳大利亚和加拿大的统稿工作，邓绪新负责英国、新西兰和爱尔兰的统稿工作，并参与了部分章节的编写工作(英国的“城市”和“教育”，美国的“文学”和“体育”，澳大利亚的“社会福利”等)。最后，邓绪新和郭萍对全书内容进行了大量的删减、添加、修改，对语言文字进行润色加工和其他技术处理并终审。本书的问世得到了华中师范大学出版社曾巍副社长、刘晓嘉主任、赵国静编辑等人的鼎力支持，我们在此对其一并表示诚挚的谢意。

编写这样的教材对我们来说的确是一大挑战。由于本书涉及的英语国家多，覆盖知识面广，加之编者水平有限，书中的不足之处敬请师生和专家批评指正，我们不胜感激。

编者

2012年7月，于武昌桂子山

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Chapter 1 Great Britain

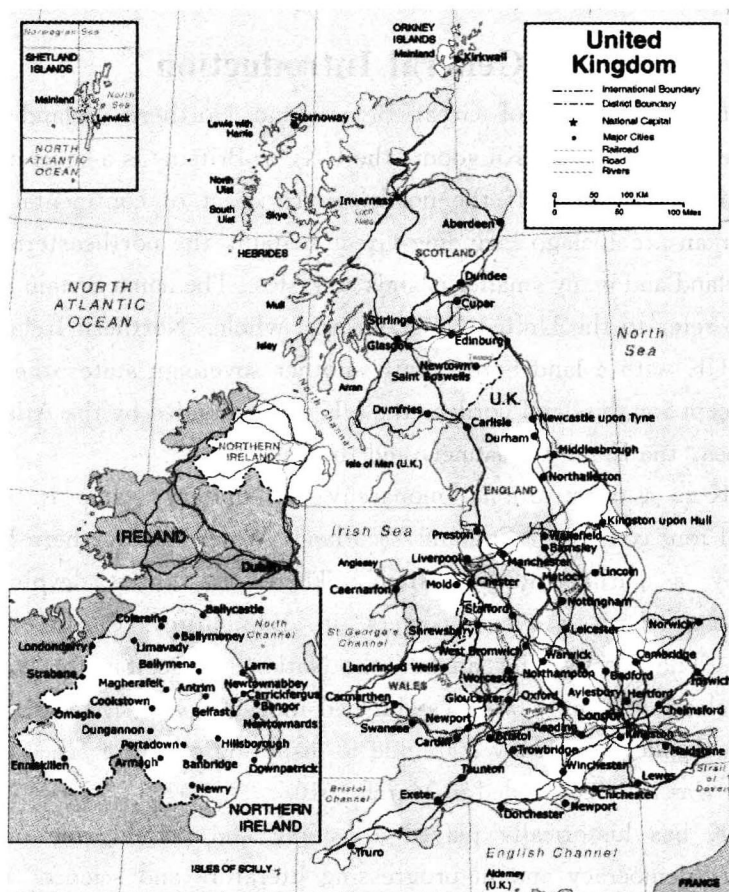
1. General Introduction

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (commonly acknowledged as the United Kingdom, the UK, or Britain) is a sovereign state and an island country located off the northwestern coast of continental Europe. It extends over an archipelago including Great Britain, the northeastern part of the island of Ireland and many smaller islands and isles. The name Britain is sometimes employed to refer to the United Kingdom as a whole. Northern Ireland is only a part of the UK with a land border with another sovereign state—the Republic of Ireland. Except for this land border, the UK is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Irish Sea.

The UK is a constitutional monarchy and unitary state. It is a country consisting of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is governed by a parliamentary system. There are three devolved national administrations, with varying powers in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast respectively. The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly were established in 1999, with the Northern Ireland Assembly suspended until May 2007 due to disputing over the peace process, but transference was fully concluded in March 2010.

The UK has historically played a leading and pivotal role in developing parliamentary democracy and in progressing literature and science. It has made significant contributions to the world economy, especially in technology and industry. The UK is a developed country, with the world's 6th largest economy by nominal GDP and 8th largest economy by purchasing power parity. The UK was the world's first industrialised country and produced many scientists and engineers

credited with important advances. It was also the world's primary power during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The first half of the 20th century witnessed the UK's power seriously diminished due to the two world wars and the Irish republic's withdrawal from the union. As a matter of fact, the economic expenditure and social cost of two world wars and the falling-off of its empire depleted its leading role in global affairs. The second half saw the crumbling of the British Empire and the UK transforming and rebuilding itself into a modern and flourishing European state.



As one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the UK pursues a global approach to foreign policy. It also benefits from historical and cultural links with the United States and is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Moreover, the UK is an active member of

contains a large Jewish community closely connected with the clothing and tailoring trades, and includes the very large riverside docks which make London one of the three largest ports in the world. People of all colours and nationalities may be seen living there.

To the west are the fine shops and theatres of the area known as the West End, the part best known to the tourist. Oxford Street with its huge department stores is the favourite street of shopping, then Bond Street with its smaller luxury shops and then the Dorchester, one of the most famous and most expensive hotels in London. The largest of all London's parks, Hyde Park, which with the neighbouring Kensington Gardens forms a grassy area of a whole square mile, is scattered with trees and crossed by a long narrow lake called the Serpentine.

Birmingham is the most populous British city outside the capital London, with a population of a little over 1 million. Today's Birmingham is a major international commercial centre and an important transport, retail, events and conference hub. Birmingham's three universities and two colleges make it the largest centre of higher education in the UK outside London, and its major cultural institutions, including the city of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, enjoy international reputations. The Big City Plan is a large redevelopment plan currently underway in the city centre with the aim of making Birmingham one of the top 20 most liveable cities in the world within 20 years.

Birmingham has the second largest economy in the UK. Although the city grew to prominence as a manufacturing and engineering centre, its economy today is dominated by the service sector, which accounts for over 80% of its employment. Birmingham is the largest centre for employment in public administration, education and health in Great Britain, and after Leeds and Glasgow, it is the third largest centre for employment in banking, finance and insurance outside London. Tourism is also an increasingly important part of the local economy. With major facilities such as the International Convention Centre and National Exhibition Centre, the Birmingham area accounts for 42% of the UK conference and exhibition trade. The city's sporting and cultural venues attract large numbers of visitors.

Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland with a population of about 600,000 in the city itself, or over 2 million if the population in the surrounding towns of the

Clydeside conurbation is taken into account. Located at the west end of Scotland's Central Belt on the banks of the Clyde River, Glasgow's historical importance as Scotland's main industrial centre has been challenged by decades of change and various regeneration efforts. Being the third largest city in the entire UK (by population), it remains one of the nation's key economic centres outside London.

Glasgow has the largest economy in Scotland and the third highest GDP per capita of any city in the UK (after London and Edinburgh).

Glasgow was once one of the most significant cities in the UK for manufacturing, the most prominent industry being shipbuilding based on the Clyde River. Although Glasgow owed much of its economic growth to the shipbuilding industry, which still continues today, the city has its roots in the tobacco trade. The city was also noted for its locomotive construction industry—led by firms such as the North British Locomotive Company.

Whilst manufacturing has declined, Glasgow's economy has seen significant relative growth of tertiary sector industries such as financial and business services, communications, biosciences, creative industries, healthcare, higher education, retail and tourism.

Manchester is a city and metropolitan borough in Greater Manchester, England with a population of about 500,000. Manchester lies within one of the UK's largest urban areas, the Greater Manchester Urban Area which has a population of 2.2 million.

The city is notable for its culture, music scene, scientific and engineering output, media links and sporting connections. Manchester was the site of the world's first railway station and the place where scientists first split the atom and developed the first stored-program computer. Manchester is served by two universities, including the largest single-site university in the UK, and has one of the country's largest urban economies. Manchester is also the third most visited city in the UK by foreign visitors, after London and Edinburgh.

Manchester's State of the City Report identifies financial and professional services, life science industries, creative industry, cultural industry and media, manufacturing and communications as major activities. The city was ranked in 2010 as the second best place to do business in the UK and the twelfth best in Europe.

Liverpool is a city and metropolitan borough of Merseyside, England, along

the eastern side of the Mersey Estuary. According to the Office for National Statistics, the 2010 mid-year population estimate for Liverpool was 445,200 and was part of a larger urban area of 816,216.

The economy of Liverpool is one of the largest within the UK, sitting at the centre of one of the two core economies within the north-west of England. In common with much of the rest of the UK today, Liverpool's economy is dominated by service sector industries, both public and private. In 2007, over 60% of all employment in the city was in the public administration, education, health, banking, finance and insurance sectors. Over recent years, there has also been significant growth in the knowledge economy of Liverpool, with the establishment of the Liverpool Knowledge Quarter in sectors such as media and life sciences.

Another important component of Liverpool's economy is the tourism and leisure sectors. Liverpool is the 6th most visited city in the UK and one of the 100 most visited cities in the world by international tourists. Other recent developments in Liverpool such as the Echo Arena and Liverpool One have made Liverpool an important leisure centre with the latter helping to lift Liverpool into the top five retail destinations in the UK.

In addition, other cities in England worth mentioning are **Leeds** as the UK's largest centre for business, legal, and financial services outside London; **Sheffield** as a major retail centre as well as a major industrial, cosmopolitan and cultural city renowned for its green open spaces, creative talents, galleries, sport facilities and cutlery; **Bradford** as an international centre of textile manufacture, particularly wool during the 19th century; **Bristol** as a major seaport; **Coventry** as a city that has moved away from manufacturing industries towards business services, finance, research, design and development, creative industries as well as logistics and leisure; **Nottingham** as home to the headquarters of many well-known companies, including Boots the Chemists (now Alliance Boots); **Edinburgh** as the capital city, and one of the historical major centres of the Enlightenment, led by the University of Edinburgh with tourism as an important economic mainstay in Scotland; **Cardiff** as the capital and largest city in Wales, Wales' chief commercial centre and the base for most national cultural and sporting institutions; and **Belfast**, as the capital city, a centre for industry as well as the arts, higher education and business, a legal centre and the economic engine of Northern Ireland.

to the Norman Conquest in 1066. The people left no literature, but they did leave many burial chambers, monuments and artifacts. It is believed that Stone Age man migrated to Britain across the land bridge that then joined Britain to the rest of Europe. The rising water levels cut Britain off from Europe and left these peoples to develop separately.

3. 1. 1 Stone Age Man and Hill Tribes in Britain (4000 BC—43 AD)

During the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) incomers from northern and western Europe reach the British Isles. After 3000 BC, these immigrants belong to a neolithic farming culture, known as the Windmill Hill culture. Recent research suggests that these peoples were responsible for the erection of the great stone circles of Stonehenge. Stone Age man constructed Stonehenge from massive 50 ton blocks of stone. It is Britain's only world heritage site, and one can see its importance.

The Bronze Age is the second principal period, a transitional period between the Stone Age and Iron Age. It was the time in the development of any human culture before the introduction of iron, characterised by the creation of bronze from raw materials, and the widespread use of bronze tools and weapons. For some unexplained reason, Iron Age man started to change his living habits. They stopped building burial mounds and stone circles, and stopped using the ancient sites like Stonehenge. Instead the Iron Age peoples took to farming in permanent fields and to living in protected hill forts.

From 900 BC onwards, the first group of Celts arrived in Britain. Celts were a people who dominated much of western and central Europe in the first millennium BC. With a new influx of Celts from the northern coast of France, another group of Celts, the Britons, arrived in about 300 BC. These Celts lived in tribes without any overall leaders. By the eve of the Roman invasion, Britain was a series of small kingdoms, perhaps 20 of these large enough to have a regional influence, but with no one kingdom holding any real control over any large area of the country.

3. 1. 2 The Romans in Britain (55 BC—412 AD)

In 55 BC Julius Caesar crossed the Channel with a force of around 10,000 soldiers. They landed on the beach at Deal and were met by a force of Britons. The Romans eventually took the beach and waited for cavalry back-up to arrive from

northern dialect of Old French, as the language of the ruling classes in England, displacing Old English. French words entered the English language, and a further sign of the shift was the usage of French names instead of English ones. As conqueror and king, William significantly shaped the history of England.

3.2.3 House of Plantagenet (1154—1485)

The Plantagenet dynasty ruled England for over three hundred years from 1154 to 1485. They were a remarkable family, providing England with fourteen of its kings. The dynasty produced such varied characters as the energetic Henry II, the Lion-hearted Richard I, the highly aesthetic Henry III and the indomitable Edward I, who conquered Wales.

Henry II became king in 1154 and was involved in conflict with Louis VII, king of France, and later with Louis's successor, Philip II, over the French provinces that Henry claimed. He was succeeded by his son Richard I, called Richard the Lion-Hearted. Richard I was king of England (1189—1199). Under his rule, however, England suffered heavy taxation, levied to support his expeditions.

Richard's successor King John (1167—1216), was king of England (1199—1216), best known for signing the Magna Carta. John's reign had become increasingly tyrannical. To support his wars, he had extorted money, raised taxes and confiscated properties. In Magna Carta, King John made a series of promises to his subjects that he would govern England and deal with his vassals according to the customs of feudal law. Over the course of centuries, these promises have required governments in England to follow the law in dealing with their citizens. Shortly afterward John and the barons were at war.

After King John's death, his son Henry III ascended the throne at the age of nine and became king of England (1216—1272). During his minority, the kingdom was first ruled by William Marshal and later by the justiciar Hubert de Burgh as regents. During the regency the French, who occupied much of eastern England, were expelled, and rebellious barons were subdued. In 1265, however, Henry's son and heir, Edward, led the royal troops to victory over the barons at Evesham, south of Birmingham. Simon de Montfort was killed in the battle, and the barons agreed to a compromise with Edward in 1267. From that time on Edward ruled England, and when Henry died, he succeeded him as king.

He used his descent from King Henry III to justify his usurpation of the throne. To finance his military activities, Henry was forced to rely on parliamentary grants. From 1401 to 1406 Parliament repeatedly accused him of fiscal mismanagement and gradually acquired certain precedent-setting powers over royal expenditures and appointments.

Henry V was king of England (1413—1422), known for his victorious campaigns against France. In 1413 he was crowned king of France in Paris. As victor of the Battle of Agincourt (1415, in the Hundred Years' War with France), he made England one of the strongest kingdoms in Europe. Henry V was succeeded by his son Henry VI.

Henry VI was king of England (1422—1461, 1470—1471), whose incapacity for government was one of the causes of the Wars of the Roses. He never showed any aptitude for government. His periods of insanity and his inherent benevolence eventually required his wife, Margaret of Anjou, to assume control of his kingdom, which contributed to his own downfall, the collapse of the House of Lancaster and the rise of the House of York.

3. 2. 5 House of York(1461—1485)

House of York was the English royal line that in the later half of the 15th century disputed the throne of England with the House of Lancaster. Both York and Lancaster were branches of the royal house of Plantagenet.

The House of York was established by Edward IV who became king of England (1461—1470; 1471—1483) on the English throne. An extremely capable and daring military commander, Edward destroyed the House of Lancaster in a series of spectacular military victories; he was never defeated on the field of battle. Despite his occasional political setbacks, Edward was a popular and very able king. Edward died on April 8th, 1483, at Westminster and was succeeded by his son Edward V.

Edward V was short-lived, uncrowned king of England (1483). As a result of the power struggle between his paternal uncle Richard, duke of Gloucester and his maternal uncle Anthony Woodville, Edward V's brief reign came to an end on June 26, when an assembly of lords and commons, accepting Gloucester's claim that Edward IV's marriage was invalid and his children illegitimate, proclaimed Gloucester King Richard III. As the new king of England (1483—1485), Richard