

英 汉 对 照

WORLD



OVERVIEW

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世界通览

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世界通览

英 国

Britain

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前 言

没有一个国家在近代历史上比它更显赫与辉煌，没有一个国家在人类的进步中比它更先进，影响全球。它，就是昔日的日不落国——英国。尽管地处欧洲的边缘海角，可是26个字母符号却使全球交往通畅；尽管人口不足6千万，可是蒸汽机的马达声却吹响了全世界工业革命的号角！

《世界通览》英国卷的编者怀着极为振奋的心情尽力将这个伟大国家的各种壮举浓缩在一本30余万字的小书里，向读者介绍其国家的美丽、人民的勤劳与智慧、丰富多彩的历史生涯、带给人类启蒙的科学技术、发明创造、资产阶级革命与工业革命给世界建立起开先河的典范、严谨、领先于世的教育体系、动人的音乐、一代大师莎翁、乔叟等文化巨匠、在二战中顶天立地抗击法西斯的光辉形象。当然，历史上它在战争中的脚步，也常常碾落和平的花环。

虽然本套书用五种语言写成，但是12本书中就有8种使用的是英语，只此一项就足以说明向国人介绍英国的意义了。

看完这本书你再去大不列颠学习和游览，那时的感受会更深刻，为什么一个小小的英国球会踢转大地球，这是人类智慧的结晶，科学技术永远是人类前进的最大动力！

心有余而力不足，编写之中错漏的地方和使大家不满意之处，恳请帮助指正。

徐达山

2004年元旦，哈尔滨

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1. British Flag, Royal Coat of Arms, the British National Anthem, National Flower, The Motto of England

(1) British Flag

The flag is actually three flags in one. It is made up from the England flag, the Scotland flag and Ireland's flag.

England is represented by the flag of St. George

St. George is the Patron Saint of England, St. George's flag is a red cross on a white background.

Scotland is represented by the flag of St. Andrew.

St. Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland, St. Andrew's flag is a diagonal white cross on a blue background.

Ireland is represented by the flag of St. Patrick.

St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. The flag of St. Patrick is a diagonal red cross on a white background. In 1801, after the union with Ireland, King George III added the cross of St. Patrick to the Union Flag, to make the Union Jack we know today.

The flags of the Patron Saints of England, Scotland and Ireland are represented on the Union Flag.

(2) Royal Coat of Arms

The Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom have evolved over many years and reflect the history of the Monarchy of the country. The Royal Coat of Arms carry the symbols

representing England, Scotland and Ireland, the Sovereign's motto and the lion and the unicorn. The function of the Royal Coat of Arms is to identify the person who is Head of State. In respect of the United Kingdom, the royal arms are borne only by the Sovereign. On the left, the shield is supported by the English Lion topped by the Royal crown. On the right, it is supported by the Unicorn of Scotland. The unicorn is chained because in mediaeval times a free unicorn was considered a very dangerous beast (only a virgin could tame a unicorn).

Below it appears the motto of British Monarchs in French "Dieu et mon droit" (God and my right) and the motto of the Order of the Garter, "Honi soit qui mal y pense" (Shamed be he who thinks ill of it) on a representation of the Garter behind the shield

In the centre of the Royal Coat of Arms, the shield shows the various royal emblems of different parts of the United Kingdom:

1. the three lions of England in the first and fourth quarters,
- 2 the lion of Scotland in the second,
- 3 the harp of Northern Ireland (previously for Ireland) in the third.

The plant badges of the United Kingdom — rose, thistle and shamrock — are displayed beneath the shield.

(3) The British National Anthem

The national anthem is God Save the Queen.

The British national anthem originated in a patriotic song first performed in 1745. It became known as the National Anthem from the beginning of the nineteenth century.

On official occasions, only the first verse is usually sung, as follows:

God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.
The second verse is only sung occasionally:
Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And give us ever cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen.

The British National Anthem represents the whole of the UK. However, Wales, Scotland and Ireland have other songs which they sing, especially when playing against England in sport matches.

Wales — Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (Land Of My Fathers) by Evan and James James,

Scotland — Flower of Scotland by Roy Williamson

Ireland — Amhran na bhFíamh (The Soldier's Song) by Peadar Kearney and Patrick Heaney.

England also has its own song or songs. William Blake's Jerusalem and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot are often sung.

(4) National Flower

Each country in Britain has its own floral emblem:

The national flower of England is the rose. The flower has been adopted as England's emblem since the time of the Wars of the Roses — civil wars (1455—1485) between the royal

house of Lancaster (whose emblem was a red rose) and the royal house of York (whose emblem was a white rose).

Scotland: the Scottish Bluebell

Wales: the Daffodil

The national flower of Wales is the daffodil, which is traditionally worn on St. David's Day. The vegetable called leek is also considered to be a traditional emblem of Wales.

Northern Ireland: the Shamrock

The national flower of Northern Ireland is the shamrock, a three-leaf plant similar to clover.

(5) The Motto of England

The motto of England is "Dieu et mon Droit" (in French meaning 'God and my right'). The motto was used by King Richard I in 1198 and adopted as the royal motto of England in the time of Henry VI.

2. Geography

(1) Physical Features

The UK constitutes the greater part of the British Isles. The largest of the islands is Great Britain, comprising three parts: England in the South, Scotland in the North, and Wales in the Southwest. Western Scotland is fringed by the large island chains known as the Inner and Outer Hebrides, and to the north of the Scottish mainland are the Orkney and Shetland Islands. The next largest is Ireland, comprising Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK, and the Irish Republic.

The United Kingdom is a small nation in physical size. With an area of about 243,000 square kilometers (93,000 square miles), excluding inland water, the UK is just under 1,000 kilometers (about 600 miles) from the south coast to the extreme north of the Scottish mainland and just under 500 kilometers (around 300 miles) across at the widest point with a highly irregular coastline, about 12,429 km long.

England is the largest, most populous, and wealthiest division of the United Kingdom. It makes up 130,410 sq km (50,352 sq mi) of the United Kingdoms total 244,110 sq km (94,251 sq mi), namely 53.4 percent of the whole country. The area of Scotland is 78,790 sq km (30,420 sq mi), 32.3 percent; the area of Wales is 20,760 sq km (8,020 sq mi), 8.5 percent and the area of Northern Ireland is 14,160 sq km (5,470 sq mi), 5.8 percent.

Despite its small area, the island of Great Britain can be

divided into two major natural regions: the highland zone, an area of high hills and mountains in the north and west; and the lowland zone, a south and east area consists mostly of rolling plains. Highland Britain, containing all the mountainous terrain, comprises Scotland, the Lake District and the Pennines in Northern England. The lowland zone has a milder climate and better soils for farming. Historically, most people in Britain have lived in the lowland zone rather than in the harsher highland zone.

(2) Climate and Weather

The Atlantic Ocean has a significant effect on Britain's climate. Like the rest of northern Europe, it is warmed by the Gulf Stream flowing up from the Caribbean past Britain. Characterized by a small range of annual and daily temperatures and by variable weather patterns, the climate, in general, is mild for its latitude, chilly, and often wet. There are few extremes of temperature, which rarely rises above 32°C (90°F) or falls below -10°C (14°F). There are frequent weather changes through the seasonal cycle of winter, spring, summer and autumn. The winter months from December to February are the coldest, with the shortest hours of daylight. Temperature is highest during the summer months from June to August.

Winds blowing off the Atlantic Ocean bring clouds and large amounts of moisture to the British Isles. Rainfall occurs throughout the year, there being no marked dry season. Average annual precipitation is more than 1,000 mm (40 in), varying from the extremes of 5,000 mm (196 in) in the western Highlands of Scotland to less than 500 mm (20 in). The western part of Britain rains year-round, and in the winter the rain may change to snow, particularly in the north. It snows infrequently in the south, and when it does it is likely to be