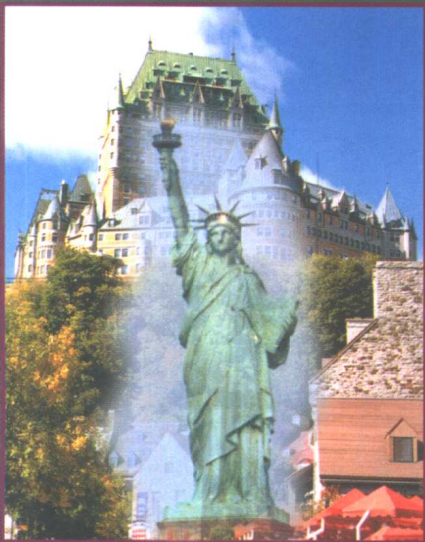




许鲁之 编著

# 新编 英美概况 (修订版)



青岛海洋大学出版社

*Understanding  
the U. S. and the U. K.*

# 新编英美概况

(修订版)

许鲁宁  著

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·青島·

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# 前 言

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本书系《新编英美概况》的修订本。原书自 1993 年出版后 5 次重印，被国内多所高等院校用做英美概况教材或英语专业考研参考书。在 21 世纪到来之际，对原书进行修订、增补，目的是使本书在新世纪更加适应英语教学和学习者自学的需要。根据 2000 年《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》精神，此次修订对原书章节进行了部分调整和精简。本书主要包括英美两国的地理、历史、政体制度、教育、新闻媒体、风俗习惯等内容，目的在于开阔学生的视野、扩大他们的知识面，在编写过程中，笔者注意借鉴最新研究成果，合理吸收最新知识，进一步增强本书的实用性。

《新编英美概况》（修订版）主要有以下特

点：(1) 知识介绍连贯、系统，重点突出，详略得当；(2) 语言叙述简练准确，通俗易懂；(3) 各章注释以提供背景知识为主，且大多是普通词典不易查到的内容；(4) 练习中的选择题和填空题为各章知识重点的浓缩，可用来检测学习者对知识的掌握情况；(5) 提供了若干讨论题，以进一步提高学习者分析和解决问题的能力，以及英语表达能力。

本书的使用对象主要是英语专业大学二年级学生，英语自学考试者，英语专业考研生，欲出国留学者和涉外工作人员。

本书此次出版得到青岛海洋大学出版社的大力支持，在此表示感谢。

限于水平，书中难免有疏漏和不妥之处，恳请广大读者指正。

许鲁之  
2001年3月

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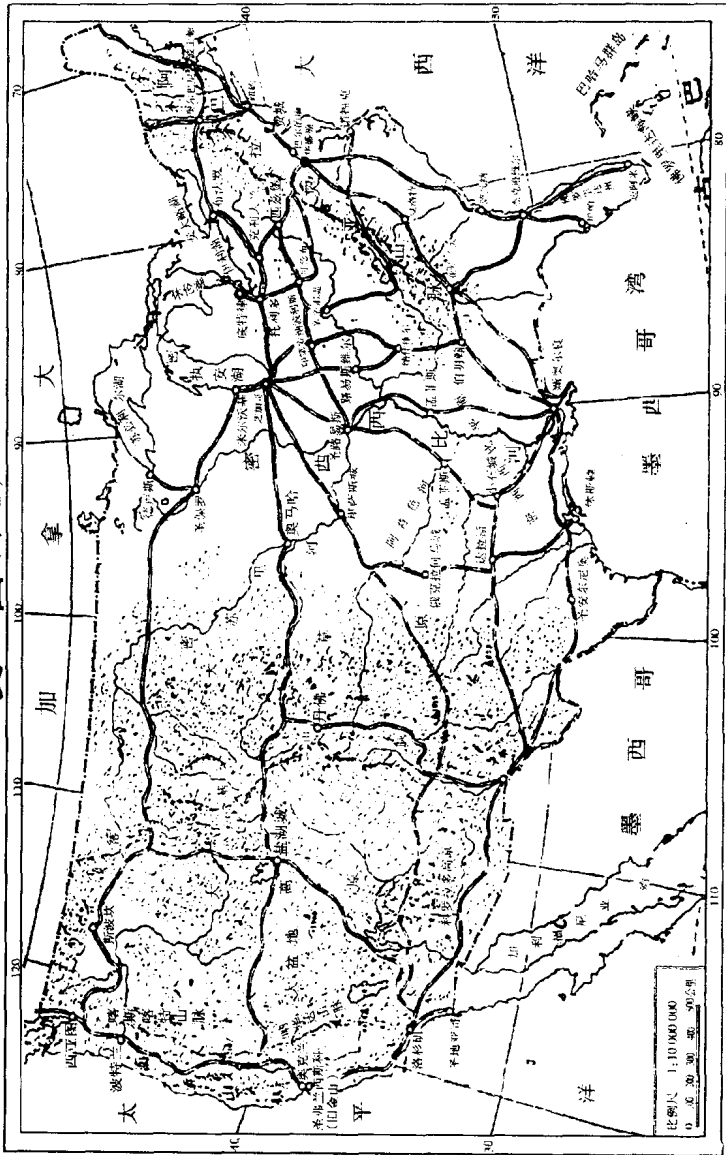
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# **Part One**

## ***The United States***

# 美国 (本土)



# Chapter I Geographical Features and Natural Resources

## 1. Location and Geographical Divisions

The United States lies in North America with its two youngest states — Alaska on the northwest tip of the continent and Hawaii in the central Pacific. The continental United States stretches 4,500 km. from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. It borders Canada on the north, and reaches south to Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. Its coastline runs 19,924 km. The total area of the United States is 9,372,610 sq. km., which makes it the fourth largest country in the world.

So far as the geographical features are concerned, the large territory of the continental United States can be divided into three basic areas.

### A. *The Atlantic Seacoast West to the Appalachians*

Along the Atlantic Seacoast is a narrow plain that begins far up to the coast and becomes wider as it goes south. The coastline of New England<sup>1</sup> is lowland made up of sandy beaches, swamps, lakes, and gently sloping hills. The interior contains mountains, rivers, rocky hills, and valleys. The land here is generally infertile and much of it is covered by heavy forests. The coastline, however, is broken by many excellent harbors that were once important centers of commerce and trade in the early days of the country. The



Middle Atlantic States, consisting six states (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia), is a flat and fertile region. It is the most densely populated region of the United States, and famous for its great cities and ports, its financial and foreign trade activities, its cultural and educational centers, and its factories and mines. Many heavily wooded mountains and deep valley cut by wide and beautiful rivers can be found here. Three important rivers, the Hudson, the Delaware and the Susquehanna, flow through this part of country. In the Deep South<sup>2</sup>, the coast plain is very low and wide. The soil of this region varies greatly. Some parts along the coast are almost pure sand. Other sections contain some of the richest soil in the whole country. However, the rivers, fertile plains, and mild temperatures of the South make it suitable for large-scale agriculture.

To the west of the Atlantic coastal plain lie the Appalachian Mountains that begin in Canada and reach all the way to Georgia and Alabama. These are old mountains with rounded tops and wooded hills, usually not exceeding 800 m. in height. The highest point is only 2,000 m. above the sea. Most of the mountain ridges are low enough to be easily crossed by modern highways. The Appalachians have much beautiful scenery and many tourist resorts. The Ohio and the Tennessee Rivers flow down the western slopes of the Appalachians to the great Mississippi River, deep in the heart of America.

### ***B. The Mississippi River Basin***

The Mississippi River Basin between the Appalachians and the Rockies is one of the largest areas of flatland in the world, which takes up about half of the continental United States, and covers a