

# 文化热点

## 读与思

下

**Cultures: Past and Present**

总主编  
主 编  
编 者

蒋学清  
蒋学清  
刘路薇  
徐国萍  
蒋学清



北京交通大学出版社  
<http://press.bjtu.edu.cn>

高等学校英语泛读教材

郭海云  
Corrie Igo (美国) 主审

# 文化热点 —— 读与思 (下)

**Cultures: Past and Present**

总主编 蒋学清  
主 编 蒋学清  
编 者 刘路薇 徐国萍 蒋学清

北京交通大学出版社

· 北京 ·

## 内 容 简 介

《文化热点——读与思》为高等学校英语泛读教材，分上、下两册。上册有3个单元，分别选取人物传记、世界文化遗产及文学与人类方面的文章供学生阅读；下册有12个单元，分别选取体育、广告、人类与自然、贫富差距、妇女与儿童、家庭、转基因食品与伦理道德、克隆、网络文化、肢体语言、跨文化交际、中西方文化差异等方面的文章供学生阅读。本书中的每个单元包含有多篇阅读材料，每篇阅读材料后面配有各种相关练习供学生使用。本书选材难度逐级递增，因而适合在大学各个阶段作为泛读课教材使用，也可作为英语爱好者的阅读书籍。

本书为《文化热点——读与思》下册，选材时突出“思”的功能，可供大学三、四年级学生使用，也可供英语阅读能力较强的英语爱好者使用。

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

文化热点：读与思·下册/蒋学清主编；蒋学清分册主编；刘路薇，徐国萍，蒋学清编.  
北京：北京交通大学出版社，2004.8

(高等学校英语泛读教材)

ISBN 7-81082-192-X

I. 文… II. ①蒋… ②蒋… ③刘… ④徐… ⑤蒋… III. 英语-阅读教学-高等学校-教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2003) 第 076495 号

责任编辑：张利军 特邀编辑：阎铭

出 版 者：北京交通大学出版社 电话：010-51686045, 62237564

北京市海淀区高粱桥斜街 44 号 邮编：100044

印 刷 者：北京瑞达方舟印务有限公司

发 行 者：各地新华书店

开 本：787×1092 1/16 印张：23.5 字数：585 千字

版 次：2004 年 8 月第 1 版 2004 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

印 数：1~3 000 册 定价：30.00 元

当 21 世纪的钟声在人类家园上空回荡之时，当人类向上苍祈求人间风调雨顺、国泰民安之际，美国突发“9·11”（A Day of Horror）事件，中东许多国家频频传来为了捍卫信仰而导致的“懦弱的”自杀性爆炸（“pathetic” suicidal bombs）事件，以巴冲突，硝烟弥漫；转基因食品（GM-foods）、克隆生物（cloning）、虚幻世界（cyberculture）无休无止；国际交流中的跨文化冲突比比皆是；体育精神与体育经济如火如荼；传奇人物层出不穷；社会问题愈加严重；人性、道德、信仰……人类社会现代文明之冲突，症结何在？良药何在？

在信息爆炸的今天，摄取知识、了解媒体、剖析媒体、善思善辩，乃是当代合格大学生的必备素质。基于上述素质培养的需求，北京交通大学外语系英语专业教学骨干、海外留学人士吸收西方现代成功的教学理论与方法，从近几年国内外出版的报纸杂志及互联网上选取时文，介绍跨文化习俗趣闻，探讨社会热点话题及最新科技发展动态。在采撷西方文化知识的同时，从多角度启迪读者，培养其多层面的、较强的逻辑思维能力。本教材所选文章集知识性、趣味性、时代性为一体，是与当代读者共同分享、共同探讨世界文化，进行素质教育的一套实用的英语泛读教科书。

### 编写原则

社会语言学家认为语言是文化的载体，文化又是语言的土壤。现代科技能够把全世界变成地球村，但是无法解决地球村中棘手的种族争端。跨文化交际障碍的症结在于各民族彼此不谙对方的哲学观念。现代人只有通过语言了解各民族的隐蔽文化，探索其价值观，才能实现祈望。为此，编者从多种媒体中精选了西方文化中的热点话题，供读者探索英语语言背后所蕴涵的文化观与价值观，拓宽视野，阐释民族隔阂之根源。

如何提高外语学习效率是外语教学的重中之重。近年来认知心理学中的“认知意识假设”观点认为，与自我认知过程或认知结果（或与此相关之事）相关的知识，能对自我的认知过程进行积极监控和有序调整以及精心安排。“认

知意识假设”在成功的学习中起到的关键作用已被认可。为此，教会学生如何学习，如何监控自己的思维过程是教学活动的重要环节之一。

### 内容与结构

基于上述理论，为了培养学生的预期假设能力、语言尝试能力与语言思维能力，本教材的编写一方面采用以话题为主的形式，并配有相关的插图，既能激发读者的想像力，又能从多角度认知同一话题及同一话题的语言知识，经过多次接触，达到活用的程度；另一方面还设计了形式多样的题型以达到培养上述能力的目标。

本教材共分上、下两册。每册各单元精选了同一话题4~7篇同文体、多视角的文章。上册的热点话题是：人物传记、文化遗产、文学作品与人性；下册的热点话题是：体育精神与体育经济、科技与道德、广告利与弊及社会问题。本教材各部分的结构设计如下。

1. 导言 (Introduction): 提纲挈领地介绍本单元所要涉及的内容。
2. 预热问题 (Warm-up Questions): 帮助读者认知与理解文章。学生看到热身问题，能开动脑筋预测答案，达到边读边思的效果。
3. 阅读文章 (Reading Selection): 精选各类相关文章供读者阅读。
4. 词汇 (New Words and Phrases): 用英语释义，少数词汇附有中文解释，既最大限度地营造语言氛围，培养读者用英语思维的习惯，又省去了读者查字典的麻烦。
5. 注释 (Notes): 提供文化背景资料，加深对文章内涵的理解。
6. 练习 (Exercises): 设计了根据上下文猜同义词和反义词、词组填空、词义配对、根据英文释义拼写单词等练习，以帮助学生温故知新，达到灵活运用语言知识的程度。
7. 文章后的阅读理解题型 (Comprehension): 设计了大量的开放式问题 (probing questions)，帮助学生再读再思，深入透彻地理解文章内容、作者的文采与思想。
8. 讨论与作文 (Discussion / Composition): 帮助学生提高口头与笔头分析问题与归纳问题的能力，及中西方文化比较与对比的能力。
9. 参考答案 (Key to Exercises): 提供练习题答案，以便读者检查学习效果。

### 编写分工

本教材的上册由隋娜负责编写第1单元，赵新负责编写第2单元，刘小燕负责编写第3单元；下册由蒋学清负责编写第1、2、7、11单元，徐国萍负责编

写第8、9、10、12, 刘路薇负责编写第3、4、5、6单元。编者按姓氏笔画排序。北京交通大学外语系英语专业部分教师参与本教材的前期编写工作; 美籍教师 Kevin Belknap 在本教材的选材及练习设计上给予了大力的指导与帮助; 北京交通大学郭海云副教授和美籍教师 Corrie Igo 审阅了本教材的全部书稿。我们在此向他们致以诚挚的谢意。此外, 在本书的编写过程中, 编者参考了大量的有关文献, 其中有许多资料因无法查实其作者而未在书中注明出处, 在此向有关作者致以诚挚的谢意。

本书受北京交通大学教材出版基金资助。

由于编者水平有限, 书中不妥之处在所难免, 敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者  
于北京交通大学  
2004年8月

# Contents

## ►► Unit One Sports and Beyond

---

Reading Selection 1	Ronaldo's Sweetest Vindication .....	(2)
Reading Selection 2	Oliver Kahn Wins Adidas Golden Ball Award for the 2002 FIFA World Cup™ .....	(10)
Reading Selection 3	When Is It Gamesmanship and When Is It Cheating? .....	(15)
Reading Selection 4	Joint Hosts Look for World Cup Silver Lining .....	(21)
Reading Selection 5	Women Like Beckham Because He's a Good Husband and Father and Because He's Cool Enough to Pose for Gay Photos . . . and They Like His God-given Gorgeousness .....	(27)

## ►► Unit Two Pros and Cons of Advertisements

---

Reading Selection 1	Heinz History of Advertising Heinz Milestones .....	(33)
Reading Selection 2	Film Icons Blamed for Teenage Smoking .....	(38)
Reading Selection 3	Tobacco Industry Still Advertises in Magazines Read by Youth .....	(42)
Reading Selection 4	New "No Boundaries" Ad Campaign .....	(49)
Reading Selection 5	Advertisements Built Ford Tough .....	(53)
Reading Selection 6	The Myth of Consumerism .....	(58)

## ►► Unit Three Destruction Inflicted by Human Beings on Nature

---

Reading Selection 1	Beijing's Desert Storm .....	(67)
Reading Selection 2	Deforestation .....	(76)
Reading Selection 3	The Importance of Protecting Wildlife .....	(83)
Reading Selection 4	World Facing Critical Choices on Environment .....	(92)

## ► Unit Four Gap Between Rich and Poor

---

Reading Selection 1	China's Income Disparity Grows .....	(97)
Reading Selection 2	How Wide Is the Gap of China's Individual Income? .....	(101)
Reading Selection 3	Income Gap Still Widening, Warns Former Clinton Aide .....	(105)
Reading Selection 4	Twin Peaks: How the World Is Polarizing Into Rich and Poor .....	(109)
Reading Selection 5	Gap Between Rich and Poor (I) — General Picture and Facts .....	(114)
Reading Selection 6	Gap Between Rich and Poor (II) — Reasons and Solutions .....	(123)

## ► Unit Five Women and Children

---

Reading Selection 1	The Bitter Taste of Chocolate: Child Labour in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana .....	(129)
Reading Selection 2	Golden Lilies .....	(138)
Reading Selection 3	Focus on Women Emerging From the Shadow of the Taliban .....	(144)
Reading Selection 4	Egyptian Women .....	(150)

## ► Unit Six Family Structure and Family Affairs

---

Reading Selection 1	Divorce Trending to Rise in China .....	(156)
Reading Selection 2	Changes in Family Structure Have Had Dramatic Effects on Measured Income, and Income Inequality .....	(159)
Reading Selection 3	Family Size, Environment May Increase Alzheimer's Risk, Study Says .....	(163)
Reading Selection 4	Student Performance and the Changing American Family .....	(166)
Reading Selection 5	My Life, My Choice .....	(172)
Reading Selection 6	Single and Satisfied .....	(179)

## ► Unit Seven GM-Foods vs Ethics

---

Reading Selection 1	Britain Is Missing the Biotech Boat, Warns Glaxo Head .....	(188)
Reading Selection 2	Sowing the Seeds of a Better Future .....	(192)
Reading Selection 3	GM Food Ban Would Undermine British Science, Says Blair	



.....	(197)
Reading Selection 4 New Trade Threat for US Farmers .....	(201)
Reading Selection 5 Experts Debate Safety of Genetically Engineered Foods .....	(210)
Reading Selection 6 Public Opinion and Genetically Engineered Foods .....	(215)
Reading Selection 7 Trade War Fear as Public Resists GM Foods .....	(223)

## ► Unit Eight Human Cloning

---

Reading Selection 1 To Clone or Not to Clone Humans .....	(228)
Reading Selection 2 Therapeutic Cloning, to Create Human Organs .....	(232)
Reading Selection 3 Action Alert: US Senate to Debate Human Cloning .....	(236)
Reading Selection 4 Cloning Humans .....	(240)
Reading Selection 5 Chinese “First” in World Race on Cloning .....	(244)
Reading Selection 6 Consumer Conception .....	(249)

## ► Unit Nine Cyberculture

---

Reading Selection 1 The Impact of Cyberculture .....	(255)
Reading Selection 2 Internet Addiction .....	(259)
Reading Selection 3 Artificial Intelligence .....	(263)
Reading Selection 4 E-book and E-mail .....	(267)
Reading Selection 5 IT Security .....	(271)
Reading Selection 6 E-shopping .....	(275)

## ► Unit Ten Body Language

---

Reading Selection 1 Body Language .....	(281)
Reading Selection 2 The Body Language of Proxemics .....	(284)
Reading Selection 3 The Silent Language .....	(288)
Reading Selection 4 Gestures — Nonverbal Communication .....	(292)
Reading Selection 5 Body Language in an Interviewing Situation (I) .....	(296)
Reading Selection 6 Body Language in an Interviewing Situation (II) .....	(301)

## ► Unit Eleven Cross-cultural Communication

---

Reading Selection 1 Coming Home—Get Set for a Culture Shock .....	(306)
Reading Selection 2 Christmas Traditions Around the World .....	(310)

Reading Selection 3	Films as a Tool for Learning About Culture .....	(314)
Reading Selection 4	Wrap up Your Visit With the Perfect Gift .....	(317)
Reading Selection 5	Culture Clash .....	(323)
Reading Selection 6	The Unfenced Life, Under the Celestial Mountains .....	(334)

## ► Unit Twelve Eastern and Western Culture

---

Reading Selection 1	Culture Difference .....	(341)
Reading Selection 2	Culture Clash .....	(345)
Reading Selection 3	The Difference Between Eastern and Western Culture, and International Marriage .....	(349)
Reading Selection 4	How Various People of the World View Americans .....	(353)
Reading Selection 5	Terrorist Attacks .....	(357)

# Unit One Sports and Beyond

## Introduction

*Your favorite muscular, cute, handsome sports stars will chat with you face to face about their secrets of success on the playing field. "In my wildest dreams, I haven't had this possibility," said Ronaldo, the World Cup's most valuable player.*

*In addition, while cheering for their triumph, the audience, as well as we the readers, can't help thinking about the controversial issues related with sports competitions, such as gamesmanship or cheating, fair play or black whistles, financial benefits or cultural clash with the hosts of the world sports competitions. Different opinions about these issues are as follows.*

## Reading Selection 1

### Warm-up Questions

1. Who was entitled the World Cup's most valuable player?
2. What did this player overcome to get this title?
3. Where was the 2002 World Cup Final held?
4. Where is Brazil?

### Ronaldo's<sup>1</sup> Sweetest Vindication

By Jere Longman



OKOHAMA, Japan, June 30th. Four years ago, Ronaldo entered the World Cup as a two-time international player of the year and left in mysterious failure as Brazil fell meekly to France in the final. In the **intervening** years, a **ligament** in his knee came **unraveled**, and so, it appeared, did his career.

Given a chance at **redemption** at 25, Ronaldo seemed fresh and determined in this World Cup, the first played in Asia. His legs, now sturdy and full of dance, scored eight goals in seven matches, including two in tonight's final as **Brazil**<sup>2</sup> defeated Germany, 2 - 0, and captured its fifth global championship.

When he left the field in the 90th minute to deserving applause, soon to be named the tournament's most valuable player, Ronaldo had collected his 11th and 12th career goals in the World Cup. This tied him for third place on the career list with none other than Pelé, his countryman and the man who persuaded him not to fall into despair when his knee betrayed him.

Later, Ronaldo **draped** himself in Brazil's national flag and flapped his arms as if he might fly out of International Stadium, which was filled with 69,029 spectators, all of whom got their money's worth. Finally, he was carried **aloft** on the shoulders of his appreciative teammate Rivaldo as cameras flashed like **strobe** lights in an end zone packed with the celebratory **samba** drums of Brazilian fans.

"I would be telling a lie if I wouldn't consider that every time I step on a **pitch**, it's a victory for me," Ronaldo said. "Every time I score a goal, enter a ground to play with my team, is a victory. I can play, I can defend my country. This is a huge step for me. Even if I wasn't world champion, I would be happy."

Not since Gerd Muller of West Germany delivered 10 goals in six matches in 1970 has there been such a **prolific** scorer in the World Cup. Muller is the career leader with 14 goals in the championship, while Just Fontaine of France delivered 13 in five matches in the 1958 tournament.

Until this spring, it appeared that Ronaldo might never have a chance to play in another World Cup, much less to score repeatedly and help his team to victory for the second time in eight years. In 1994, in the United States, Ronaldo was 17 and did not play a minute, even though the mother of Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira **admonished** him to play the teenage **prodigy**.

Then came the puzzling incident of 1998, in the hours before the final against France. What happened has never been fully explained. Ronaldo was **alleged** to have had a seizure. Teammates have said he was found **convulsing** in his hotel room; one said he was foaming at the mouth. Ronaldo has said he remembers nothing but being cold and shaking. He was taken to a hospital in Paris and was scratched from the starting lineup, only to be **reinstated** shortly before the match began. He played **indolently** as Brazil lost, 3 - 0.

For four years, Ronaldo faced questions about what went wrong in France. His fragile knees kept him from answering with his play that everything was now all right. The questions are sure to stop now, with Brazil **hoisting** its fifth championship **trophy** — a **penta**, as it is being called, alongside the ones earned in 1958, 1962, 1970 and 1994. No other nation has won more than three. No other nation, of course, is so consumed with soccer and playing jogo bonito, the beautiful game. Victory is not merely an expectation, but an obligation.

"It is natural that to be second in Brazil is to be last," Brazil Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who is known as Big Phil, said. "That's what I tried to pass on to the players. They had to be consistent, have fun and win. In order to do that, we had in our mind that to be second is to be a loser. To be first is marvelous."

Before today's match, the Brazilian captain, Cafu, warned that his teammates had to forget about what happened in France. Still, the questions lingered. Would Ronaldo have the heart for another final? Would a **groin** injury force him to leave early, as it had in the quarterfinals against England and in the semifinals against Turkey? As it turned out, his legs and his **conviction** never abandoned him.

"I didn't have any debt with the Braziliao people," Ronaldo said. "I didn't have the feeling I owed from '98." Rather, he said, he and his teammates were driven by a chance to celebrate, which had **eluded** them four years ago in Paris. "We missed this joy," Ronaldo said. "We said to ourselves, 'We cannot miss it.' Not only our joy is in first place, but the joy of the Brazilian people."

Repeatedly tonight, Brazil manufactured its chances. To its credit, Germany kept going forward in counterattack, but it did not have sufficiently creative players to finish. Discipline, impenetrable goalkeeping and insistent defense carried a prosaic team to the final, but these values were deficient against Brazil. Germany had a cohesive team, but the collective could not match Brazil's individual brilliance.

"As the game went on, Brazil achieved what it had done in earlier games, showed individual class," Rudi Vuller, the German coach, said. "Their skill **one up on one**, quick passes between each other, created more difficulties for us. Our players looked more tired, and it began to show, especially against the Brazilian forwards. They are so fast on the ball, so good on the ball, working with each other. We had to **be on the lookout for flashes of individual brilliance**."

In the 67th minute, Ronaldo scored the first, and **decisive** goal, on a **rudimentary** mistake by Germany's Oliver Kahn, who had allowed only one goal the entire tournament and was considered the best at his position in the world.

A burst of defense started the play. Ronaldo pushed aside the German midfielder Dietmar Hamann, **stripped him of the ball** and passed to Rivaldo, his elegant teammate. Rivaldo fired a dipping left-footed blast that Kahn should have easily **cradled**, but the ball hit his upper arm, **glanced off** his chest and bounced toward the **charging** Ronaldo.

Kahn crawled desperately, then dived to his left, but Ronaldo **beat him to the ball** and punched it into an empty net. Brazil 1, Germany 0. Perhaps the ball skidded on Kahn on a **drizzly** evening, or a torn ligament in his right ring finger prevented him from **smothering** the shot. Whatever happened, Kahn was **inconsolable**. After the game, he kicked a water bottle, threw down his gloves and sat **devastated** against one goal post.

"That was the only mistake I made in seven matches, and that one mistake was brutally punished," he said.

In the 79th minute, Rivaldo cleverly let a crossing pass from Kleberson roll between his legs, freezing Thomas Linke, the German defender. Left **unobstructed**, Ronaldo eagerly placed a shot beyond Kahn's reach for the second time. Later, he kissed the World Cup trophy and kept



flashing his **gap-toothed** smile.

“In my wildest dreams, I haven’t had this possibility,” Ronaldo said of scoring two goals in a World Cup final. “Slowly, I’m starting to understand what’s happening. I’m so happy, very touched. It will take time to figure out what happened, but I’m sure it will always be surrounded by happiness.” (1,256 words)

### New Words and Phrases

vindication	<i>n.</i>	sth or sb that is proven to be true or correct 澄清,证实
intervening	<i>a.</i>	the amount of time before 2 events 发生于其间的
ligament	<i>n.</i>	a band of strong material in one’s body, similar to muscle, that joins bones 韧带
unravel	<i>v.</i>	cause sth. to become clear or solved 使某事物变清楚或获解决
redemption	<i>n.</i>	recover; redeem 补救, 补偿
drape	<i>v.</i>	cover with 披
aloft	<i>ad.</i>	overhead, high up 在空中, 在头顶上
strobe	<i>n.</i>	( = stroboscope) lamp providing regular intermittent flashes 电子闪光灯
samba	<i>n.</i>	a fast dance from Brazil 桑巴舞
pitch	<i>n.</i>	football field 足球场
prolific	<i>a.</i>	of a person who scores many goals 得分多的
admonish	<i>v.</i>	advise or urge sb. seriously 劝告或告诫某人
prodigy	<i>n.</i>	genius, exceptional gifted person, esp. child, young man 天才, 奇才
allege	<i>v.</i>	to declare, esp. without proof 无证据地宣称
convulse	<i>v.</i>	shake violently and can’t be controlled 抽搐, 变形
lineup	<i>n.</i>	any set of people, items, etc., arranged for a purpose 为某目的而安排的一批人、项目等, 阵容
reinstate	<i>v.</i>	to put sb back into a position of authority 使某人恢复原先的地位
indolently	<i>ad.</i>	lazily 懒惰地, 不活跃地
hoist	<i>v.</i>	to raise, pull up 举起
trophy	<i>n.</i>	a prize for winning a competition 奖杯 (Super Cup 大力神杯)
penta-	<i>prefix</i>	five (前缀) 五
groin	<i>n.</i>	the place where the tops of one’s legs meet the front of one’s body 腹股沟

conviction	<i>n.</i>	strong belief 坚定的看法与信仰
elude	<i>v.</i>	fail to achieve 未能够
decisive	<i>a.</i>	quick and confident 果断的
rudimentary	<i>a.</i>	simple and basic 简单的, 基本的
cradle	<i>v.</i>	hold, catch 接住
charging	<i>a.</i>	attacking 猛攻的
drizzly	<i>ad.</i>	mistly 下着毛毛雨
smother	<i>v.</i>	cover the whole surface of sth 覆盖, 包住
inconsolable	<i>a.</i>	so sad that sb cannot be comforted 伤心欲绝的
devastated	<i>a.</i>	extremely shocked and sad 悲痛欲绝的
unobstructed	<i>a.</i>	not likely to be noticed 不引人注目的
gap-toothed	<i>a.</i>	having teeth which are wide apart (门牙的)缝隙很大的
be one up on sb		one having advantage over another 胜过
be on the lookout for		look out for 寻求, 留心
flashes of individual brilliance		the show or display of a person's best performance 显示个人才华
strip sb of sth		to take away sth important from sb 从某人处夺走重要的东西
glance off		to hit a surface at an angle and move away from it in another direction 击中又被弹离
beat sb to the ball		to get or do sth before sb else 抢先接到球

## Notes

### 1. Profile of RONALDO in the Squad

Height: 183 cm

Weight: 77 kg

Position: FW

Current Club: Internazionale (ITA)

Int'l Goals: 37 (as of 27 May, 2002)

Int'l Caps: 57 (as of 27 May, 2002)

First Int'l Cap: Argentina (23 March, 1994)

#### Profile:

One of the best young soccer players in the history of the sport, Ronaldo's career has come to a crossroads. The young Brazilian captured the hearts and imagination of the world at a young age, but he has been slowed by injuries of late.

By the age of 17, Ronaldo was a name known throughout the world. His early antics with Cruzeiro, where he debuted at age 16, were good enough to land him a spot on Brazil's 1994 FIFA World Cup USA™ squad. Soon, Ronaldo headed in the footsteps of fellow legend



Romario and joined Dutch side PSV Eindhoven. In two seasons, he scored 42 goals, despite playing in only 13 matches from 1995 to 1996. He joined Barcelona in 1996 and scored 34 goals in his one season with the Spanish giants.

Ronaldo reached the apex of personal success by being named FIFA Player of the Year in both 1996 and 1997, becoming the youngest player to ever win the award and the only player to win it in consecutive years. At the age of 20, Ronaldo was on top of the world. The upcoming 1998 FIFA World Cup France brought high expectations from the masses as the public was anxious to see Ronaldo compete at the highest stage.

His future looked so bright, former England manager Bobby Robson had strong words to say about Ronaldo. "He will become the best ever," Robson said.

The finals in France, though, did not turn out to be quite what the world expected. Ronaldo scored just one goal in the first round. In the second round, Ronaldo bagged a double against Chile. In the semi-finals, he scored Brazil's lone goal against Holland, and the Selecao went on to win in a penalty-kick shootout.

Then came the final. At the biggest game on the biggest stage, Ronaldo faltered. Slowed by an illness, he missed his scoring chances and was forced to watch France celebrate their first championship.

Ronaldo's disappointment in France was topped only by the disappointment of not watching Ronaldo play at all. He has suffered two serious knee injuries with Inter Milan that have limited his play since the 98 final.

## **2. Country Information — Brazil (BRA)**

Country: Brazil

Capital: Brasilia

Population: 172,860,370 (2000)

Population ranking: 3 \*

Surface: 8,511,965 km<sup>2</sup>

Area ranking: 4 \*

GDP per capita: 6,500

GDP ranking: 24 \*

Languages: Portuguese

Major Cities: Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Salvador

National Holiday: Independence Day, 7 September (1822)

Lowest point: Atlantic Ocean (0 m)

Highest point: Pico da Neblina (3,014 m)