Roam Around the World Roam Around the World 世界漫游小丛书

漫游意大利

Roam Around Italy 黄 燕 陈保蓉





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## 前 言

在改革开放的今天,中国青年的目光已不再是仅仅盯着我国的长城内外,大江南北。他们渴望了解世界,尤其是发达国家。他们想了解那些国家的历史、现状、政治制度、生活习俗、文学艺术、自然风貌。看到中国的长江,他们就会想起加拿大的尼亚加拉瀑布;看到中国的黄果树,他们就会想起新西兰的陶波湖;看到中国的苏州,他们就会想起意大利的威尼斯;看到上海的东方明珠,他们就会想起法国的埃菲尔铁塔。特里尔的马克思故居,伦敦的威斯敏斯特教堂,纽约港的自由女神像,巴黎的凡尔赛宫,罗马的斗兽场,悉尼的歌剧院,温哥华的唐人街,蓝山的三姊妹峰……这些闻名遐迩的世界名胜无不吸引着他们年轻的心灵。他们的兴趣广泛得很,想象力丰富得很。他们迫切需要营养丰富的精神食粮,来满足他们如饥似渴的求知欲。

"我们何不编一套英汉对照世界漫游丛书呢?"大象出版 社编辑贺凡、董涛二位女士建议道。"一则可以扩大青年人的 视野,二则可以帮助他们学习英语。两全其美,何乐而不为 呢?" 此言不谬。于是,经领导批准/她们便委托我组织编写。 这可是个苦差使,因为她们的要求十分苛刻:丛书内容要广 泛,语言要浅显,既有趣味性,又有资料性,情趣盎然,图文并 茂,每个分册 10 万字左右,三个月交稿。

领了将令,我不敢怠慢,立即组织一批编写人员。其中有教授,副教授,讲师,还有在校硕士研究生。在统一了格式之后,两人一分册,分头编写。具体分工如下:

美国分册:刘云波,虎松菊

英国分册:刘榜离,吴 真

法国分册:靳 锐,王大智

德国分册:王 东,陈异慧

加拿大分册:王云英,葛丙辰

意大利分册:黄 燕,陈保蓉

新西兰分册:索成秀

澳大利亚分册:叶定国,康建明

经过几个月紧锣密鼓的工作,第一批八个分册终于完成。 其间编写人员查资料,找图片,编写及翻译的辛苦自不待言。 尽管如此,由于时间仓促,资料匮乏,加之编写者文风各异,书 中难免有诸多不尽人意之处。令人宽慰的是,精美的印刷与 装帧将给这套丛书增色不少。究竟内容如何?还是请我们的 青年朋友读读看吧。

> **刘云波** 1997年12月1日于郑州大学

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# A SURVEY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

The Republic of Italy is located in southern Europe, and Rome is its capital. Italian is spoken as the official language. French and German are spoken in some areas. Italy has a population of 57,235,000(1993), over 94% of which Italians, while the other ethnic groups include French, German and Slovene. The population density of the country is 190 persons per sq. km., and its sex distribution is 48.61% male to 51.39% female, with a life expectancy of 73.5 years for the former and 80 years for the latter. Since the mid-1980's, Italy's population has shown almost no annual growth. Religion plays an important part in Italy. About 95% of the population are Roman Catholics. Most of them are baptized, married, and buried in church services. But only about 30 per

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cent go to church regularly. Many others attend it only occasionally.

Italy is a republic with two legislative houses (the Senate has 325 seats, of which 10 are nonelective, the Chamber of Deputies has 630 seats). Elected by both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies for a term of seven years, the President, who is the chief of state, has the right to appoint five senates according to the Constitution and will remain a lifelong senate himself. Premier, the nation's chief executive, is approved by Parliament. Premier chooses Cabinet members. The Constitutional Court is the highest court of the country. The whole country is divided into 20 political areas, including 95 provinces and 8,088 cities and towns.

The Italian national flag is composed of three colors; red, white and green. It was first used in 1796 by Italians who supported Napoleon of France during a war against Austria. Napoleon designed the flag to look like that of France, but substituted green for the blue of the French flag. Italy's coat of arms was established after the formation of the Italian republic in 1946. The star represents unity, the wreath of laurel and oak stands for republicanism, and the cogwheel represents industry. The country's name in Italian is on the ribbon. Important holidays observed in Italy are Milan Carnival in mid-February; the Memorial Day of Rome on April 21; the Liberation Day on April 25, when the Italian people took up arms and formally sentenced Mussolini to death in 1945; National Day on June 2(1946), declaring the founding of the Republic of Italy; the World Movies Festival in Venice celebrated in late August and early September each year is the first movies festival ever celebrated in the

world, and the highest prize is the St. Mark's Gold Lion; a regatta (a boat race) is held in Venice annually on the first Sunday of September.

Situated in the Apennine Peninsula to the south end of Europe, Italy is cradled in the arms of the Mediterranean Sea, or more exactly, surrounded by the Adriatic, the Ionian and the Tyrrhenian Seas. The country, including its two chief islands Sicily and Sardinia, covers a total area of 301,263 square kilometers and has a coastline of more than 7, 200 kilometers. The Alps form Italy's northern and northwestern border. Its neighboring countries include France, Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia. The Apennines occupy the center of Italy's boot-shaped peninsula. Over 80% of its territory is mountainous and hilly land. The Alps and the Apennines are the two chief mountains in Italy. Mount Blanc, rising to a height of 4, 807 meters is the highest point of Europe. The major agricultural area is located in the Po Valley. In the south there are a number of volcanoes, and this part of the country is frequently attacked by earthquakes. Vesuvius, the famous volcano whose eruption in 79 A.D. buried the ancient cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae, is situated in the southwest of the Peninsula and still remains active. Mount Etna, the biggest active volcano in Europe is situated on Sicily. The longest river in the country is the 652-km-long Po River, other rivers include the Arno and the Tiber. Lake Como and Lake Maggiore are the major lakes in Italy. Most of Italy, especially the coast areas and the islands in the Mediterranean Sea, is located in the subtropical region with a typical

Mediterranean climate. The mountain areas are in the temperate zone typical of the continental climate. Central and southern Italy have hot summers (daytime high temperatures of about 30%) and mild winters (daytime high temperatures of about 12%). Northern Italy is only slightly cooler than the rest of the country in summer. But it is much cooler in winter (daytime highs of only about 5%). The north receives adequate year-round moisture. Central and southern Italy have dry summers and moderate rainfall in winter.

Life in northern Italy differs in many ways from that in southern Italy. The north is richer, more urbanized, and more industrialized south. Service industries and manufacturing and construction employ the most people in both areas. But the percentage of people engaged in agriculture is much higher in the south than in the north. Italians are strongly attached to their towns, neighborhoods, and families. In urban areas, most people live in concrete apartment buildings, many residents buy rather than rent their apartments. Most unmarried children in urban areas live with their parents. Parents often help an adult daughter or son to buy an apartment near their own. Many young women work outside the home, and grandparents often help care for the children of working mothers. In rural areas, people used to live in towns and traveled to their fields each day. This pattern was especially common in southern Italy. In the north, many farmers lived on their own land. Today, more and more single-family homes are being built in rural areas, often outside the old community center.

Italians take pride in their cooking skills. Dinner is generally

served at noon time, with pasta coming first, then the main dish of meat or fish. Sometimes, an appetizer is served before the pasta, which includes cold meat and all kinds of vegetables. Italian foods vary greatly by region. In the north, flat, ribbon-shaped pastas served with cream sauces are most popular. In the south, macaroni served with tomato-based sauces is the favorite type of pasta. Pizza is a popular snack and is also eaten as a light meal. Fresh fruit is a popular dessert. Traditionally, wine is served with every meal except breakfast.

The Italians enjoy a wide variety of sports. Soccer is the most popular sport in Italy. Every major city has a professional soccer team. Basketball is also very popular, and some cities have more than one professional basketball team. Other popular sports include fishing, hunting, cycling, roller skating, and baseball. Family recreational activities include taking a traditional Sunday passeggiata (family stroll), driving to the seashore or the mountains, and watching television.

Since World War II, Italy has shifted from a predominantly agricultural economy to one based on modern industries. The transformation has been most complete in northern Italy, which is now one of the most advanced industrial areas of Western Europe. Italy's chief agricultural products include grapes, oranges, olives, tomatoes, wheat, corn, hogs, and beef cattle. Italy has few natural resources. Its most important resource is the rich farmland of the Po Valley and the numerous historic and scenic spots. Other important resources include mercury, natural gas, granite and marble. It has

some reserves of bauxite, zinc, petroleum, coal and iron ore. The country is rich in water resources. 20% of its territory is covered by forests. Italy has to import the energy resources and rawl materials it needs for industrial development. Its manufacturing covers clothing and shoes, foods and beverages, motor vehicles, petroleum products, machinery, and chemicals. Italy exports one third of its products and its industry features with processing for exporting.

Italy's monetary unit is lira(Lit, plural lire), with a valuation (Oct.4,1993) of 1 U.S. \$ = Lit 1,589. The GNP in 1987 reached \$ 596,995,000,000 with a GNP per capita of \$10,420. Being a founding member of the European Economic Community, Italy is now a member state of the newly founded European Union. Italy mainly exports clothing and shoes, motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals, fruits and vegetables. Its main trading partners are Germany, France, the United States, Great Britain, and Netherlands.

Italy has an excellent system of roads. Modern superhighways run the length of the Italian peninsula. Tunnels through the Alps link the highway system to those of neighboring countries. Railroad lines connect all the major cities of Italy. A high-speed railway links Rome, Florence, and Milan. Leonardo da Vinci International Airport is Italy's busiest airport. Italy has also one of the largest merchant shipping fleets in the world.

Compulsory education is carried out in Italy. All children from age 6 to age 14 must attend school. More than 90 percent of them attend public schools. After five years in elementary school and

three years in junior high school, a student may go to any of the senior high schools. Any senior high school graduate may attend a university. Italy has 47 public universities. The country also has a few private universities, most of which are run by the Roman Catholic Church. The universities enroll more than a million students each year. Most university programs last from four to six years. The University of Rome, with an enrollment of about 17,000, is the largest university in Italy. The University of Bologna, dating from about 1,100 A.D., is one of the world's oldest universities.

Italy is one of the world's greatest centers of architecture, art, and books. Many of its art museums rank among the most famous in the world. Several of Italy's museums are the former palaces of kings or the houses of royal families. These museums include the Pitti Palace and the Uffizi Palace in Florence. The national archaeological museums in Cagliari, Naples, and Palermo contain artifacts from the earliest history of Italy. Displays in the national galleries in Naples, Palermo, and Urbino include paintings by Italian masters. All large Italian cities have public libraries. The largest libraries in the country are the national central libraries in Florence and Rome. The former contains about 4.5 million volumes, the latter, about 3.5 million volumes.

Italy has made important contributions to the arts since the early Middle Ages. In the High Renaissance Periods (1300—1600), Italy produced some of the greatest poets, painters, sculptors, and architects and composers in art history. The high Renaissance artists include Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Titian and Gian

Lorenzo Bernini. Literature in the Italian language was shaped by three great writers of the 1300's—Dante, Petrarch, and Giovanni Boccaccio. Italian composers have played a major role in music since the Middle Ages. In the 1000's, an Italian monk developed a revolutionary system of notation and method of sight-singing. During the Renaissance, Giovanni Palestrina composed masterpieces of choral music for use in church services. The first opera was composed in Florence in the 1590's. Claudio Monteverdi was the first great composer of baroque opera in the early 1600's.

Italy is a country with an ancient civilization. The Peninsula was inhabited as early as the Old Stone Age (the Paleolithic Period). From the 8th to the 7th century B.C., Rome was a small kingdom moving from a primitive commune towards a class society. Around the 6th century B. C. the last monarch "Tarquins" was overthrown and Rome entered the republic period. When the Roman Republic was first founded, it was only a small city state along the banks of the Tiber. Being a dozen of nautical miles from the river mouth, the distance to the sea was near enough for the Romans to do trade conveniently, but far enough to keep the town from the frequent attacks of the pirates. Favorable geographical location helped Rome to rise in power rapidly. After centuries of invasions and subjugation, Rome finally unified Italy and rose into a Power both on land and on sea. In the year 27 B.C., Octavius took supreme power as emperor with the title of Augustus, thus ending the republic history of Rome. In Trajan's time, the Roman Empire reached its greatest extent. However, the Empire began to decline in