

**UNDERSTANDING  
THE US AND THE UK**

# 新编英美概况

(第4版)



许鲁之 主编



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(第4版)

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## 出版者的话

亲爱的读者朋友,呈现在您面前的是许鲁之教授主编的**第4版《新编英美概况》**。据不完全统计,全国近150所院校在使用该教材。

许鲁之教授有着30多年讲授“英美概况”的丰富经验,期间曾前往美国做访问学者。在带研究生的同时,多年始终坚持基础课的教学。他还出版了《简明英美文化词典》等多部著作,受到读者的广泛好评。

作为我国高等院校较早的“英美概况”主要教材之一,本书1993年首次出版后,经过有关院校师生的使用,反映良好,随后的几年中其使用面不断扩大。许多读者在褒奖本书“**言简意赅、语言地道、通俗易懂、经济实用**”的同时,也提了许多宝贵的建议,于是,许教授于2001年将本书进行了第1次修订。在不到6年时间内重印达10余次,在专业类畅销书中成为同类教材的佼佼者。

由于种种原因,初版和第1次修订版未能将“宗教”部分

纳入,可谓一个缺憾。众所周知,从古至今,“宗教”在西方文化中占有极其重要的位置,它是我们了解西方文化的一个重要窗口。应读者要求,许教授又于2007年1月将本书进行第2次修订,增加了“英国宗教”和“美国宗教”部分。许教授精益求精的治学态度令人钦佩。

为了方便读者使用该教材,经过认真准备,我社于2008年3月又推出了该教材的配套辅导用书《英美概况备考核心教程》,该书包括六部分:相关链接、聚焦重点难点、名词解释、课文注释、课后习题参考答案、补充习题及参考答案等。该“教程”是有效提高读者朋友学习“英美概况”的有益补充。

此次第3次修订将开本换成了便利大方的异型16开,对书中一些数据进行了更新,补充了相关内容,同时还穿插了相关图表,使得本书更生动、更富时代感。

中国海洋大学出版社历来重视外语类图书的出版。在本书的封底,您看到的其他英语专业教材都是由经验丰富的相关专家教授编写而成,有着与《新编英美概况》同样的风格与特点,被全国多所院校英语专业用做教材、考研指定参考书或自学考试用书。如果读者您愿意了解本系列教材的具体情况,可直接发函至:lixicong66@yahoo.com。同时,真诚希望您将《新编英美概况》使用后的有关信息反馈给我们,以便我们更好地为您服务。读者满意是我们出版社不懈的追求。

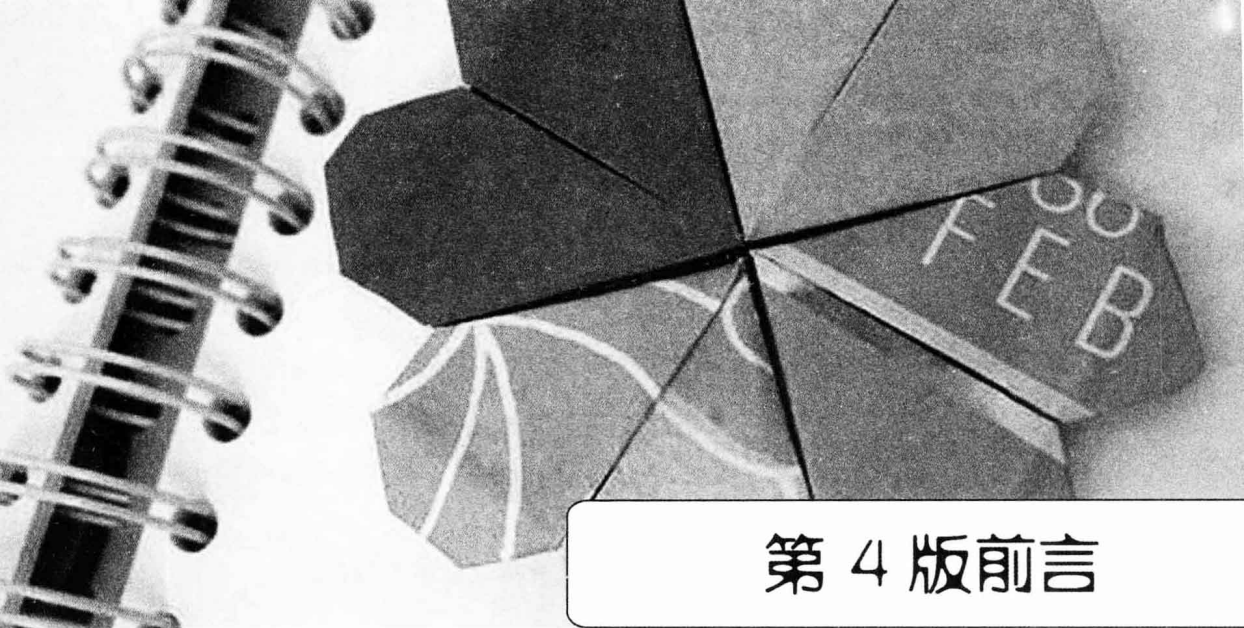
感谢许鲁之教授长期以来的大力支持。

感谢读者您在众多出版社中慧眼选择了我们。

To you, all that we would like to say:

Good Luck!

2012年5月



## 第4版前言

本书系《新编英美概况》第3次修订第4版。该书1993年首次出版后多次重印,被国内多所院校用做英美概况教材或英语专业考研参考书。2001年第1次修订,对部分章节内容进行了精简和调整,增强了该书的实用性。第2次修订,主要对一些知识内容进行了更新和增补;美国和英国部分分别增补了“宗教”一章,其目的是让读者对世界宗教,特别是英美国家的宗教信仰状况有所了解。此次修订,笔者注意借鉴最新研究成果,合理吸收最新知识,插入了适当图表,使内容具有鲜明的时代特征。本教材2008年被评为山东省高等学校优秀教材。

该书内容主要包括英美两国的地理、历史、政体制度、教育、新闻媒体、风俗习惯、宗教信仰等。目的是通过学习,开阔学生的视野,扩大学生的知识面,增强跨文化交际能力。

《新编英美概况》(第4版)主要有以下特点:(1)知识介绍连贯系统,重点突出,详略得当;(2)语言叙述简练准确,通俗易懂,图文并茂;(3)各章注释以提供背景知识为主,且大

多是普通词典不易查到的内容；(4)练习中的选择题和填空题为各章知识重点的浓缩，可用来检测学习者对知识的掌握情况；(5)练习中的讨论题，注重培养学生分析和解决问题的能力，以及英语表达能力；(6)章节编排科学合理，方便实用。

本书使用对象主要是英语专业大学生、英语专业研究生、翻译硕士研究生、英语自学考试者、欲出国留学者和涉外工作人员。本教材配套参考书有《英美概况备考核心教程》、《简明英美文化词典》，两书由中国海洋大学出版社分别于2008年和2001年出版。

限于水平，书中疏漏不妥之处恐难避免，恳请读者不吝指正。

许鲁之

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2012年5月



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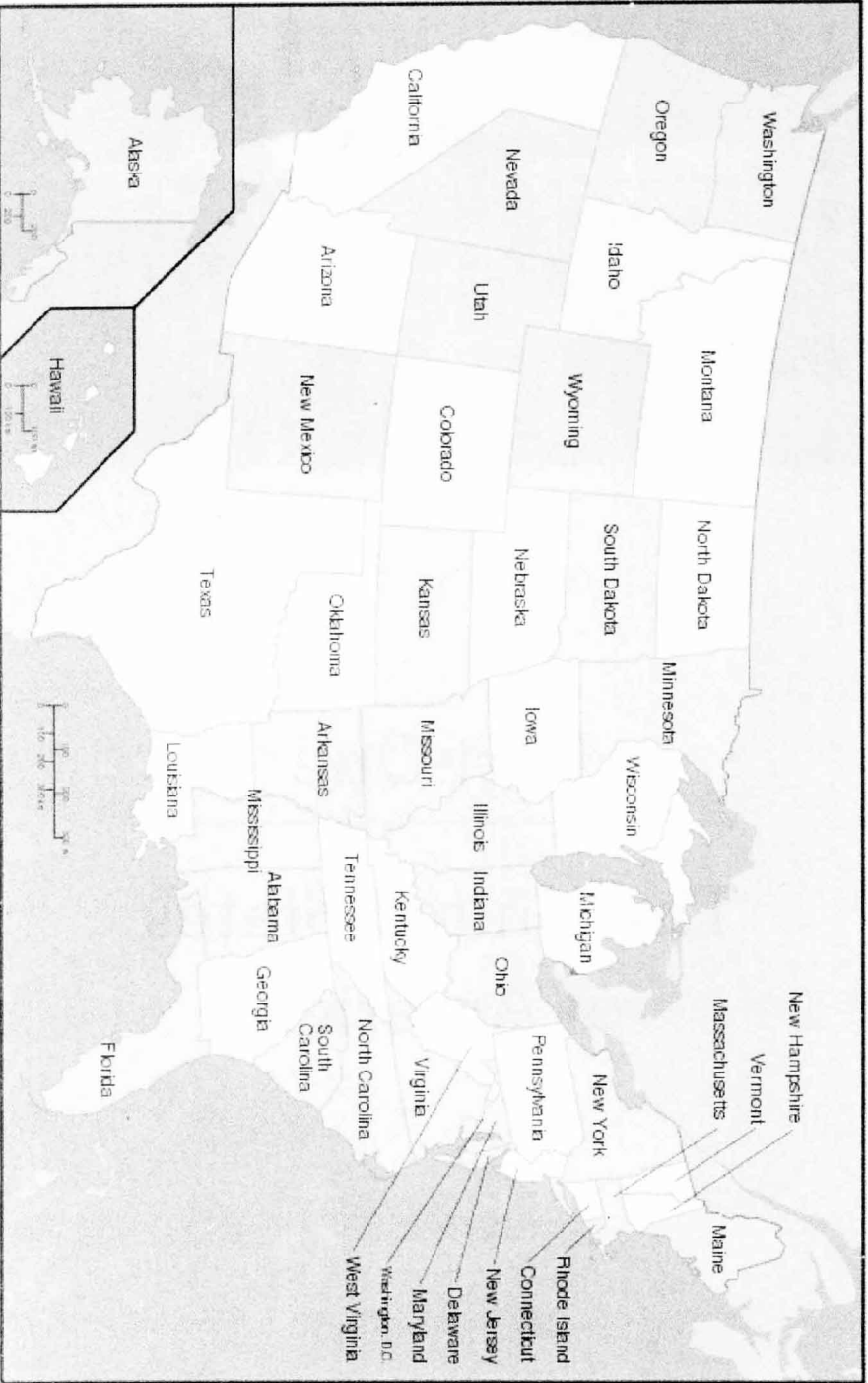
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## Part One

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# The United States of America



Map of the USA



# Chapter 1 Geographical Features and Natural Resources

## 1. Location and Geographical Divisions

The United States lies in North America with its two youngest states — Alaska on the northwest tip of the continent and Hawaii in the central Pacific. The continental United States stretches 4,500 km. 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. Its coastline runs 19,924 km. The total area of the United States is 9,372,610 km<sup>2</sup>, which makes it the fourth largest country in the world.

So far as the geographical features are concerned, the large territory of the continental United States can be divided into three basic areas.

### **The Atlantic Seacoast West to the Appalachians**

Along the Atlantic Seacoast is a narrow plain that begins far up to the coast and becomes wider as it goes south. The coastline of New England<sup>1</sup> is lowland made up of sandy beaches, swamps, lakes, and gently sloping hills. The interior contains mountains, rivers, rocky hills, and valleys. The land here is generally infertile and much of it is covered by heavy forests. The coastline, however, is broken by many excellent harbors that were once important centers of commerce and trade in the early days of the country. The Middle Atlantic States, consisting six states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia), is a flat and fertile region. It is the most densely populated region of the United States, and famous for its great cities and ports, its financial and foreign trade activities, its cultural and educational centers, and its factories and mines. Many heavily

