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An Outline
Introduction to
Britain and America

英美概况

增订本

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Foreword

This book is an improvement on the teaching materials which have been used in Henan University for several years. It is an attempt to present a picture of Great Britain and America by conveying necessary information about the various features, both traditional and modern, of these two countries. The selected description of their respective geography and history in a systematic way is to enrich the readers' knowledge and enable them to approach the two countries from the materialist viewpoint so that they can view the many phenomena in their historical perspective. This, it is hoped, can help avoid the defect of disorder as might be caused by separate introduction.

This book is written for the Chinese readers who know English and need information about Great Britain and America but cannot read big volumes for various reasons. All the materials are carefully selected and arranged for them to understand and memorize easily. In view of the different levels of proficiency in the English language among the readers, the book makes a point of using common words and simpler sentences so that more readers can appreciate it.

Each part is preceded by a list of leading facts and ended with some questions for discussion. It is hoped they can help the readers to grasp the main contents in the text and form their own train of thought. When the book is

used as a kind of teaching material. the teacher can have his own choice of emphasis in dealing with the text just by referring his students to the leading facts and the questions. Whether or how far I have succeeded in carrying out my subjective plan for this book awaits judgment from my readers whose criticism will be highly appreciated.

I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to all the books and materials I have read in the process. They are listed in the bibliography at the end of the book. I also wish to express my gratitude here to all the participants at the conference held before the completion of this book. My indebtedness is due particularly to Professor Suo Tianzhang 索天章 (Fudan University), Associate and Assistant Professors Liu Yulin 刘玉麟 (Shanghai Institute of Foreign Languages), Wang Hongtel 王鸿裴 and Chen Guogang 陈国纲 (both from Zhengzhou University), Ruan Yizhi 阮逸之 (CQufu Normal College), Zhao Fansheng 赵帆声, Liu Bingshan 刘炳善, Wang Zengxuan 王曾选, Chin Jianbin 秦建宾 (all from Henan University), and Chin Shoufu 秦守福 (Henan University). They have all given me valuable suggestions and indispensable help in the process.

Lai Anfang

May 5, 1985

再版前言

《英美概况》这本书出版后，我先后收到很多读者和将本书用作教材者的来信。有的谈对全书的看法，有的谈对某些章节的看法，有的要我帮助解答某些具体问题，由于时间关系，未能一一回信，我向他们致歉并表示谢意。这些来信，还有这几年本书在实用中反映出来的情况，都是我这次修改增订本书时的重要参考。

这次增订，变动较大，新内容增加较多，时间一直写到二十世纪八十年代后期，材料处理更重视客观性和完整性。由于目前还不能根据不同水平和的不同需要，马上编写出几种不同版本的《英美概况》，这本书修改时还是尽量兼容并蓄，在尽量控制篇幅的前提下，加大内容含量，提高其可教性、可读性和参考性，以满足多层次、多方位的不同需要。

这次修改增订进一步完善了副标题的体系，使用本书时只要查到目录副标就会很容易地找到所需内容。用作教材时，也可把副标题视作讲课大纲参考，可以组织学生进行讨论，不需要过多受限于原文字句。

这次增订准备时间较长，但具体施实是在两次印刷之间进行的，时间仓促，难免有错，欢迎读者及有关专家学者批评指正。

来安方

1988年3月23日

Volume I

说 明

一本用英文介绍英美两国各方面情况的书，原为河南大学概况课教材。在1984年10月召开的审稿会上，来自复旦大学、武汉大学、华中师范学院、西南师范学院、解放军外语学院等20所大专院校代表对原稿进行了审议。会后进一步认真修改。现正式出版，以供需要。

Contents

Volume I

Chapter One

Land and People

Section One

The British Isles and Great Britain (1)

(1) Names and position (1)

(2) Physiographic Features (3)

(3) Climate and Weather (12)

(4) Factors Influencing British Weather (16)

(5) Inland Water (17)

(6) The English Language (19)

(7) Old English (5th-12th century) (20)

(8) Middle English (12th-15th century) (21)

(9) Modern English (15th century—) (23)

Section Two

People and the State (25)

(1) People (26)

(2) Party Politics (28)

(3) Central Government (29)

(4) Local Government (32)

(5) Law and Police (34)

(6) Reform of the Law Court (35)

(7) Legal Profession (38)

(8) Police Force (38)

(9) Religion	(40)
(10) Characteristics of the English People	(43)
(11) Generation Gap	(49)

Section Three

National Economy	(53)
(1) General Survey	(53)
(2) Heavy and Light Industries	(59)
(3) The Textile Industries	(63)
(4) Transportation and Communication	(67)
(5) British Disease and Thatcher's Medicine	(70)
(6) Cities	(74)

Chapter Two

English History

Section One

Origin of the English Nation	(81)
(1) The Native Celts and the Anglo-Saxon Conquest	(81)
(2) The Normans	(89)
(3) The Norman Conquest and Middle English	(88)
(4) Influence of the Norman Conquest	(89)

Section Two

The Great Charter and Beginning of Parliament	(93)
(1) Henry II and His Reform	(93)
(2) Thomas Becket	(96)
(3) The Great Charter	(101)
(4) Beginning of Parliament	(103)

Section Three

Decline of Feudalism in England	(106)
(1) The Hundred Year's War (1337—1453)	(107)
(2) The Black Death (1348—1349)	(110)

(3) The Peasant Uprising (1381)	(112)
(4) Wycliffe and the Lollards	(114)
(5) The Wars of the Roses (1455—1485)	(115)

Section Four

The Tudor Monarch and the Rising Bourgeoisie

.....	(118)
(1) The New Monarchy	(118)
(2) Clothing Industry	(119)
(3) Enclosures and the Peasant Uprising	(121)
(4) Discovery of New Lands and Its Influence	(123)
(5) Renaissance in England	(126)

Section Five

Reformation in England

.....	(132)
(1) The Catholic Church and the Middle Ages	(134)
(2) The Catholic Church in the Middle Ages	(135)
(3) Revolt of the Protestants	(136)
(4) Reformation and the Church of England	(137)
(5) Elizabeth I (1533—1603)	(140)
(6) Social Life and Culture	(144)

Section Six

The English Bourgeois Revolution

.....	(147)
(1) Background to the Revolution	(147)
(2) James I	(148)
(3) Charles I	(150)
(4) The Independents and Pilgrim Fathers	(152)
(5) The Short Parliament and the Long Parliament	(153)
(6) Cromwell as Lord Protector	(157)

Section Seven

The Industrial Revolution and the Chartist Movement

.....	(161)
(1) Background to the Industrial Revolution	(162)
(2) Process of the Industrial Revolution	(164)
(3) Effects of the Industrial Revolution	(166)
(4) The Chartist Movement (1836—1848)	(169)
(5) Queen Victoria and Her Time	(172)
Section Eight	
The Rise and Fall of the British Empire	(176)
(1) The Two World Wars and the Decline of the Empire	(184)
(2) Britain After the Second World War	(185)
Chapter Three	
Government and Politics and Education	
Section one	
The Monarchy	(192)
Section Two	
The English Nobility	(198)
Section Three	
The House of Lords	(202)
Section Four	
The House of Commons	(205)
Section Five	
The British Government	(210)
Section Six	
Political Parties	(212)
Section Seven	
Educational System and Schools	(216)

Chapter Four

Section One

Family and Life (224)

Section Two

Supplementary Materials (238)

Britain's Press, Radio and Television (238)

Volume H

Chapter One

Panoramic View

Section One

The United States and the Americans (245)

(1) **Names, Size and Position** (245)

(2) **Government Principles and Government System** (249)

(3) **The Federal Government** (251)

(4) **The State Governments** (253)

(5) **Local Governments** (255)

(6) **Population** (257)

(7) **The Melting Pot** (265)

(8) **Distribution of People** (267)

(9) **Background to the Class Structure** (269)

(10) **The Upper, Middle, and Lower Classes** (271)

Section Two

Geographical Features and Climate (279)

Section Three

Natural Resources (292)

(1) **Rivers and Lakes** (293)

(2) **Forests** (297)

(3) **Mineral Resources** (299)

(4) Land Resources (301)

(5) New Problems (302)

Section Four

National Economy and Cities (305)

(1) The Market Sector (306)

(2) The Corporate Sector (308)

(3) The Public Sector (310)

(4) Productive Power (312)

(5) Economic and Trade Relations with China (314)

(6) Industry and Cities (315)

(7) Cities (318)

(8) Agriculture and Husbandary (320)

(9) Transportation and Communication (322)

(10) Current Problems (325)

Chapter Two

American History

Section one

The thirteen English-American Colonies (343)

(1) The Founding of the Colonies (343)

(2) The Early Immigrants (352)

(3) Life in the Colonies (354)

(4) Education and Schools in the Colonies (359)

Section Two

The War of Independence (360)

(1) Relations between the Colonies and England (361)

(2) Conflicts Leading to Armed Revolution (365)

(3) The First Continental Congress (369)

(4) The First Armed Clash (370)

(5) The Second Continental Congress (371)

- (6) The Declaration of Independence(373)
- (7) Military Struggle and Final Victory(375)

Section Three

- Appearance of the American Constitution and the Washington Administration(378)**
- (1) America after Independence(379)
 - (2) The Constitution Convention(382)
 - (3) The American Constitution(385)
 - (4) Washington as the First President(388)

Section Four

- America During the First Half of the 19th Century—an Era of Expansion(394)**
- (1) Jefferson and His Era(394)
 - (2) The Purchase of Luisiana(396)
 - (3) The Second War with England(397)
 - (4) Military Actions(400)
 - (5) Immediate Effect of the 1812 War(402)
 - (6) The Mexican War and its Results(403)
 - (7) Large Scale Expansion to the West(405)
 - (8) Frontiersmen's Influence on Politics(411)
 - (9) The Monroe Doctrine(413)

Section Five

- The Civil War.....(419)**
- (1) The Beginning of Negro Slavery in America(419)
 - (2) Conflicts Arising from Slavery(421)
 - (3) Abraham Lincoln(426)
 - (4) Military Contest in the Civil War(428)
 - (5) The Emancipation Proclamation and Final Victory
.....(430)

- (6) Lincoln's Death and American Concept of a Hero(431)
- (7) Effect of the Civil War(436)

Section Six

America's Development and Foreign

- Aggression After the Civil War** (438)
- (1) Economic Development after the War(439)
- (2) Appearance of Monopoly Businesses(444)
- (3) Effect Produced by Growing Monopoly(446)
- (4) Imperialist Foreign Policy and War with Spain(448)
- (5) Aggression against China(450)
- (6) Social Reforms during Industrialization.....(452)

Section Seven

America During and After World War I

- (1) World War I and America's Neutrality(461)
- (2) America Entering the War (1917)
- (3) America and the Treaty of Versailles(463)
- (4) America's Policy after the War(464)
- (5) Industrial Progress and Social Life.....(466)
- (6) Background to the Great Depression(470)
- (7) The Great Depression.....(472)
- (8) President Roosevelt's "New Deal"(473)
- (9) Comment On the New Deal(476)

Section Eight

America During and After World War II(478)

- (1) The Outbreak of General War(479)
- (2) Changes of the US Policy(481)
- (3) The Lend-Lease Bill(483)
- (4) America's Entrance into the War(484)
- (5) America after the War(486)

(6) Cold War and America's Containment	(487)
(7) Red Scare and Macarthy Era	(490)
(8) Developments	(491)
(9) Demands for Reform	(493)
(10) The Beat Generation	(497)
(11) The Watergate Affair	(498)

Chapter Three

Form of Government and Social Life

Section One

Political Parties and Elections	(500)
---------------------------------------	-------

Section Two

The Federal Government	(508)
------------------------------	-------

Section Three

The U. S. Congress	(519)
--------------------------	-------

Section Four

The Judicial Branch	(527)
---------------------------	-------

Section Five

Education and Schools	(538)
-----------------------------	-------

Section Six

American's Employment, Life and Family	(550)
--	-------

Supplementary Materials for Reference

Section One

The Ancient Mediterranean World and the Origin of

European Civilization	(567)
-----------------------------	-------

(1) The Nile and the Egyptians	(568)
(2) The Chaldeans	(570)
(3) The Hebrews	(571)
(4) The Persians	(571)