

全国部分高等学校统编教材

# 新编英美概况

A Survey of  
Britain and America

成都科技大学出版社

# 新编英美概况

---

《新编英美概况》编写组编写

成都科技大学出版社

一九九四年九月

(川)新登字 015 号

责任编辑:姜 涛

责任校对:肖祥琼

## 新编英美概况

《新编英美概况》编写组编写

---

成都科技大学出版社出版发行

新华书店经销

四川璧山县印刷厂印刷

开本:787×1092 1/32 印张 14

1994年8月第1版 1994年8月第1次印刷

印数 1—4000册 字数 450千字

ISBN7—5616—2594—4/D·182

---

定价:(平)12.85元(复膜)13.25元

DU13/19  
《新编英美概况》  
编委会及作者

主 编：胡 涛 许金杞 徐 明  
黎明生 刘源甫 王坤宏  
副主编：初 晓 曾乾明 范 谊  
李秀清 曾积川 黄洋楼  
徐宜良 宋德文 宁月瑾  
编 委：常宗林 陈晓君 敖操廉  
蔡伟章 刘 舟 蒋晓萍  
郁仲莉 刘齐宣 谭 维  
芮渝萍 杨 捷 刘金梅  
黄运亭 李正荣 张治中  
田 蕊 吴克成 何光民

# 前 言

《新编英美概况》由全国二十所院校从事英美概况研究与教学的专家和教师联合编写。该书严格以国家教委有关教学大纲和文件为指导,在全面介绍英美概况的基本框架基础上,重点对英美国家近现代部分的历史、地理概况、政治、经济、文化等内容进行了介绍和评析,目的在于帮助学生在在学习现代英语时,能完整地理解学习内容,为学好英语提供正确的英、美背景材料,该门课程由于课时有限,(一般学校开设此课在80节课左右),因此不可能求全求广,只能选一部分最重要的内容,虽然有相当多的重要内容如宗教、外交等因课时限制未能涉及,但是,我们认为某些内容可由使用本书的教师根据自己班级的具体情况,灵活掌握,适当增减,进行调整,使教学更有针对性。

本书选题由出版社报国家教委批准公开出版向全国发行。本书主要供本科院校和教育学院英语专业使用,对非英语专业的高年级本科生也可作参考,也可供广大中学英语教师及具有一定程度的英语自学者和英语爱好者作为进修读物。

参加本书审稿和编写人员所在的学校有:重庆师院、云南师大、西南石油学院、南京农业大学、长春大学、天津理工学院、安徽财贸学院、广州师范学院、河北地质学院、株洲工学院、湖北民族学院、西安武警技术学院、宁波大学、山东纺织工学院、青岛海洋大学、莆田高等专科学校、上海石化专科学校、德州师专、玉溪师专、韶关大学、宜昌师专、郟阳师专、娄底师专、黄冈教育学院、包头师专、湖州师专、四川电大、许昌师专、德阳教育学院、大连理工大学。

本书由现代学校教育丛书编委会提出编写计划,负责全书组织工作和统筹,聘请胡涛副教授制定出编写提纲,并广泛征求编者意见,最后在主编、副主编分别审改的基础上,由胡涛对全书初稿进行统稿和定稿。在编写本书的过程中还得到了作者所在院校的领导和成都科技大学出版社的支持。其中南京农业大学、青岛海洋大学、大连理工大学、云南师大、株洲工学院等校外籍教师或专家参加了有关学校稿件的初审工作,杨捷同志协助主编作了部分修改、审校工作。此外,肖祥群、王中周等同志参加了部分编写和校稿工作,本书还参考了一些有关著述和资料,在此一并致谢。特别强调的是书中有些观点如信仰、价值观、生活方式等是部分西方人的观点,是我们不能接受的,请读者在使用时应加以注意并持批判态度。

由于本书编写时间短,又限于篇幅和课时,许多问题未深入展开,书中不足甚至错误难免,诚望使用本书的老师和同学批评,便于今后再版。

《新编英美概况》编写组  
一九九四年八月于重庆

## Contents

### Introduction

## PART ONE BRITAIN

<b>Chater I</b>	<b>Geography</b> .....	(1)
Section One	Geographical Position and Borders ...	(1)
Section Two	Aea and Five Admisstative Divisions	(7)
Section Three	Nationaity, Popouation, and Language...	(9)
Section Four	London, the Caital, and Other Major Cities .....	(16)
Section Five	Mountains, Lakes, and Rivers .....	(21)
Section Six	National Resourses .....	(25)
Section Seven	Climate and Weather .....	(28)
Section Eight	Transportation .....	(32)
<b>Chater I</b>	<b>History</b> .....	(36)
Section One	From the Primitive to Slavery .....	(36)
1 •	The Primitive Iberians (about 1,800 BC— —700 BC)	
2 •	Celtic Invasion and Rule (abot 700 B • C • —43 A • C • )	
3 •	Roman Conest and Rule ; the Formation and Collopse of Slavery	
Section Two	The Formation and Development of Fedal- ism .....	(41)
1 •	Feudalism with the Anglo—Saxon's Conuest	
2 •	Danish Dynasty in England	
3 •	Norman Conuest and Feudalist Development	
Section Three	The Decline of Feudalism and the Beginning	

	of Capitalism .....	(47)
1 •	The Hundred Years' War against France (1337— —1453)	
2 •	The Black Death (1348)	
3 •	Religious Reform and the Peasants Uprising	
4 •	The War of Roses among Feudal Nobles (1455— —1485)	
5 •	Tudor in Power and the Beginning of Capitalism	
Section Four	Capitalist Growing in the 18th Century .....	(55)
Section Five	Bourgeois Revolution in the 17th Century .....	(56)
Section Six	Industrial Revolution in the 18th Century .....	(61)
Section Seven	British Imperialism in the 19th Century, the Victorian Age (1837— —1901) .....	(64)
Section Eight	The Decline of the British Empire ...	(71)
1 •	Britain and the First World War (1914—1918)	
2 •	Britain and the Second World War (1939—1945)	
3 •	Colonies Constant Independence from Britain	
<b>Chapter II</b>	<b>Political System .....</b>	<b>(81)</b>
Section One	Monarchy .....	(81)
Section Two	Constitution .....	(82)
Section Three	Parliament .....	(84)
Section Four	Government— —Prime Minister, Cabinet, and Administration .....	(89)



Section Five	Political Parties and Elections .....	(92)
Section Six	The Legal System; Law, the Court, and the Police .....	(96)
Section Seven	Local Government .....	(99)
<b>Chapter IV</b>	<b>National Economy</b> .....	(102)
Section One	General Survey .....	(102)
Section Two	Industry .....	(104)
Section Three	Agriculture .....	(107)
Section Four	Foreign Trade .....	(109)
Section Five	Government Expenditure .....	(110)
Section Six	Work, Money, and Tax .....	(111)
Section Seven	Commercialization of Gambling .....	(113)
<b>Chapter V</b>	<b>Science and Culture</b> .....	(114)
Section One	Developing Science .....	(114)
Section Two	Outstanding Culture .....	(119)
<b>Chapter VI</b>	<b>Education, Medicine, and Health</b> ...	(136)
Section One	General Survey .....	(136)
Section Two	Government Educational Agencies ...	(137)
Section Three	Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education .....	(137)
Section Four	Educational Problems .....	(151)
Section Five	Health Education and Research .....	(152)
Section Six	Medical Expenditure .....	(158)
<b>Chapter VII</b>	<b>Mass Communications</b> .....	(159)
Section One	Newspapers and Magazines .....	(159)
Section Two	Radios and Televisions .....	(177)
<b>Chapter VIII</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b> .....	(199)

Section One	Welfare and Housing .....	(199)
Section Two	Family and Life .....	(206)
Section Three	Sports and Leisure .....	(208)
Section Four	Holidays and Festivals .....	(213)

## PART TWO      AMERICA

<b>Chapter I</b>	<b>Geography</b> .....	(217)
Section One	Geographical Position, Borders and Areas .....	(217)
Section Two	Rivers, Lakes, and Coastlands .....	(221)
Section Three	Population and Nationalities .....	(225)
Section Four	Washington D • C • and Washington State .....	(227)
Section Five	Administrative Areas; 50 States and Their Capitals .....	(231)
Section Six	Climate and Weather .....	(233)
Section Seven	Natural Resources .....	(236)
Section Eight	Industrial Distribution .....	(240)
Section Nine	Agricultural Distribution .....	(242)
Section Ten	Transportation .....	(243)
<b>Chapter I</b>	<b>American History</b> .....	(246)
Section One	The Colonial Period (1492—1775) .....	(246)
Section Two	The Independent War (1775—1783) .....	(253)
Section Three	The Civil War (1861—1865) .....	(258)
Section Four	The Imperialism Period .....	(264)
1 •	US and World War I (1914—1918)	
2 •	US and World War II (1935—1945)	

Section Five	The Civil Rights Movement (1950—1968) .....	(278)
Section Six	America During and Around the Cold War .....	(279)
Section Seven	US and the Gulf War .....	(280)
<b>Chapter II</b>	<b>Political System</b> .....	(282)
Section One	Constitution .....	(282)
Section Two	President and the Congress .....	(284)
Section Three	Government and Politics .....	(287)
Section Four	The Senate and the House of Representatives .....	(289)
Section Five	Two-Party System and Elections .....	(292)
Section Six	Judicial System .....	(295)
Section Seven	Racial Problems .....	(298)
Section Eight	Immigration Problems .....	(299)
Section Nine	Feminist Rights Campaign .....	(301)
<b>Chapter IV</b>	<b>American Economy</b> .....	(304)
Section One	General Survey .....	(304)
Section Two	Agriculture .....	(305)
Section Three	Industry and its Distribution .....	(308)
Section Four	Services .....	(311)
Section Five	Banking and Finance .....	(313)
Section Six	Fiscal System .....	(315)
Section Seven	The Structure of the Economy .....	(320)
Section Eight	Foreign Trade .....	(323)
Section Nine	Economic Crisis .....	(326)
<b>Chapter V</b>	<b>Science and Arts</b> .....	(328)
Section One	General Survey .....	(329)
Section Two	Science and National Economy .....	(332)

Section Three	Science and Military Affairs .....	(336)
Section Four	American Literature .....	(337)
Section Five	American Arts .....	(341)
<b>Chapter VI</b>	<b>Education</b> .....	<b>(345)</b>
Section One	General Survey .....	(345)
Section Two	Primary Education .....	(349)
Section Three	Secondary Education .....	(351)
Section Four	Higher Education .....	(354)
<b>Chapter VII</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b> .....	<b>(360)</b>
Section One	Sports and Leisure .....	(360)
Section Two	The American Way of Life .....	(373)
Section Three	Basic American Values and Belief ..	(383)
Section Four	Holidays and Festivals .....	(391)

# Chapter I Geography

## Section One Geographical Position and Borders

### 1. Territory

Britain comprises Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland. Its full name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, short for U. K. .

Britain constitutes the greater part of British Isles, a group of islands lying off the northwest coast of continental Europe. The largest of the islands is Great Britain. The next largest consists of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Western Scotland is fringed by the large archipelago known as the Hebrides and to the northeast of the Scottish mainland are Orkney and Shetland. These islands and isle of Wight off the south coast of England, Anglesey off north Wales and the Scilly Isle, are all British territories. The island of Great Britain contains three parts: England in the south, Scotland in the north, and Wales in the southwest of England, on the west prominence between the Bristol Channel and the Dee estuary.

Northern Ireland is comprised of six counties that elected to remain in the union with Great Britain when the remaining 26 counties of Ireland obtained autonomy in 1921. Thereafter, the name United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was replaced by the present name.

### 2. Geographical Position and Borders

Britain is an insular country. It does not share land border with any other country except the Irish Republic. To the north and east of Britain, the seaway is open between the coast of Iceland and Norway to the Arctic Ocean. Britain

faces Holland, Germany, Denmark, and Norway across the North Sea. To the south and southeast across the English Channel is France and Belgium. The English Channel is only 200 km wide, with the narrowest part, only 34 km wide in the Strait of Dover. To the southwest and northwest is the Atlantic Ocean. While directly on the west is Irish Republic with Irish Sea lying between Great Britain and Ireland. America and Canada are on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

### **3. Topography**

Britain is just under 1,000 km from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just under 500 km across in the widest part. It has a coastline of 10,000 km. In Britain, there is no place which is more than three hours journey by car from the sea. The coast is very varied with perhaps the best part in the southwest of England and in the West of Scotland. The coast Devon and Cornwall in the southwest are much indented.

Britain's geological structure is rather complicated. Despite its size, Britain has a variety of terrains, from valleys to cliffs. Taking the island of Great Britain as a whole, it can be divided into two parts. In the Northwest of Great Britain is an area of high mountains and plateaux, a Highland Zone. In the Southeast of Great Britain is an area of lowlands and plains, a Lowland Zone. The dividing line runs roughly from the mouth of the River Exe in the southwest to near the mouth of the River Tees in the northeast.

### **4. The Highland Zone**

The Highland Zone includes the Highlands, the Southern Uplands, the Lowlands of Scotland, the Pennines, the Lake District of Cumbria and the Welsh Massif.

#### **(1). The Highlands.**

The Highlands refers to the upper region of Scotland that contains its highest mountains and of its spectacular scenery. The great Glen, running between William and Inverness, form a natural divide between the Grampian or Central Highlands and the North west Highlands, which stretches to northwards to Cape Wrath. The mountains have a general trend from southwest to northeast and a general downward tilt from west to east.

The region is essentially a high ancient rock plateau of 900 — 600m high on average, largely overlaid by sandstone, which has been etched and planed by successive glaciations, and many rivers of the area form the present magnificent wild landscape of valleys (glens) and hills. The majority of Britain's highest mountains nearly 300 peaks over 913 m are found here. The highest are Grampians in the central highlands with Ben Nevis (1,343 m), the tallest peak. The North West Highlands (and Western Isles) show evidence of former volcanic activity, in the form of ancient lava flows and plugs and many swift rivers have helped create a greatly indented rocky coastline. Soils tend to be thin and acidic with accumulations of peat in places, although alluvial deposits in the valleys and lowland fringes are more fertile.

This region accounts for over half of the total area of Scotland. But it is the most sparsely populated area in Britain because of the economic limits to the agricultural development of the hills.

## (2). The Southern Uplands

The Southern Uplands refers to the Southern Scotland. It consists of the denuded remains of a great mountain chain running across the south of Scotland from the southwest to the northeast. The higher parts of the Southern Uplands are

mainly moorlands with rounded outlines, passing on lower ground in the east into quiet rolling pastoral and often well wooded country. Fringing the southern Uplands along the shore of the Irish Sea are stretches of low ground covered with vast amount of pasture.

### (3). **The Lowlands**

Between the Highland and the Southern Uplands lies a strip of Lowland or valley, called the Lowlands. Strictly speaking, the Lowlands refers to the belt of lowing land between the Firth of Clyde and Firth of Forth. It was once a shallow arm of the sea and turned to be so shallow that swamp forests grew, and left their trace in the seams of coal. Actually, it was here that the British central coalfields were later found. With coal provided by the coalfields, such as Lanark coalfield, the industry in the area developed rapidly in the industrial revolution, and cities, like Glasgow and Edinburgh, sprang up. It is the most important part of Scotland with most of the industrial centres, cultivated farmland, and three quarters of the population.

### (4). **The Pennines**

The Pennines refers to the long narrow region of upland that extends from the Derbyshire Peak District northwards to the River Tyne. Sometimes called "the Backbone of England", the Pennines consists of eastwards-tilted rock formations bounded in the west by downfolding and faults. The higher part of the Pennines is the northerly limestone region with Cross Fell (893 m) there. The central Pennines is the more recent millstone grit region which is divided from the limestone by the Aire Gap running roughly between Settle and Leeds, which was formed when the land slipped between the Craven Faults some two million years ago. Upon this basic structure, glaciation and rivers have



carved the present landscape (high plateaux and windswept moors in the north), while the fells to the east overlook the valleys of Yorkshire Dales, including Wensleydale and Swaledale, all part of Yorkshire Dales national park.

Sheep have long grazed the moors and wool formed the basis of a thriving industry, and to which Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfiels, Halifax, Dewbury, Batley and other towns in the area, all owe their early prosperity. In contrast, the Lancashire towns of the Western Pennines specialized in cotton weaving, particularly Rochdale, Blackburn, and Manchester.

#### (5). The Lake District of Cumbria

On the Western side of the Pennines lies the Lake District, a region of hills and lakes in the county of Cumbria in northwest England. It is well known for its radial drainage. The scenery of Lake District or Lakeland, is the legacy of sequence of geological events. About 50 million years ago the region was domeshaped with rivers radiating from the summit. During the Ice Ages that followed, the river valleys, called "dales", were carved out from the rock by glaciers; Lakes were formed in many valleys, while higher in the hills smaller lakes or tarns to be found. The landscape changed with various types of rocks underlying rock; the oldest, known as the Skiddow slates, occur in the north of the region and have produced smooth rounded hills; whereas further lies a belt of more rugged hills based on volcanic rock and including the craggy peaks of the Langdale and Scaffel Pikes (978 m) and Sea Fell itself. Beneath the fells lies the lakes of Wast Water, Buttermere... etc. Between this region and Morecamble Bay are the gentler hill around Windermere and Coniston Water on more recent Silurian rock.