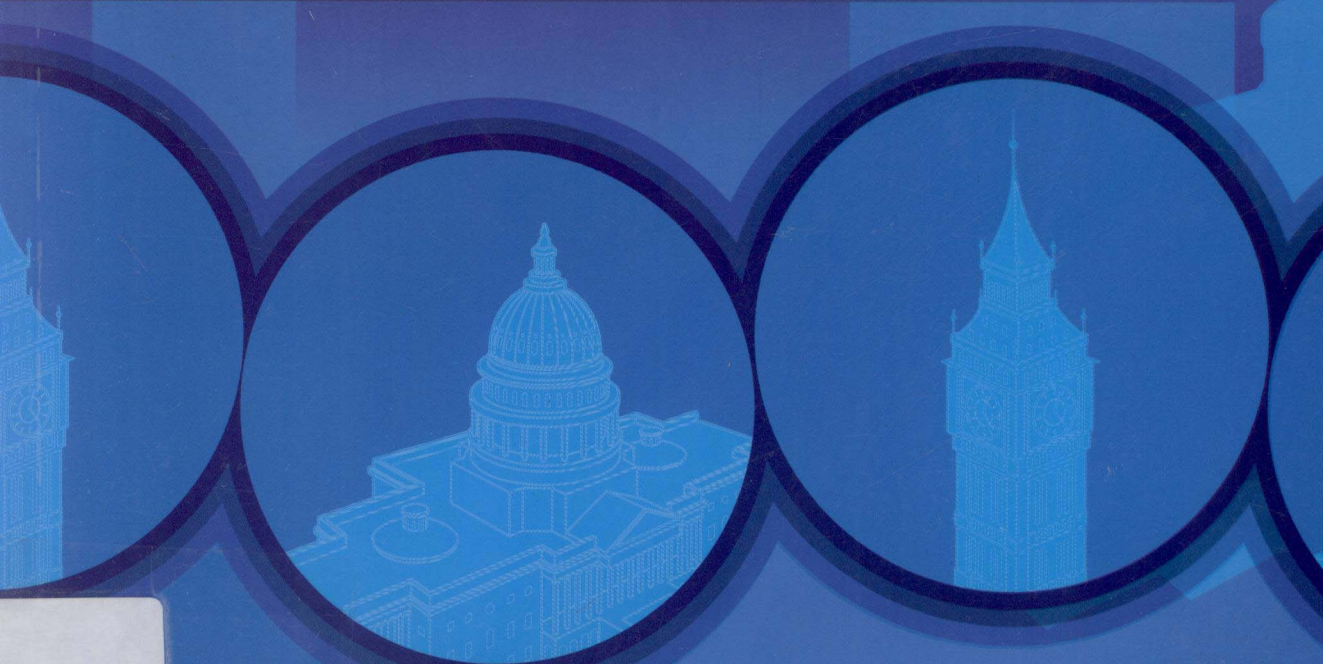


# 最新

# 英美概况

The Latest Survey of  
the United Kingdom and  
the United States

王俊生 刘沛富 主编



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# 前 言

“英美概况”是全国高等院校英语专业学生的必修课程。通过该门课程的学习，使学生熟悉并了解这两个主要英语国家的地理、历史、政治、经济、文化和教育等方面的基本知识。该课程对丰富学生的文化修养，培养学生跨文化交际的能力，加深对英语语言 and 文化的理解，提高他们的人文素质都起着至关重要的作用。

当前，此类教材虽不少见，但有些确实难尽人意。首先，它们大多为数年前编写，或新近重印或再版，诸多内容和数据随着时间的推移都变得陈旧和过时，已难以反映英、美两个国家的真实面目；其次，有些书的篇幅冗长臃肿，赘文太多，不够简练；其三，有些用中文编写，并不适合当前英语教学和英语专业学生学习的需要；而有些虽用英文编写，但其所用的语言文字艰涩难懂，不适合普通高等院校的学生使用；其四，书中文字和信息有错误或不准确，等等。上述问题致使讲授英美概况课程的教师在备课和教学过程中不得不花费很多时间和精力，在篇幅上加以删减，对诸多数据进行更新，对内容进行取舍和修改，对语言加以简化或更正。

鉴于上述原因，我们决定编写这本《最新英美概况》，以弥补当前此类教材的不足，适应当前国内高校英语专业师生在新形势下对英美概况教学与学习的需求。

## 本书具有以下主要特点：

- 1、密切结合教学实际需要，突出实用性。
- 2、内容新，信息及数据来源可靠。
- 3、全英文编写，语言正规地道，文字浅显易懂。便于教师教学，学生理解、掌握、记忆和运用。对个别不可置换的难词或专有名词标注中文释义。
- 4、内容简明。严格控制各个部分的篇幅，以适合于课堂教学的实际需要。
- 5、弥补同类教材中缺失的内容，如增加英、美两国当前的军事、外交（包括对华关系）等重要部分。
- 6、编排形式、编写风格与众不同。书中图文并茂、新颖别致、时代性强。
- 7、正文后详略得当的注释和多种多样的练习，有助于学生对正文内容的拓展理解、思考和

掌握。

8、为方便任课教师的课堂教学与学生自学，本书编制配备了多媒体课件光盘，放于“高等英语教学网 (<http://www.heep.cn>)”上，方便教师和学生下载使用。

本书在编写过程中，得到了英国 David Reedy 教授 (President of the United Kingdom Literacy Association) 和美国语言学博士 Mark James 教授 (Dean of the Division of Languages and Linguistics of Brigham Young University-Hawaii) 的指导和帮助。两位专家分别审阅了英、美两部分的全部书稿，从而保证了本书质量的可靠性。

我们相信，这样一本《最新英美概况》面世后，一定会受到讲授和学习英美概况课程的广大师生的普遍欢迎。但由于我们水平有限，书中不足之处在所难免，恳请专家、老师和同学们批评指正。

注：本书中所用地图由西安地图出版社提供。

《最新英美概况》编写组

2012年8月于广州

# CONTENTS

<b>PART ONE The United Kingdom</b> .....	1
<b>Chapter One The Land</b> .....	5
1. The Official Name, National Flag, National Anthem, and National Capital of the Country .....	5
2. The Location and Size of the Country .....	17
3. The Terrain, Rivers and Mountains of the Country .....	21
4. The Natural Resources of the Country .....	24
5. The Climate of the Country .....	25
6. Major Cities and Scenic Spots .....	28
7. Administrative Division .....	41
<b>Chapter Two The People and Their Culture</b> .....	44
1. Population .....	44
2. Ethnic Groups .....	48
3. Literacy .....	50
4. Language .....	50
5. Religion .....	53
6. Traditions and Customs .....	57
7. Important Holidays .....	62
8. Social Welfare .....	68
9. Education .....	72
10. Sports .....	78
11. Media .....	84
12. Famous People .....	89

- Chapter Three A Brief History of the United Kingdom** ..... 95
  - 1. The Earliest Settlers on the British Isles ..... 95
  - 2. Roman Britain ..... 98
  - 3. Anglo-Saxon Britain ..... 101
  - 4. Norman Conquest ..... 105
  - 5. The Decline of Feudalism ..... 107
  - 6. The Bourgeois Revolution ..... 112
  - 7. The Industrial Revolution ..... 116
  - 8. The People’s Charter Movement (The Chartist Movement) ..... 119
  - 9. The Rise and Fall of the British Empire ..... 122
  - 10. Britain in the 20th Century and Today ..... 125
  
- Chapter Four The Monarchy, the Government and Political Parties** ..... 129
  - 1. The Monarchy ..... 129
  - 2. The Government and Parliament ..... 137
  - 3. The Political Parties and Elections ..... 146
  
- Chapter Five The Law, Police and Military** ..... 152
  - 1. The Law ..... 152
  - 2. The Police ..... 156
  - 3. The Military ..... 158
  
- Chapter Six The Economy** ..... 160
  - 1. Agriculture ..... 160
  - 2. Industry ..... 164
  - 3. Trade ..... 169
  - 4. Tourism ..... 173
  - 5. Finance ..... 177
  - 6. Transportation ..... 181
  - 7. Communication ..... 186
  
- Chapter Seven Britain’s Diplomacy and Relations with China** ..... 191
  - 1. Britain’s Diplomacy ..... 191
  - 2. China-UK Relations ..... 192



<b>PART TWO The United States</b> .....	199
<b>Chapter Eight The Land</b> .....	203
1. The Official Name, National Flag, National Anthem, and National Capital of the Country .....	203
2. The Location and Size of the Country .....	211
3. The Terrain, Rivers and Mountains of the Country .....	214
4. The Natural Resources of the Country .....	223
5. The Climate of the Country .....	225
6. Major Cities and Scenic Spots .....	227
7. Administrative Division .....	237
<b>Chapter Nine The People and Their Culture</b> .....	241
1. Population .....	241
2. Ethnic Groups .....	244
3. Literacy .....	248
4. Language .....	248
5. Religion .....	251
6. Traditions and Customs .....	254
7. Important Holidays .....	257
8. Social Welfare .....	262
9. Education .....	265
10. Sports .....	271
11. Media .....	275
12. Famous People .....	279
<b>Chapter Ten A Brief History of the United States</b> .....	288
1. The Earliest Inhabitants .....	288
2. The Colonization in the New World .....	291
3. The Thirteen British Colonies .....	294
4. American Revolution .....	299
5. The Westward Movement .....	303
6. The American Civil War .....	309
7. The Industrial Revolution and Reforms .....	313
8. The United States in the 20th Century and Today .....	317

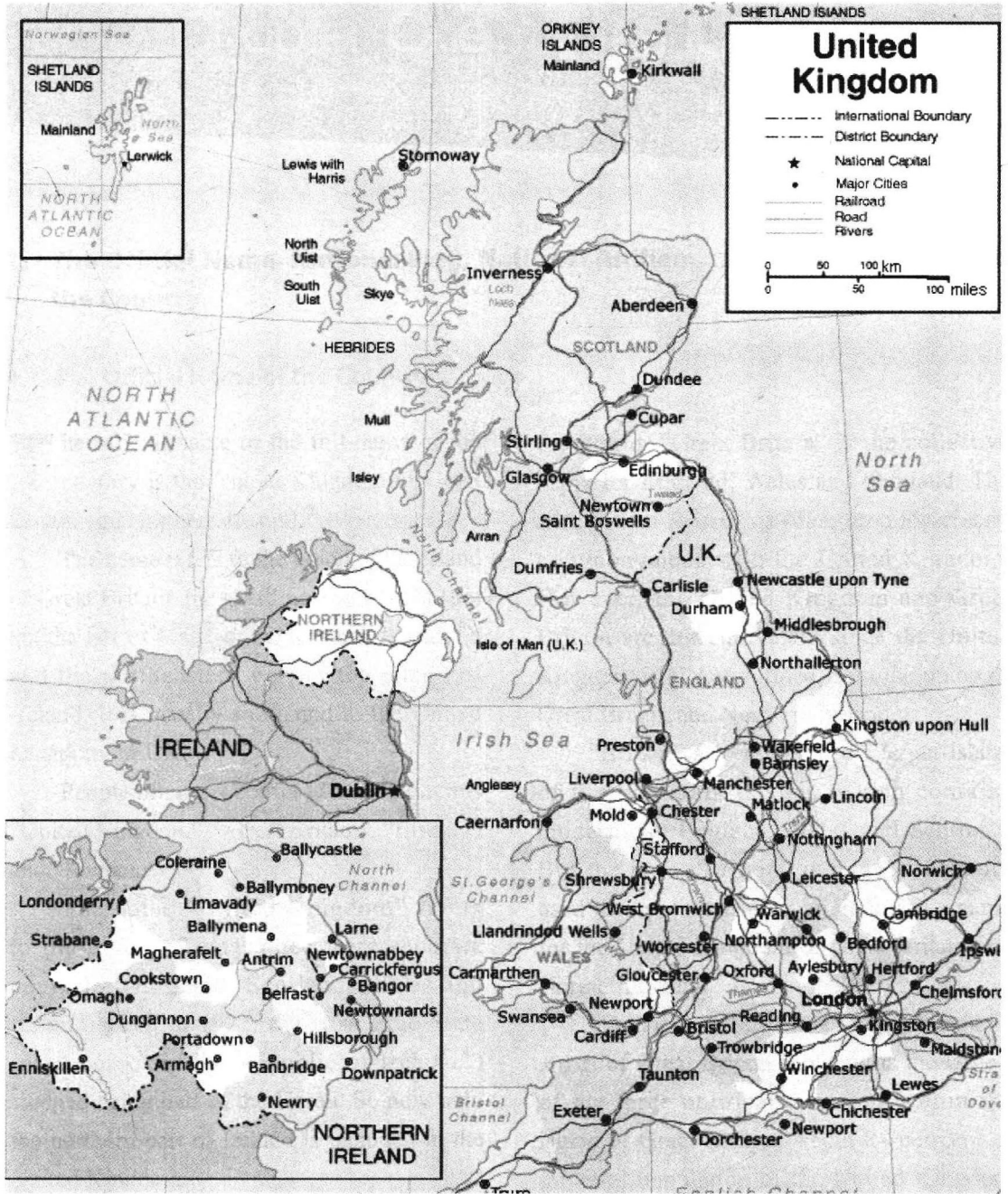
<b>Chapter Eleven</b>	<b>The Government and Political Parties</b>	332
1.	The Government	332
2.	The Political Parties and Elections	346
<b>Chapter Twelve</b>	<b>The Law, Police and Military</b>	352
1.	The Law	352
2.	The Police	355
3.	The Military	358
<b>Chapter Thirteen</b>	<b>The Economy</b>	362
1.	Agriculture	362
2.	Industry	366
3.	Trade	375
4.	Tourism	379
5.	Finance	383
6.	Transportation	389
7.	Communication	393
<b>Chapter Fourteen</b>	<b>American Diplomacy and Relations with China</b>	399
1.	American Diplomacy	399
2.	China-US Relations	401
<b>APPENDICES</b>		411
<b>Appendix I</b>	<b>List of English/British Monarchs</b>	411
<b>Appendix II</b>	<b>List of Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom</b>	414
<b>Appendix III</b>	<b>List of Members of the British Commonwealth</b>	419
<b>Appendix IV</b>	<b>List of the 50 States of the United States</b>	422
<b>Appendix V</b>	<b>List of Presidents of the United States</b>	425



## **PART ONE**

# **The United Kingdom**





*Map of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*



# Chapter One    **The Land**

## **1. The Official Name, National Flag, National Anthem, and National Capital of the Country**

### **1.1 The Official Name of the Country**

**T**he official name or the full name of the country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.<sup>①</sup>

The name refers to the union of the island of Great Britain, the small nearby islands (but not the Isle of Man<sup>②</sup> or the Channel Islands<sup>③</sup>), and the northeastern part of the island of Ireland. It is usually shortened to the United Kingdom, or UK.

People often get confused with the terms “United Kingdom”, “Great Britain”, “Britain”, and “England”.

The name “United Kingdom” refers to the union of what once were separate countries, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Then in 1922, the Irish Free State (predecessor of the Republic of Ireland<sup>④</sup>) stopped being part of the Union. So now only the northern part of Ireland is included in the United Kingdom.

Great Britain is comprised of Scotland, Wales and England, and is the largest island of the British Isles. It is also the biggest island in Europe, and the ninth largest island of

the World. “Great Britain” is the collective name for England, Wales and Scotland. The term “Great Britain” is often used incorrectly as synonymous with the United Kingdom. However, the United Kingdom and Great Britain are not equivalent since the United Kingdom is a state formed from the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

“Britain” also refers to the larger island of the two main islands, which contains modern-day England, Wales and Scotland. But the term “Britain” is more commonly used as a political term: an alternative name for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

“England”, as are Wales and Scotland, is a part of Great Britain. England is the largest of the three political divisions within the island of Great Britain. About 84 per cent of the total population of the United Kingdom lives in England, and the national capital is there, so the name “England” is often wrongly used in reference to the whole United Kingdom, the entire island of Great Britain, or

the British Isles. This is not only incorrect but can cause offence to people from other parts of the United Kingdom.

The expression “British Isles” is geographical and not political. They are a group of islands off the northwest coast of continental Europe that include Great Britain, Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands,

Shetland Islands, the Isle of Wight, and many other smaller surrounding islands. There are two countries located on the islands: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. The British Isles are the largest group of islands in Europe.

### Notes:

- ① The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was the formal name of the United Kingdom from January 1, 1801 until April 12, 1927, when it was changed to the current name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the Royal and Parliamentary Titles Act of 1927. The change acknowledges that the Irish Free State is no longer part of the Kingdom.
- ② The Isle of Man (或the Isle of Mann) (马恩岛, 台湾译作曼岛, 港澳译作萌岛) is a self-governing Crown dependency (有自治权的皇家属地), located in the Irish Sea at the geographical center of the British Isles. The head of state is Queen Elizabeth II. The island is not part of the United Kingdom but foreign relations, defense, and ultimate good-governance of the Isle of Man are the responsibility of the government of the United Kingdom.
- ③ The Channel Islands (海峡群岛) are in the English Channel, off the French coast of Normandy. They fall into two separate self-governing bailiwicks (自辖区): the Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Bailiwick of Jersey. They are British Crown dependencies, but neither is part of the United Kingdom.
- ④ The Republic of Ireland is an independent state occupying about five-sixths of the island of Ireland. On December 29, 1937 Ireland became the successor-state to the Irish Free State, itself established on December 6, 1922. On Easter Monday, April 18, 1949, Ireland became the Republic of Ireland, formally free of allegiance to the British crown and the Commonwealth of Nations. The republic became a member of the United Nations on December 14, 1955.



## Exercises

**I Explain the difference between “Great Britain”, “Britain”, “England”, and “British Isles”.**

**II Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.**

- “The British Isles” refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Britain, England and the United Kingdom
  - the two main islands and other small ones
  - three formerly separate countries and several islands
  - Great Britain or the United Kingdom
- If you want to write to someone in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, you should write the address as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Edinburgh, England
  - Edinburgh, Scotland, the UK
  - Scotland, Edinburgh, Great Britain
  - Great Britain, Scotland, Edinburgh

**III Decide which of the following statements are TRUE: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Great Britain is synonymous with the United Kingdom.
- The United Kingdom has the same meaning as England.
- England, like the term United Kingdom, can be used as a short form to refer to the state.
- Britain is not correctly used to refer to the state.
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been the official title of the British state ever since 1922.

**IV Answer the following questions.**

- What is the former title of the Kingdom before 1927?
- How many parts make up the United Kingdom? What are they?
- Was the whole of Ireland a part of the United Kingdom before 1922?
- Is Great Britain the same as the UK?
- What is the British Isles?

**V Study the maps below and point out to your partner each of the four countries or parts of countries that make up the United Kingdom.**

