



# 英美文化概览

British and American Culture: An Introduction

朱慧敏◎主编



复旦大学出版社

# 英美文化概览

British and American Culture: An Introduction

主 编：朱慧敏

副主编：王 玫

主 审：Findlay Nicol

编 者：杨 倩 李 燕 杨 静  
李百温 李 静 安新颖  
李英华 严秋燕 房艳红  
李文华 崔泳泳 单芳红

復旦大學 出版社

**图书在版编目(CIP)数据**

英美文化概览/朱慧敏主编. —上海:复旦大学出版社,2012.8  
ISBN 978-7-309-08984-4

I. 英… II. 朱… III. ①英语-高等学校-教材②英国-概况③美国-概况 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2012)第 118300 号

**英美文化概览**

朱慧敏 主编  
责任编辑/郑梅侠

复旦大学出版社有限公司出版发行  
上海市国权路 579 号 邮编:200433  
网址:fupnet@fudanpress.com http://www.fudanpress.com  
门市零售:86-21-65642857 团体订购:86-21-65118853  
外埠邮购:86-21-65109143  
上海春秋印刷厂

开本 850 × 1168 1/16 印张 18.25 字数 477 千  
2012 年 8 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷  
印数 1—5 100

ISBN 978-7-309-08984-4/H · 1930  
定价:38.00 元

---

如有印装质量问题,请向复旦大学出版社有限公司发行部调换。  
版权所有 侵权必究

## 内 容 提 要

《英美文化概览》一书围绕《大学英语课程教学要求》(2007 年 5 月版)对大学英语的教学目标而编写,旨在帮助学生了解英美国家的历史、地理、风土人情、传统习俗、生活方式、文学艺术、行为规范、思维方式、价值观念等文化知识,使学生通过一个学期的学习对英美国家的文化背景有一定的了解,通过文化差异的对比增强跨文化交际能力,提高综合文化素养,以适应我国社会发展和国际交流的需要。本书共 10 章,每章包含编者的话、文化介绍、生词及注释、资料来源、问题讨论等。

# 前 言

广泛深入地学习英美文化是跨文化交际中信息传递、交流和沟通的重要条件,同时也是学好英语的必要条件。但是,许多英语学习者对英美文化缺乏真正的了解,造成在跨文化交际中的言语行为和谐缺失,产生文化冲突,结果严重影响了跨文化交际的顺利进行。目前,虽然涉及英美文化的英文书籍品种和数量繁多,但它们大多数侧重于研究和概况,有的语言难度偏高或偏低,有的内容过于繁琐或过于陈旧,不太适合做高等学校通识课教材。鉴于此,我们编写了本书,旨在为大学本科生提供一本选材新颖、语言地道、通俗易懂、内容丰富、叙述简洁、趣味性强的通识教育课教材,以培养学生对英美文化的敏感性,增强跨文化交际的能力。

本书以英美文化对比为视角,涵盖了英美国家的地理、历史、语言、教育、文学、艺术、宗教、习俗、价值观、体育、新闻传媒、节假日等文化内容。本书对文章内出现的难词和专门术语突出标示并在每一章后加生词表和注释,以方便学习者查找、阅读和理解。另外本书还配有图片、参考文献和思考题,以增加学习的趣味性,也为学习者课外阅读和内化知识提供帮助。本书力求集知识性、趣味性、系统性和科学性于一体。全书共10章,完整、系统地介绍了重要的英美文化概况。该书不仅适合在校大学生、出国人员及英语爱好者,也是英语教师的教学必备之物。

本书编者是山东财经大学、山东大学、山东师范大学、齐鲁师范学院的教授、副教授、博士生以及中青年骨干教师。他们多年来一直从事英美文化的教学和研究工作,书中内容是多年教学成果的结晶。

本书在编写过程中承蒙许多专家、学者不吝赐教。英国专家 Findlay Nicol 认真审读了全书,在此诚表谢意。选材出自多处,在此,我们一并向参考文献的所有作者表示衷心的感谢。

虽然我们在本书的编写过程中尽心尽力,力求材料准确、完整,但由于我们才疏学浅,书中恐怕仍有错误和疏漏之处,恳祈读者不吝指正。

编 者  
2012年5月

# CONTENTS

<b>Chapter One Brief Introduction to the UK and the USA .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Brief Introduction to the UK .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Geography of the UK .....	1
1.2 History of the UK .....	4
1.3 Government of the UK .....	12
1.4 Economy of the UK .....	18
<b>2. Brief Introduction to the USA .....</b>	<b>20</b>
2.1 Geography of the USA .....	20
2.2 History of the USA .....	24
2.3 Government of the USA .....	30
2.4 Economy of the USA .....	35
<b>Chapter Two The English Language .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>1. History of the English Language .....</b>	<b>41</b>
1.1 Old English (450 – 1100) .....	41
1.2 Middle English (1100 – 1500) .....	42
1.3 Early Modern English (1500 – 1800) .....	43
1.4 Late Modern English (1800 – Present) .....	43
<b>2. Differences Between British English and American English .....</b>	<b>44</b>
2.1 Differences in Pronunciation .....	44
2.2 Differences in Spelling .....	45
2.3 Differences in Vocabulary .....	46
2.4 Differences in Grammar .....	47
<b>3. Euphemism in English .....</b>	<b>48</b>
3.1 Categorization of Euphemisms .....	48
3.2 Examples of English Euphemisms .....	49
<b>4. Allusion in English .....</b>	<b>52</b>
4.1 Biblical Allusion .....	53
4.2 Mythological Allusion .....	54
4.3 Historical Allusion .....	55
4.4 Literary Allusion .....	56
<b>5. Origin and Meaning of English Names .....</b>	<b>57</b>
5.1 Surnames .....	57
5.2 First Names .....	61

5.3 Middle Names .....	61
<b>Chapter Three The Education System .....</b>	<b>66</b>
1. Education System in the UK .....	66
1.1 Overview of the UK Education System .....	66
1.2 Primary Education .....	70
1.3 Secondary Education .....	70
1.4 Further Education .....	74
1.5 Higher Education .....	76
2. Education System in the USA .....	79
2.1 Overview of the US Education System .....	79
2.2 Preschool Education .....	81
2.3 Elementary Education .....	81
2.4 Secondary Education .....	83
2.5 Post-secondary/Higher Education .....	89
<b>Chapter Four Literature .....</b>	<b>97</b>
1. British Literature .....	97
1.1 Old and Medieval English Literature (5th – 14th Century) .....	97
1.2 The English Renaissance (16th Century) .....	98
1.3 English Literature During the Period of Revolution and Restoration (17th Century) .....	100
1.4 The 18th Century .....	101
1.5 The Romantic Period .....	102
1.6 The Victorian Age .....	103
1.7 The 20th-century British Literature .....	105
2. American Literature .....	109
2.1 Colonial and Revolutionary Literature .....	109
2.2 The Literature of American Romanticism .....	110
2.3 The Age of Realism .....	113
2.4 American Modernism .....	113
2.5 The Rise of American Drama .....	115
2.6 Contemporary American Literature .....	115
<b>Chapter Five Arts .....</b>	<b>120</b>
1. Arts in the UK .....	120
1.1 Theatre .....	120
1.2 Music .....	122
1.3 Architecture .....	126
1.4 Opera .....	129
1.5 Dance .....	130
1.6 Painting and Sculpture .....	131
2. Arts in the USA .....	132
2.1 Music .....	133



2.2	Architecture .....	135
2.3	Theater .....	138
2.4	Visual Arts .....	139
2.5	Dance .....	141
2.6	Film .....	142
<b>Chapter Six</b>	<b>Religion .....</b>	<b>147</b>
1.	Religions in the UK .....	147
1.1	Christianity .....	147
1.2	Islam .....	159
1.3	Judaism .....	163
1.4	Buddhism .....	166
1.5	Hinduism .....	168
2.	Religions in the USA .....	169
2.1	Christianity .....	170
2.2	Judaism .....	172
2.3	Buddhism .....	173
2.4	Islam .....	174
2.5	Hinduism .....	175
<b>Chapter Seven</b>	<b>Traditions, Customs and Cultural Values .....</b>	<b>180</b>
1.	Traditions, Customs and Cultural Values in the UK .....	180
1.1	Greeting Etiquette .....	180
1.2	Table Manners .....	181
1.3	Dietary Habit .....	182
1.4	Pub Culture .....	182
1.5	Marriage Customs .....	184
1.6	Cultural Values .....	189
1.7	Superstitions .....	190
2.	Traditions, Customs and Cultural Values in the USA .....	192
2.1	Greeting .....	192
2.2	Table Manners .....	193
2.3	Dress Codes .....	194
2.4	Marriage Traditions .....	194
2.5	Cultural Values .....	198
<b>Chapter Eight</b>	<b>Sports .....</b>	<b>202</b>
1.	British Sports .....	202
1.1	Football .....	202
1.2	Cricket .....	204
1.3	Golf .....	205
1.4	Tennis .....	206
1.5	Rugby .....	206



1. 6	Horse Racing and Greyhound Racing .....	208
1. 7	Boxing .....	209
1. 8	Bowls .....	210
1. 9	Fishing .....	211
1. 10	University Boat Race .....	211
<b>2.</b>	<b>American Sports .....</b>	<b>212</b>
2. 1	Soccer .....	212
2. 2	American Football .....	214
2. 3	Baseball .....	216
2. 4	Basketball .....	218
2. 5	Ice Hockey .....	219
2. 6	Motor Sports .....	221
2. 7	Badminton .....	222
<b>Chapter Nine</b>	<b>Press and Media .....</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Media — The Pulse of Pop Culture .....</b>	<b>225</b>
1. 1	Types of Media .....	225
1. 2	Functions of Press and Media .....	226
1. 3	Freedom and Responsibility of Press .....	227
<b>2.</b>	<b>Press and Media of the UK .....</b>	<b>227</b>
2. 1	The Broadcast Media: Television and Radio .....	228
2. 2	British Newspapers .....	232
2. 3	Periodicals and Magazines .....	236
2. 4	News Agencies .....	238
<b>3.</b>	<b>Press and Media of the USA .....</b>	<b>240</b>
3. 1	The Broadcast Media: Television and Radio .....	241
3. 2	American Newspapers .....	245
3. 3	Periodicals and Magazines .....	249
3. 4	News Agencies .....	252
<b>Chapter Ten</b>	<b>Festivals and Holidays .....</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>British Festivals and Holidays .....</b>	<b>258</b>
1. 1	New Year's Day .....	258
1. 2	St. Patrick's Day .....	259
1. 3	Good Friday .....	259
1. 4	Easter Sunday .....	260
1. 5	May Day .....	261
1. 6	Spring Bank Holiday .....	262
1. 7	Summer Bank Holiday .....	262
1. 8	Guy Fawkes Day .....	263
1. 9	Christmas Day .....	263
1. 10	Boxing Day .....	265

<b>2. American Festivals and Holidays</b>	266
2.1 New Year's Day	266
2.2 Martin Luther King Day	266
2.3 Washington's Birthday	267
2.4 Memorial Day	267
2.5 Independence Day	268
2.6 Labor Day	269
2.7 Columbus Day	269
2.8 Veterans Day	270
2.9 Thanksgiving Day	271
2.10 Christmas Day	272
<b>3. Other Special Days</b>	273
3.1 Valentine's Day	273
3.2 April Fools' Day	274
3.3 Mother's Day	275
3.4 Father's Day	276
3.5 Halloween	277

# Chapter One

## Brief Introduction to the UK and the USA

**编者的话:** The United Kingdom, once the most powerful country in the world and in fact a small country in terms of territory, was deep in economic recession after the two world wars but still exerts extensive and profound influence on the world today. The United States of America, once one of the colonies of the British Empire, gradually developed into a powerful and influential country after it gained independence. With the collapse of the European imperial countries, its status as the most powerful country in the world was greatly entrenched. For a better understanding of the cultural background of the two countries, a panoramic overview of the geographical features, historical development, political and governmental system as well as the national economy of the two countries will be introduced in this chapter.

### 1. Brief Introduction to the UK

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, often abbreviated to the UK, is the political name of the country which is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In this part, the geographical features, historical development, governmental system and overall national economy of the UK will be briefly introduced.

#### 1.1 Geography of the UK

The UK lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, and comes within 35 km of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel. Northern Ireland shares a 360 km international land boundary with the Republic of Ireland. The Channel Tunnel bored beneath the English Channel, now links the UK with France.



Map of the UK

England occupies the middle and southern part of the main island called Great Britain. Scotland, a country of legend with its specific traditions and way of life, consists of the northern part including the outlying islands, the Hebrides, Orkneys and the Shetlands. Wales is a largely mountainous country bounded on the north and west by the Irish Sea and on the south by the Bristol Channel. In the east it has its land boundary with England. Wales is famous for its long rivers, big lakes and high hills in the north of the country. Northern Ireland takes up the north-eastern part of the Irish island. Ireland had long been connected to Britain but the Irish Republic became independent in 1922 when the six counties making up Northern Ireland voted to remain a part of the United Kingdom.

London, on the River Thames, is the capital city. Important cities in England include Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland with Glasgow the second most important city. Cardiff is the capital of Wales, Belfast the capital of Northern Ireland.

### Mountains and Hills

Highlands are the predominant features of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, and western and northern England. The most mountainous area of Great Britain is Scotland. The Glen Glen divides the North Scottish Highlands from the Caledonian Mountains and the Grampians with numerous lakes. The highest and roughest sections are the Grampian Mountains and the Northwest Highlands of northern Scotland. Ben Nevis, reaching 4,406 feet (1,343 m) in the Grampians, is the highest peak in the UK.



Landform of the United Kingdom

In England, hills and mountains, which are mostly rugged, lie in the north and the west. The highest elevations are in Cumbria and the Lake District in the west. The highest point in England is Scafell Pike, 978 m, in North West England. The area of the Cumbrian Mountains is the most rugged in England and is more commonly known as the Lake District. The Cheviot Hills are a range of low mountains forming a border between England and Scotland. They extend 35 miles (56 km) in a northeastern to southwestern direction. The Pennines, the backbone of England, are a large chain of limestone hills which runs from Scotland to England, splitting northern England into northwest and northeast sectors.

Rough terrain also appears in the Mourne Mountains of Northern Ireland and the Cambrian Mountains of Wales. Numerous broad valleys cut through the highland region, making the areas of discontinuous rough land. The terrain consists of rounded hills and low mountains separated by broad valleys. Principal mountain ranges include the Mourne Mountains in the southeast and the Sperrin Mountains in the northwest. Slieve Donard, in the Mournes, is the highest peak in Northern Ireland, reaching 2,796 feet (852 m) above sea level. Most of Wales is occupied by the Cambrian Mountains. The highest point of Wales, found in the north, is called Snowdon (1,085 m).

### Rivers and Lakes

Being a relatively small island, the UK's rivers are not very long. Inland waters cover somewhat more than one percent of the total area. The Severn, the longest river in the UK, is just 338 km in length, beginning in the mountains of Wales and entering the Atlantic Ocean near Bristol in England. The parts of the Severn that run through England are shorter than the Thames, the most important river in the UK. The Thames flows through Oxford and London into the North Sea. Its length is 346 km and it is the deepest river in Britain.

Other major rivers include: The River Avon in the south of England, on the bank of which the Romans built the city of Bath, the River Tyne in the north of England, with the city Newcastle and many huge shipyards built alongside it, the River Humber, which separates southern and northern England and flows into the North Sea, the River Trent crossing Middle



Britain's Principal Mountains, Hills and Rivers

England, the Shannon, the longest river in Ireland, the Wye marking part of the border between England and Wales, the Mersey which flows through Manchester and Liverpool, and the Tweed marking part of the border between Scotland and England.

Compared with the lakes of many other countries, lakes in the UK are rather small. Most of England's lakes were formed at the end of the ice age, when the glaciers melted or created during the last century as reservoirs for drinking water and generating electricity. Scottish lakes are particularly numerous, and many are long, narrow, and exceptionally deep. Loch Ness is the largest Scottish lake by volume. It is very deep and is famous for the Loch Ness monster or Nessie, a legendary large animal living in the lake.

The most famous "natural" lakes in England are located in the Lake District in the Cumbrian Mountains with Lake Windermere and Coniston Water as the biggest ones. Northern Ireland is home to the UK's largest lake, Lough Neagh, which is located in Central Ireland and covers an area of 396 sq. km. The border of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland goes through Lough Neagh. Rutland Water in north of London is one of England's biggest man-made lakes.

## Climate

The UK's climate varies greatly with season and location, but is mild on the whole. Influenced by the warm North Atlantic Current, the climate in the UK is generally temperate and mild, and frequently wet.

The influence of the ocean is the dominating factor. Virtually all year, westerly and southwesterly winds bring the moderating influence of the North Atlantic Current inland, warming the land in winter and cooling it in summer. Lying in the path of tempering winds from the Atlantic, Northern Ireland has a maritime climate that is unusually mild considering the latitude. Extremely hot or cold weather is unusual. Rain, overcast skies, and high humidity are characteristic. Britain is famous for its unpredictable and changeable weather.

The southwestern peninsula of England has the mildest winter, temperatures averaging substantially above those of the rest of the nation. The highest summer and lowest winter temperatures are normally recorded in southeastern England. Exceptionally hot or cold weather, however, is rare. The least variation in climate occurs along Scotland's north and northwest coast.

## 1.2 History of the UK

### Roman Britain (55 B.C. —A.D. 440)

The early inhabitants of Britain were small groups of hunters, gatherers, and fishermen. About 3000 B.C. to 2000 B.C., the Iberians began to arrive. They were initially hunters and then also shepherds. After 700 B.C. new invaders, Celts, appeared in Britain. The Celtic conquerors were technically more advanced than the Iberians. They were rural farming, hunting, and herding tribes ruled by local chieftains. The centers of Celtic civilization lay in the South and Southeast of the island.

Julius Cesar invaded Britain twice (in 55 and 54 B.C.) and, after his demand for payment of



tribute was met, he left the island. In A.D. 43, the Emperor Claudius made a successful conquest of Britain as far as the rivers Severn and Trent. The Romans began to organize Britain as a province called Britannia. But the Roman rule was resisted by some Celtic leaders, including the Queen of the Iceni, Boudicca, who led a rising against the Romans in southern Britain in A.D. 61. The Roman occupation of Britain lasted almost 400 years and completely romanized the Celtic rural aristocracy. The Romans introduced their customs, language, agriculture and Christianity. However, when the Romans withdrew after A.D. 410, few permanent effects of their rule remained with only one exception, the fine network of roads which later became the basis for the main roads of modern Britain.

### The Anglo-Saxons (440 – 1066)

The next invasion of Britain was made by the Germanic tribes of Saxons, Angles, and Jutes who came from what are now northern Germany and Denmark. By 600 the southeastern part of Britain was completely occupied by the invaders and was named Angle-land (England).

The Anglo-Saxons destroyed virtually all traces of Roman civilization in Britain. In place of a centralized government they established a number of kingdoms, and the Celtic Britons were driven into Wales, i.e., “the land of foreigners”. In 597, a monk from Rome called Augustine arrived in England, converted King Ethelbert to Christianity and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. Later the English Church decided to establish close ties with the Church in Rome, leaving behind their Celtic tradition. Within the next one hundred years all the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were converted to the Christian faith.

In the seventh century England was divided into seven large kingdoms: Kent, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Essex, Mercia and Northumbria. Anglo-Saxon kings ruled with the advice of prominent nobles who formed a council known as the *Witan*<sup>1</sup>, the basis of the Privy Council that is still in existence today.

### The Vikings (787 – 1035)

In 787, the first Viking raiding ships were spotted off the coast of Wessex. For the next two centuries, they attacked the island on and off, spreading terror all over Britain. By the 860s, the Vikings had settled in the northeastern part of England and the area became known as the Danelaw. The person who made a name for himself by turning the tide of events was Alfred the Great, king of Wessex. His leadership and **pro prowess** in battle together with further victories by his successors started the reconquest of the territory lost to the Danes.



Seven Kingdoms in the 7th Century



However, in 991 King Ethelred the Unready suffered a crushing defeat in the battle of Maldon and from then on everything went downhill. Some years later, the Danes invaded again and when Cnut murdered Ethelred's son, he became the new king of England. Cnut soon became the ruler of three countries: England, Norway and Denmark. In order to improve administration in England during his frequent absence when he was in Scandinavia, he divided the country into four earldoms: Northumbria, East Anglia, Mercia and Wessex. When he died in 1035, his sons were unable to hold this vast empire together and it quickly disintegrated.

After Cnut died, Edward the Confessor became the king of England. Edward had grown up in Normandy during the time of the Viking raids so he was pro-Norman. Edward also had Westminster Abbey built, and he supervised its construction. Allegedly, Edward had promised William, Duke of Normandy, the throne of England because he didn't want a Godwin (his wife was Godwin's daughter) as heir.

### The Norman Conquest (1066 - 1381)

When Edward the Confessor died, William, Duke of Normandy claimed that Edward had promised him the throne. However, the Witan decided to choose Harold who had no royal blood but came from the powerful Saxon family of Godwin from Wessex. Attacked by the Danes from the north and the Normans from the south, Harold was defeated at the Battle of Hastings by William on October 1066. Since then England has not been successfully invaded.



King William I

The Normans who arrived in England with William the Conqueror were Scandinavian by origin but had assimilated French culture. These Normans started building the Tower of London and plenty of castles. William introduced the feudal system in England. He gave land and titles to his barons who, in turn, gave him money and provided him with soldiers in time of war, thus creating the supremacy of the monarchy. William also commissioned the "*Domesday Book*"<sup>2</sup>, recording who owned what and how much it was worth. By doing so, he could get in a lot of money through taxes.

The significant influences of the Norman Conquest lie in four aspects. It linked England with the continent of Europe through economic and cultural relations. It created one of the most powerful monarchies in Europe and engendered a sophisticated governmental system. The French language was accepted and widely used in the court and by the upper classes. The conquest set the stage for a rivalry with France, brought about by the choice of successor after Henry I's death, and the rivalry continued intermittently for several centuries.

### The Plantagenet Dynasty (1154 - 1399)

The name "Plantagenet" comes from French "plante à genêt", a sprig of broom which Henry

wore in his hat as a personal badge. During the reign of Henry II (1154 – 1189) the Anglo-Norman state reached its **zenith**. He is regarded as the founder of English **Common Law**<sup>3</sup> because he introduced several administrative reforms in England. Henry wanted to restore control over the church, so he appointed his chancellor Thomas á Becket Archbishop of Canterbury, hoping that Becket would help him control the church; however, Becket supported the church supremacy. So he had Becket killed in front of the altar of the Canterbury Cathedral.

King John was defeated in a war with France and lost Normandy in 1204, so he demanded more taxes and army service which greatly agitated the lords. Finally, he was forced to sign the **Magna Carta**<sup>4</sup> in 1215, in which he promised to limit the Crown's power, which was the first successful step in English history towards limiting the power of the king.

During the reign of Henry III, in 1258, the nobles under the leadership of Simon de Montfort elected a council called the Parliament, consisting of the Church, the Nobles and the Commons. The role of this “parliament” was to supervise the king's government and particularly the Treasury. Simon suggested that each town and each shire or county should send two representatives to speak for the ordinary people.

The Hundred Years' War began in 1337 over the claim of King Edward III to the throne of France. Although the war lasted from 1337 to 1453, the English and the French only waged war **sporadically**. England defeated France but eventually England lost her French possessions. During the war both opposing sides became aware of their distinct nationality. The unity of medieval Christendom was broken. Almost at the same time, the plague, known as the Black Death, killed more than a third of the population of England.

In 1381, the peasants, encouraged by the religious reformer John Wycliffe, rose against their barons in bloody revolt. Soon a new series of civil wars started. It was called the Wars of the Roses (1455 – 1485) being waged between the House of York, whose emblem was a white rose, and the House of Lancaster, whose emblem was a red rose.

### Tudor England (1485 – 1603)

With the end of the Wars of the Roses and the accession of Henry VII (1485 – 1509), England entered a period of renaissance under the new dynasty of the Tudors. Henry avoided wars and supported ship-building and trade. By the end of his reign he had accumulated great wealth for his successor, Henry VIII, who strengthened the royal power but wasted much of his father's money on wars with France.

Henry VIII disliked the power of the Roman Church as an international organization controlled by the Pope. After breaking with Rome, he “nationalized” the Church by naming himself Supreme Head of the English Church in 1534. Though the immediate reason for the break with the Roman Church was the Pope's refusal to allow Henry to divorce his first wife, there were also political and ecclesiastical reasons, e.g., the growth of English nationalism which objected to foreign supremacy and the rise of the **Protestant**<sup>5</sup> movement on the Continent which seemed attractive to many English people.

Elizabeth I considerably improved England's position in Europe. She stimulated foreign commerce and English colonial expansion. A number of English trade companies were established