

中学生英汉对照小读物

短文故事精选

(二)

■ 本书编委会编

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The United Kingdom

Britain comprises Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland, and is one of the 12 member states of the European Community. Its full name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Britain constitutes the greater part of the British Isles. The largest of the islands is Great Britain. The next largest comprises Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Western Scotland is fringed by the large archipelago known as the Hebrides and to the north east of the Scottish mainland are Orkney and Shetland. All these have administrative ties with the mainland, but the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea and the Channel Islands between Great Britain and France are largely selfgoverning, and are not part of the United Kingdom.

With an area of some 242 500 sq km (93 600 sq miles), Britain is just under 1,000 km (some 600 miles) from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just under 500 km (some 300 miles) across in the widest part.

According to preliminary results of the April 1991 census, Britain's population is 55.5 million. It ranks seventeenth in the world in terms of population. The British population is expected, on mid-1989 based projections, to be 59.2 million in 2001 and 60 million in 2011.

The word 'Britain' derives from Greek and Latin names

probably stemming from a Celtic original. Although in the pre-historic time-scale the Celts were relatively late arrivals in the British Isles (following cultures which had produced such notable monuments as the stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge), only with them does Britain emerge into recorded history. The term 'Celtic' is often used rather generally to distinguish the early inhabitants of the British Isles from the later Anglo-Saxon invaders.

Roman rule lasted for over 300 years from AD 43. The final Roman withdrawal in 408 followed a period of increasing disorder during which the island began to be raided by Angles, Saxons and Jutes from northern Europe. It is from the Angles that the name 'England' derives. In the next two centuries the raids turned into settlement and a number of small kingdoms were established. The Britons maintained an independent existence in the areas now known as Wales and Cornwall. Among these kingdoms, more powerful ones emerged, claiming overlordship over the whole country, first in the north (Northumbria), then in the midlands (Mercia) and finally in the south (Wessex). However, further raids and settlement by the Vikings from Scandinavia occurred, although in the tenth century the Wessex dynasty defeated the invading Danes and established a wide-ranging authority in England.

In 1066, the last successful invasion of England took place. Duke William of Normandy defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings. Normans and others from France came to

settle. French became the language of the mobility for the next three centuries and the legal and, to some extent, social structure was influenced by that prevailing across the Channel.

Wales had remained a Celtic stronghold, although often within the English sphere of influence. However, with the death in battle in 1282 of Prince Llywelyn, Edward I launched a successful campaign to bring Wales under English rule. Continued strong Welsh national feeling was indicated by the rising led by Owain Glyndwr at the beginning of the fifteenth century. The Acts of Union of 1536 and 1542 united England and Wales administratively, politically and legally.

Scotland was mainly inhabited by the Picts. In the sixth century, the Scots from Ireland (or 'Scotia') settled in what is now Argyll. Lothian was populated by the English, while Welsh Britons moved north to Strathclyde. During the ninth century, the various parts of Scotland united in defence against the Vikings. The powerful monarchy which now existed in England threatened Scottish independence throughout the Middle Ages.

The eventual unification of England and Scotland showed that religious differences were now more important than old national antagonisms. In England, Elizabeth I was succeeded in 1603 by James VI of Scotland (James I of England). Even so, England and Scotland remained separate during the seventeenth century, apart from an enforced period of unification under Oliver Cromwell. In 1707, both countries, realising the

benefits of closer political and economic union, agreed on a single parliament for Great Britain. Scotland retained its own system of law and church settlement. The Union became strained during the reigns of the Protestant Hanoverians George I and George II, when two Jacobite risings attempted to restore the Catholic Stuarts.

A number of kingdoms had emerged in Ireland before the Christian era. Ireland, however, did not escape the incursions of the Vikings, who dominated the country during the tenth century.

In 1169 Henry II of England launched an invasion of Ireland. He had been granted its overlordship by the English Pope Adrian IV, who was anxious to bring the Irish church into full obedience to Rome. Although a large part of the country came under the control of Anglo-Norman magnates, little direct authority was exercised from England during the Middle Ages.

The Tudor monarchs showed a much greater tendency to intervene in Ireland. During the reign of Elizabeth I, a series of campaigns was waged against Irish insurgents. The main focus of resistance was the northern province of Ulster. With the collapse of this resistance and the flight of its leaders in 1607, Ulster became an area of settlement by immigrants from Scotland and England.

The English civil wars (1642-1652) led to further risings in Ireland, which were crushed by Cromwell. There was more fighting after the deposition of James II in 1688,

During most of the eighteenth century there was an uneasy peace: towards its end various efforts were made by British governments to achieve stability. In 1782 the Irish Parliament (dating from medieval times) was given legislative independence; the only constitutional tie with Great Britain was the Crown. The Parliament represented, however, only the privileged Anglo-Irish minority and Catholics were excluded from it. An abortive rebellion took place in 1789 and in 1801 Ireland was unified with Great Britain.

Although a nationalist rising in Dublin in 1916 was suppressed, a guerrilla force known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) began operations against the British administration at the end of the first world war. The Government of Ireland Act 1920 provided for the establishment of two home rule parliaments, one in Dublin and the other in Belfast. The Act was implemented in 1921 in Northern Ireland, when six of the nine counties of the province of Ulster received their own Parliament and remained represented in, and subject to the supreme authority of, the British Parliament. In the South the IRA continued to fight for independence from the British administration. After the signature of a truce in June, the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921 established the Irish Free State, which became a republic in 1949.

Although the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man are not part of the United Kingdom, they have a special relationship with it. The Channel Islands were part of the Duchy of Nor-

mandy in the tenth and eleventh centuries. The Isle of Man was under the nominal sovereignty of Norway until 1266, and eventually came under the direct administration of the Crown in 1765. Today the territories have their own legislative assemblies and systems of law. The British Government is responsible for their defence and their international relations.

联合王国

英国包括不大列颠(英格兰、威尔士苏格兰)和北爱尔兰,是欧洲共同体 12 个成员国之一。他的全称是大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国。

英国是由不列颠群岛中大部分岛屿组成的——其中第一大岛是大不列颠,第二大岛上有北爱尔兰和爱尔兰共和国。苏格兰西部沿海有一个叫做赫布里底的大群岛。苏格兰本土的东北沿海有奥克尼群岛和萨得兰群岛。上述这些群岛都与本土有行政上的关系,但爱尔兰海上的马恩岛以及不大列颠与法国之间的海峡群岛则基本上自治,不是联合王国的组成部分。

英国的面积大约为 242500 平方公里(93600 平方英里),从南部海岸到苏格兰的最北部差不多将近 1000 公里(约 600 英里),横向最宽处差不多将近 500 公里(约 300 英里)。

根据 1991 年 4 月人口普查的初步结果,英国的人口为 5500 万,在世界上名列第 17 位。根据以 1989 年中期的人口为依据所作的预测,英国的人口预计在 2001 年将达 5920 万,2011 年将达 6000 万。

“Britain”这个词起源于希腊和拉丁词，而最终可能追溯到凯尔特语。尽管用“史前时期”这一尺度来衡量时，凯尔特人也是稍后才来到不列颠群岛的（在此之前的那些文明就已创造了诸如埃夫伯里巨石建筑遗址和圆形巨石阵这样的著名历史遗迹），但是有关英国历史的文字记载毕竟还是从讲述凯尔特人开始的。“凯尔特”这个词语相当普遍地经常用来区分不列颠群岛的早期居民和后来的盎格鲁—撒克逊入侵者。

罗马人的统治从公元43年起延续了300多年。在罗马人于408年最后撤走之前，该岛开始遭到来自北欧的盎格鲁人、撒克逊人和朱特人的侵扰，经历了一段日趋混乱的时期。“England”这个词正是从“Angles”而来的。在此后的两个世纪中，侵扰逐步变成了定居，并建立了许多小王国。不列颠人在如今的威尔士和康沃尔地区独立生存下去。这些小王国中出现了力量较强称霸全国的王國，先是在北方（诺森布里亚王国），然后在中部（麦西亚王国），最后在南方（西撒克斯王国）。但是，来自斯堪的纳维亚的北欧海盗接着入侵英国并定居下来，尽管在10世纪时西撒克斯王朝曾击败过入侵的丹麦人并一度称霸英格兰的广大区域。

1066年发生了对英格兰的最后一次成功入侵。诺曼底的威廉公爵在黑斯廷斯战役中击败了英国人，来自法国的诺曼人和其他人来此定居。在随后的3个世纪中，法语成为贵族的语言，法律结构受到了英吉利海峡彼岸所通行的那一套的影响，社会结构在某种程度上也受到了影响。

威尔士虽然常常处于英格兰人的势力范围之内，但一直是凯尔特人的堡垒。然而在1282年卢埃林王子阵亡之后，爱德华一世发动了一场战役并取得胜利，把威尔士置于英格兰

的统治之下。威尔士人的民族情绪继续高涨,15 世纪初由欧文·格林德领导的起义便说明了这一点。1536 年和 1542 年的联合法令把英格兰与威尔士在行政、政治和法律上统为一体。

当初住在苏格兰的大多是皮克特人。公元 6 世纪,来自爱尔兰的苏格人在如今的阿盖尔地区定居。洛锡安住着英格兰人,而威尔士不列颠人则继续北上来到斯特拉思克莱德。9 世纪时,苏格兰各地区联合起来抵御北欧海盗。在整个中世纪,英格兰当时强大的君主国一直威胁着苏格兰的独立。

英格兰与苏格兰最终的联合表明,当时宗教上的差异比之以往的民族仇视更加至关紧要。在英格兰,伊丽莎白一世于 1603 年由苏格兰詹姆斯六世(英格兰詹姆斯一世)继位。即使如此,英格兰和苏格兰除了在奥利弗·克伦威尔统治时一度被强行联合在一起,在 17 世纪它们一直是相互独立的。到 1707 年,由于意识到更紧密的政治和经济联合会带来益处,双方同意建立一个单一的大不列颠议会。苏格兰仍然保留自己的司法制度和宗教社区。但是在乔治一世和乔治二世这两位汉诺威王室新教徒统治期间,英格兰和苏格兰之间的关系紧张起来,詹姆斯二世党人发动过两次叛乱,试图恢复信奉天主教的斯图亚特王室。

爱尔兰在公元前就出现了许多王国,但爱尔兰并没有能免受北欧海盗的侵犯,到公元 10 世纪时竟成了北欧海盗的一统天下。

1169 年英格兰的亨利二世发动对爱尔兰的入侵。英格兰籍教皇阿德里安四世授予亨利二世最高统治者的权力,因为他急于想使爱尔兰教会完全顺从罗马。爱尔兰大部分地区都

落到了盎格鲁—诺曼权贵手中，但是在中世纪英格兰几乎没有在此直接行使管辖权。

都铎王朝的几位君主干预爱尔兰的倾向要强烈得多。在伊丽莎白一世统治时期，对爱尔兰造反者发动过一系列战役。抵抗运动主要集中在北部的乌尔斯特省，1607年由于抵抗运动失败以及领导人出逃，乌尔斯特变成了来自苏格兰和英格兰的移民聚居地区。

由于英国内战(1642~1652)，爱尔兰又爆发了多次起义，但都被克伦威尔镇压下去。1688年詹姆斯二世被废黜之后，英格兰与爱尔兰之间的战争更是不断。18世纪大部分都是脆弱的和平时期。18世纪末，英国政府为谋求稳定作出了多方努力。1782年，爱尔兰议会(建立于中世纪)获得立法自主权；在宪法上与大不列颠的唯一纽带是王国政府。然而，该议会仅仅代表少数盎格鲁—爱尔兰特权阶层，天主教徒被排斥在外。1798年发生了一次起义，但没有成功；1801年，爱尔兰与大不列颠联合为一体。

虽然1916年都柏林民族起义者的起义遭到了镇压，但是在第一次世界大战末期，一股称为爱尔兰共和军的游击力量开始对英国当局采取军事行动。1920年通过的爱尔兰政府法案规定要成立两个地方自治议会，一个设在都柏林，另一个设在贝尔法斯特。该法案于1921年在北爱尔兰实施，乌尔斯特省9个郡中有6个接受了它们自己的议会，同时在英国议会中仍享有席位，并服从英国议会的最高管辖权。但是，爱尔兰共和军继续在南部为争取脱离英国当局赢得独立而战斗。1921年6月签订了停战协定之后，根据同年12月缔结的英—爱条约建立了爱尔兰自由邦，1949年该自由邦成为爱尔兰

共和国。

海峡群岛和马恩岛虽不属于联合王国,但与联合王国有着特殊的关系。海峡群岛在 10 世纪和 11 世纪时曾是诺曼底公国的一部分。马恩岛在 1266 年以前名义上一直由挪威行使主权,到 1765 年最终才直接由王国政府管辖。今天,海峡群岛和马恩岛都有各自的立法机构和法律制度,英国政府则负责那里的防卫和国际关系事务。

THREE GOLD MEDALS FOR WILMA

The stands were packed. people from all over the world were watching the greatest sports show of all — the Olympic Games.

The next race was the women's relay race, and it promised to be an exciting one. Teams from six countries were entered. The winning team would be champions of the world.

A hush spread over the crowd as the teams took their places. All eyes turned to a tall, 20-year-old girl on the U. S. team. She was Wilma Rudolph, the fourth and last runner for the United States.

Already Wilma had earned gold medals for two races. She had won the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and in the 100-meter dash she had set a new record. If the U. S. team won the relay, each member would get a gold medal. Wilma would be the first American woman to win three Olympic gold medals in track!

The starting pistol cracked. The first runners shot from their starting points. Relay sticks in their hands, they raced to the second runners. The second runners, already moving, grabbed the sticks and raced on. Now the third runners had the sticks. And the runner for the U. S. team was in the lead! She flashed toward Wilma. Already running, Wilma reached for the stick. But it wobbled in her teammate's hand. Wilma had to stop to get a good hold on the stick!

That stop cost the U. S. its lead. A girl from Germany was flying two steps ahead of Wilma. But Wilma burned up that course. She caught up to the German girl. Then she pulled ahead. Wilma burst the tape—in first place.

It was a wonderful victory, even more wonderful than you might think. You see, for one third of her life, Wilma couldn't even walk!

Wilma Rudolph was the youngest child in a big family. Both parents worked to get enough money to raise the children. The older boys and girls were healthy, but Wilma was sick most of the time. She was barely walking at the age of four. Then she became really ill and for weeks was near death. Finally she pulled through. But she couldn't move her left leg. It seemed that the little girl would never walk.

But Wilma's mother was going to give her a chance. She wrapped Wilma in a blanket and took her by bus to a hospital 45 miles away. The doctors gave the little girl all kinds of tests. Finally they said that rubbing the little girl's leg might