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J32

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SKETCHES AND INSIGHTS



西北工业大学出版社

(陕)新登字 009 号

澳新风貌

贾海鹰 张前 编著

责任编辑 王俊轩

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© 2000 西北工业大学出版社出版发行

(邮编:710072 西安市友谊西路 127 号 电话:8493844)

全国各地新华书店经销

西北工业大学出版社印刷厂印装

ISBN 7-5612-1211-9/H·176

\*

开本: 850 毫米×1168 毫米 1/32 印张: 9.0625 字数: 221 千字

2000 年 1 月第 1 版

2000 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 1-6 000 册 定价: 12.00 元

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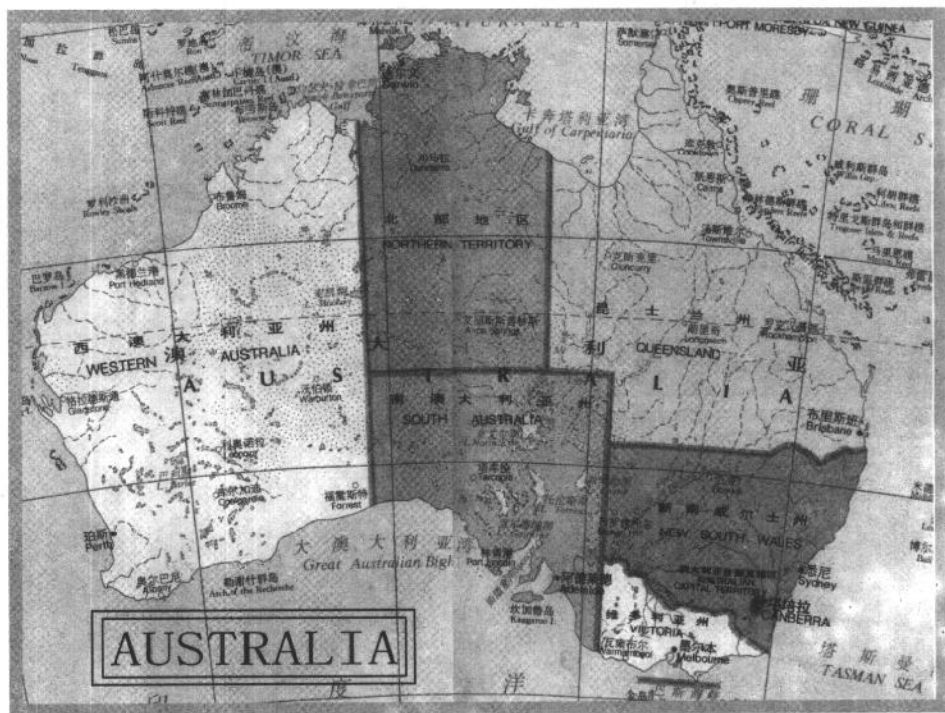
# 上篇:澳大利亚纵览

## Section A: A Glance at Australia

1	简介 Introduction .....	5
2	地理 Geography .....	15
3	历史 History .....	32
4	政府 Government .....	63
5	经济 Economy .....	73
6	城市 Cities .....	91
7	教育 Education .....	112
8	交通运输与通讯 Transportation And Communication .....	119
9	文化 Culture .....	124
10	留学 Studying in Australia .....	136
11	移民 Immigration .....	158



# 澳大利亚





### 概况

澳大利亚既是一个岛屿,又是一片大陆。她位于亚洲的东南方,与附近的塔斯马尼亚岛共同组成了澳大利亚联邦,是英联邦的一个自治成员国。澳大利亚的北边是帝汶海、阿拉弗拉海和托雷斯海峡;东边有珊瑚海和塔斯曼海;南濒巴斯海峡和印度洋;西临印度洋。澳大利亚联邦的国土东西绵延约4 025公里(约2 500英里),南北约3 700公里(约2 300英里),海岸线长约36 735公里(约22 826英里)。澳大利亚联邦的面积为7 682 292平方公里(2 966 150平方英里),不包括塔斯马尼亚岛在内的大陆就占了7 614 500平方公里(2 939 974平方英里)。澳大利亚是世界上最小的陆地,但却是世界上第六个最大的国家。

澳大利亚联邦由六个州和两个地区组成:新南威尔士州、昆士兰州、南澳大利亚州、塔斯马尼亚州、维多利亚州和西澳大利亚州;两个地区是澳大利亚首都直辖区和北部地区。澳大利

亚的海外属地有：阿什莫尔群岛和卡捷岛地区、澳大利亚南极地区、圣诞岛、科科斯群岛（也叫做基林群岛）地区、珊瑚海群岛地区、赫德岛和麦克唐纳群岛地区以及诺福克岛。

澳大利亚最早的居民是土著人，他们是在大约四万年前迁徙到这里的。17 世纪以前，澳大利亚这片大陆几乎不被人所知。1788 年，首批由英国囚犯组成的欧洲移民到达了澳大利亚东南部的博塔尼贝。19 世纪，澳大利亚成为若干个英国人的殖民地。1901 年，这些殖民地结成联邦，组成了一个统一的、独立的国家。

### 行政区划

澳大利亚联邦包括六个州和两个地区。这些州和州的首府是：新南威尔士州，首府悉尼；维多利亚州，首府墨尔本；昆士兰州，首府布里斯班；南澳大利亚州，首府阿德莱德；西澳大利亚州，首府珀斯；塔斯马尼亚州，首府霍巴特。两个地区和地区的主要城市是：澳大利亚首都直辖区，首都堪培拉；北部地区，首府达尔文。

### 人口

大约 94% 的澳大利亚人是欧洲人的后裔，这些人中的大多数都有英国或爱尔兰血统，只有占人口总数 18% 的人有其他的欧洲血统。包括中东人在内的亚裔人口大约占总人口的 5%。土著人和托雷斯海峡岛民约占总人口的 1.5%。根据 1991 年的统计，澳大利亚最多的海外移民来自大不列颠及爱尔兰，占 22.5%，来自欧洲其他国家的占 30%，来自亚洲和中东的占 21%。而在第二次大战前（1939—1945），90% 以上的移民都是来自英国和爱尔兰的。第二次世界大战以来，欧洲其他国家的 200 多万人口移民到澳大利亚。从 1975 年到现在，已有 125 000 东南亚人被澳大利亚所接纳，他们中的大多数人都是难民。

澳大利亚是所有的有人居住的大陆上人口最稀少的国家。根



据 1991 年的人口调查,澳大利亚的人口为 16 849 496 人。根据 1995 年的统计数字,包括圣诞岛、科科斯群岛和诺福克岛在内的澳大利亚总人口为 18 338 000 人,人口密度约为每平方公里 2 人(每平方英里约为 6 人)。

澳大利亚是一个高度城市化的国家,大约有 85% 的人口都居住在城市里,其中 2/3 的人集中在人口 10 万以上的城市中。人口增长最快的区域是在东部、东南和西南沿海靠近大陆的那些首府地区和首府之间的地带。实际上,5 个澳大利亚人中就有 4 个人是居住在仅占全国土地面积约 3% 的人口密集的沿海平原上。其中人口增长最快的地区是昆士兰州的东南部。20 世纪 90 年代初期,澳大利亚总人口年增长率约为 1.4%。人口增长的原因是由于持续不断的大量移民,还有和移民联系在一起的较年轻育龄人口数量的增加。

## 语言

英语是澳大利亚的官方语言。在各个不同种族的社区内,人们讲土著语言或者少数民族语言。

## 澳大利亚土著人

最早的澳大利亚人是土著人。民间传说中说土著人是一直居住在澳大利亚的。但是大多数的人类学家认为土著人是在至少 4 万年以前从东南亚迁徙过来的,可能在那个时候,海平面很低,人们可以进行最简单形式的水陆之间的旅行。后来,海平面上升了,塔斯马尼亚成为一个岛屿,引起岛民与大陆人之间的一些文化差异。

这些最早的澳大利亚人主要是靠打猎和采集为生。除了澳洲野犬之外,他们没有其他的驯养动物。澳洲野犬是由土著人在 3 000 到 4 000 年前之间引进澳大利亚的。土著人所采取的耕作方

法是用火烧来清理土地,好让新鲜的牧草能够生长,以此来吸引袋鼠和其他动物。土著人也可能收获和撒播经过挑选的草籽,这种广泛应用的操作方法可能就是造成大片大片草地的原因。可以看到精心修筑过的水坝的痕迹,还可以看到把河流改道、让沼泽和湖泊出口改道的痕迹,这样做可能都是为了养鱼。

1788年,当最早的一大批欧洲移民来到澳大利亚时,土著人就早已形成了自己的文化特点和对生态的认识,显示出他们那种令人钦佩的、对澳大利亚挑战性环境的适应能力。土著人逐渐形成了大的区域之间,甚至是地方社区之间的复杂的差异。那时的土著人口总数为30万。19世纪初期,澳大利亚有200多种不同的语言,几百个土著人的群体都具有双语和多语的特征。这些我们有时叫做部落的群体是由语言和地区来划分的。实际上,那时土著人的社会地位和政治地位都很低,所以一直到1971年以前,官方所进行的全国性人口普查都把他们给遗漏了。1967年,全民进行了投票,并以压倒多数通过了一项法案,授予政府权力,为土著人立法,并把他们也包括到人口普查的总数中。在1991年的人口普查中,238 590个澳大利亚居民被登记为土著人,26 902人被登记为托雷斯海峡岛民。这两个群体并没有被很清楚地划分开,土著居民这个词常常都被用于这两个群体。他们最大的人口聚居地是新南威尔士州和昆士兰州,人口分别各占这两个州民族总人口的26.4%;西澳大利亚州,占15.7%;还有北方地区,占15%。在社会和经济地位方面,在失业、家庭收入水平、对福利救济的依赖、婴儿死亡率和人均寿命方面,土著人和澳大利亚全体人民相比较,总的来说,土著人的情况很糟。最近,土著人的土地回归运动已经在很多领域带来了成功,土著人对北澳大利亚和中澳大利亚广大地区的拥有权和控制权得到了确认,这使得这个民族的经济、政治和社会生活都有了新的改观。

# *Introduction*

## **General Information**

Australia, island continent located south-east of Asia, forms, with the nearby island of Tasmania, the *Commonwealth of Australia*<sup>①</sup>, a self-governing member of the *Commonwealth of Nations*<sup>②</sup>. The continent is bounded on the north by the Timor Sea, the Arafura Sea, and the Torres Strait; on the east by the Coral<sup>③</sup> Sea and the Tasman Sea; on the south by the Bass Strait and the Indian Ocean; and on the west by the Indian Ocean. The commonwealth extends for about 4,025 km (about 2,500 mi) from east to west and for about 3,700 km (about 2,300 mi) from north to south. Its coastline measures some 36,735 km (about 22,826 mi). The area of the commonwealth is 7,682,292 sq km (2,966,150 sq mi), and the area of the continent alone is 7,614,500 sq km (2,939,974 sq mi), making Australia the

smallest continent in the world, but the sixth largest country.

The Commonwealth of Australia is made up of six states and two territories, which are New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. The external *dependencies*<sup>④</sup> of Australia are the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, the Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, the Territory of Cocos Islands (also called the Keeling Islands), the Coral Sea Islands Territory, the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands, and Norfolk Island.

The first people to live in Australia, called *Aborigines*<sup>⑤</sup>, migrated there about 40,000 years ago. The continent remained relatively unknown by outsiders until the 17th century. The first European settlement by British *convicts*<sup>⑥</sup> occurred in 1788 at Botany Bay in southeastern Australia. Australia grew as a group of British colonies during the 19th century, and in 1901 the colonies federated to form a unified independent nation.

### ***Political Divisions***<sup>⑦</sup>

The Commonwealth of Australia comprises six states and two territories. The states and their capitals are New South Wales (Sydney), Victoria (Melbourne), Queensland (Brisbane), South Australia (Adelaide), Western Australia (Perth), and Tasmania (Hobart). The territories and their chief cities are the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra) and the Northern Territory (Darwin).

## Population

About 94 percent of Australia's people are of European *descent*<sup>(8)</sup>. The majority has a British or Irish heritage, but about 18 percent of the total population have other European origins. Asians, including Middle Easterners, account for about 5 percent of the population. Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders make up about 1.5 percent of the population. In 1991 the largest overseas-born groups were from Great Britain and Ireland (22.5 percent), other European countries (30 percent), and Asia and the Middle East (21 percent). Before World War II (1939—1945) more than 90 percent of the people were of British or Irish origin. Since then, more than 2 million Europeans from other countries have migrated to Australia. Since 1975, about 125,000 Southeast Asians have been admitted to the country, most as refugees.

Australia is the most *sparsely*<sup>(9)</sup> populated of the inhabited continents. According to the 1991 census, Australia had a population of 16,849,496. The 1995 estimated population, including Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, and Norfolk Island, is 18,338,000, giving the country an overall population density of about 2 persons per sq km (about 6 per sq mi).

The country is heavily *urbanized*<sup>(10)</sup>. About 85 percent of the population lives in cities, and about two-thirds in cities with 100,000 or more residents. The most rapidly growing areas are the coastal zones near and between the mainland capitals in the east, southeast, and southwest. In fact, four out of every five Australians live on the closely settled coastal plains that make up only about three percent of the country's land area. The fastest-

growing region is southeastern Queensland.

Australia's total population grew at an annual rate of about 1.4 percent in the early 1990s. The principal reasons for this growth were the continued high level of immigration and the associated increase in the numbers of younger people in the *child-bearing*<sup>(1)</sup> age groups.

### Language

English is the official language of Australia. Aboriginal and other minority languages are spoken in *ethnic*<sup>(2)</sup> communities.

### Australian Aborigines

The first Australians were the Aborigines. Aboriginal *folklore*<sup>(3)</sup> claims that the Aborigines were always in Australia. However, most *anthropologists*<sup>(4)</sup> believe that the Aborigines migrated from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years ago, probably during a period when low sea levels permitted the simplest forms of land and water travel. A rise in sea level subsequently made Tasmania an island and caused some cultural separation between its peoples and those on the mainland.

These original Australians were essentially hunter-gatherers without domesticated animals, other than the dingo, which was introduced by the Aborigines between 3,000 and 4,000 years ago. The Aborigines employed a type of farming in which fire was used to clear areas so that fresh grazing grasses could grow, thereby attracting *kangaroos*<sup>(5)</sup> and other animals. Aborigines also may have harvested and dispersed selected seeds. Those widespread operations may have been responsible for extensive

tracts of grassland. There is evidence of careful *damming*<sup>46</sup> and redirection of streams and of swamp and lake-outlets, possibly for fish farming.

By the time of the first notable European settlement in 1788, Aboriginal people had developed cultural traits and *ecological*<sup>47</sup> knowledge that showed an impressive adaptation to Australia's challenging environments. They also had developed many complex variations between regional and even local communities. The total aboriginal population at that time was about 300,000. More than 200 distinct languages existed at the beginning of the 19th century. Bilingualism and *multilingualism*<sup>48</sup> were common characteristics in several hundred aboriginal groups. These groups sometimes called tribes here were linguistically defined and territorially based.

In fact, the Aborigines' social and political status was so low that they were omitted from the official national *censuses*<sup>49</sup> until 1971, following the overwhelming passage of a 1967 *referendum*<sup>50</sup> that granted the government power to *legislate*<sup>51</sup> for the Aborigines and to include them in the census count. At the 1991 census, 238,590 Australian residents were counted as Aborigines and 26,902 as Torres Strait Islanders; the two groups are not clearly distinguished, and the term Aboriginal often is used for both groups. Their greatest concentrations were in New South Wales and Queensland (each with 26.4 percent of the national total), Western Australia (15.7 percent) and the Northern Territory (15 percent).

In terms of social and economic disadvantage, unemployment, family income levels, welfare dependence, *infant*

mortality rates<sup>②</sup>, and average life expectancy<sup>③</sup>, the aboriginal population still fares badly in comparison with the Australian population as a whole. Its recent renaissance<sup>④</sup> has brought victories in many spheres, and the confirmation of aboriginal ownership and control of extensive areas of northern and central Australia has introduced a new dimension<sup>⑤</sup> into the economic, political, and social life of the nation.

### Notes

- |          |        |              |
|----------|--------|--------------|
| ① 澳大利亚联邦 | ② 英联邦  | ③ 珊瑚         |
| ④ 属地     | ⑤ 土著人  | ⑥ 囚犯         |
| ⑦ 行政区划分  | ⑧ 后裔   | ⑨ 稀少地        |
| ⑩ 都市化    | ⑪ 育龄期  | ⑫ 种族的        |
| ⑬ 民间传说   | ⑭ 人类学家 | ⑮ 袋鼠         |
| ⑯ 修筑水坝   | ⑰ 生态的  | ⑱ 双语和多语种     |
| ⑲ 人口普查   | ⑳ 全民投票 | ㉑ 立法         |
| ㉒ 婴儿死亡率  | ㉓ 人均寿命 | ㉔ 土著人的土地回归运动 |
| ㉕ 方面     |        |              |



## 国土

澳大利亚没有很高的山，她是世界上最平坦的大陆之一。澳大利亚的平均海拔约为 300 米（约 1 000 英尺）。她的内陆，也被称为内地，主要是连绵的大平原或低低的高原，高原的东北部一般来说要比其他部分高一些。沿海的平原高度很低，平原的平均宽度约为 65 公里（约 40 英里），这些平原为澳大利亚这片大陆镶了一个边。在东部、东南部和西南部的这些平原上，聚居着澳大利亚最稠密的人口。

在东部，大分水岭或者叫做东部高地把沿海平原与广阔的内地平原分隔开来。这一片山岳地带的平均海拔高度约为 1 200 米（约 4 000 英尺），这一地带从北端的约克角沿着东海岸一直延伸到东南的维多利亚州。山岳地带的大部分是由高地组成的，这些高地经常由于有山峡和峡谷而从中间断开。大分水岭的分支有很多地方性的名称，包括：从北到南的有新英格兰高原、蓝山和澳大利亚山脉；在维多利亚州，大分