

新编英美文化教程

THE ESSENTIALS OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN CULTURE:
A NEW COURSE BOOK

王恩铭◎主编

《新编英美文化教程》是一本深入英美两国文化传统
注重分析英美两国文化特性及构成这些文化特性的因素
全方位探讨英美两国民族特性形成原因的优秀教材

The Essentials of British and American Culture: A New Course Book



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内 容 简 介

本书根据英、美两国的文化特性,以其民族构成和生活环境为开篇,描述和探讨了英、美两国民族特性形成的原因,然后在此基础上,针对英美两国的政治理念、宗教信仰、教育思想、价值观念、家庭生活、婚姻观念、休闲方式和社会福利等问题逐一讨论,在描述清楚现象的同时,挖掘这些现象的成因等更深层次的内容。

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前 言

伴随着全球化进程的加快和我国与世界各国交往程度的加深，“走出去”与“请进来”日益成为“地球村民”生活中的一部分。现代生活于是向我们这些“地球村民”们提出了新的挑战：在“走出去”与“请进来”的过程中，我们与“地球村”的其他居民能展开多大程度的思想和文化交流？对当代中国大学生来说，这一挑战更具直接和现实意义，因为他们肩负着“讲好中国故事”，走向世界的重任。显然，要实现走向世界，我们必须首先了解世界，而要了解世界，最便捷同时也是最有效的路径莫过从理解他国文化开始。鉴于英语业已成为一种“世界普通话”，且中国大学生又大多以英语为外语学习对象，所以，就大多数中国学生而言，了解和学习他国文化始于英语世界中的英美两国。这也是我们编写这本《新编英美文化教程》的动因和初衷。

长期以来，用于国内高等院校大学英语系列教材的英美概况教科书存在着诸多不足，如过多篇幅描述历史地理、人口分布、工农业经济、政府部门和教育机构等，很少甚至鲜有讲述文化观念、民族特性、宗教信仰、教育理念、家庭婚姻、休闲文化和社会福利等涉及一个国家普通百姓最直接、最相关、最关切的问题。作为一种新的尝试，本《教程》力图克服上述传统《英美概况》教程的编写思路和内容，重点突出英美两国的文化因子，在描述两国文化表现形式之同时，注意阐释和揭示这些文化表现形式背后的价值观念，让读者真正做到“知其然，又知其所以然”。换言之，本《教程》注重于贯彻和实现人类学对“文化”所做的最基本定义：1) 文化首先是一种生活方式 (a way of life)；2) 文化以一定的体制或制度形式表现出来 (expressed in the form of institution)；3) 文化的存在和表现反映出的是一个民族的价值观 (an expression of underpinning/undergirding values)。我们希望，呈现在读者面前的这本《教程》基本实现了这一宗旨。

基于这一考量，编写本《教程》时，我们在题材选取和内容编排上始终以反映英美两国文化精髓为准则、以突显英美两国思想理念为中心、以体现英美两国民族特色为重点，确保学生阅读使用了本《教程》之后，掌握英美两国文化的最基本特性，为与包括英美两国人民在内的英语世界人群开展跨文化交流做好足够的知识储备。沿此思路和理念，本《教程》在具体编写时，特别注意英美两国的民族特性及构成这些民族特性的历史成因、思维方式、政治理念、价值观念、社会环境、制度建设和生活方

式等。我们认为,只有了解和弄懂这些真正体现英美两国民族文化特性的因素,我们才可以说基本掌握了“英美概况”。

为此,本《教程》在编写过程中,根据英美两国的文化特性,以其民族构成和生活环境开篇,描述和探讨英美两国民族特性形成的原因,然后在此基础上,针对英美两国的政治理念、宗教信仰、教育思想、价值观念、家庭生活、婚姻观念、休闲方式和社会福利等问题逐一分章讨论。在所有这些以具体主题思想为中心的每个章节里,我们兼顾描述和分析,不仅陈述清楚“What is it?”,而且试图说明“Why is it?”和“How is it?”。应该说,注重英美两国的文化特性及构成这些文化特性的因素,是本《教程》的两大最显著特点,也是它区别于国内其他同类教材的最鲜明标志。

为了使学生更有效和更便利地使用本《教程》,我们在编写此书时尽力做到 user-friendly,以帮助学生在最大程度上理解和掌握本《教程》提供的内容。为了实现这一目标,我们在每个章节前面先安排了 Focal Points 和 Discussion Questions,让本《教程》使用者在学习本章时从 Focal Points 处一目了然地知道本章的核心内容,并开始思考 Discussion Questions 提出的相关问题。正文之后,我们安排了 Notes“栏目”,针对正文中出现的一些重要信息提供简明扼要的注解或解释。之后,作为教材,本《教程》为使用者设计了四种类型的练习题,它们分别为:“多项选择”(Multiple Choices)、“判断题”(True and False)、“一般问题”(General Questions)和“思考题”(Essay Questions),旨在帮助学生准确理解和牢固掌握每篇课文的最基本内容。最后,为了使本《教程》使用者阅读方便,我们针对课文中出现的一些难词和词语,在页码边空白处提供了中文译文。总之,为了实现本《教程》的编写宗旨,我们集长期教学和研究之经验,在编写课本内容上历尽丰富厚实,在设计课后练习上历尽形式多样,希冀藉此让学生从中获益。

本《教程》编写者都从事英美文化教学和研究工作。从相当程度上讲,本《教程》的编写过程是我们研习、思考、总结的过程。基于我们各自的学术特长和教学经验,我们编写时做了分工,王恩铭负责美国文化部分,王卓负责英国文化部分,最后王恩铭负责统稿。这是我们第二次合作编写英美文化教科书,尽管已经历尽所能,但我们深知,书中错误也许难免,甚至还存在诸多遗憾。祈盼本《教程》使用者不吝指出纠正,以便我们今后修订完善。

王恩铭 上海外国语大学
王 卓 上海第二工业大学

个人简介

王恩铭

男，1957年生。博士、教授、博士生导师，上海美国研究学会副会长、上海外国语大学美国研究中心主任、中华美国学会单位理事和中国美国研究联络会理事。

个人经历：

1982年7月毕业于原上海外国语学院英语系英语语言文学专业，并留校任教至今。1982至1983年在上外“美国学助教进修班”研修一年。1985年获美国富布赖特青年学者奖学金赴美国威斯康星大学攻读美国学硕士学位，于1987年回国。1992年作为富布赖特高级访问学者，再赴威斯康星大学，作为期一年的研究。1996年，获美国“全国人文基金会”资助，赴美国堪萨斯大学，参加为期两个月的“美国黑人文化研讨班”。2000年，获美国斯塔尔基金会资助，在香港大学美国研究中心做了十个月的访问学者。2004年1月，受香港城市大学邀请，在该校做了一个月的“高级研究员”。2004年9月，获美国斯塔尔基金会奖学金，赴香港大学美国研究中心，做为期六个月的高级访问学者。2014年获中国国家留基委博士生导师奖学金赴德国拜罗伊特大学留学。

获奖情况：

1999年上海市高等教育优秀教材三等奖；2002年上海外国语大学首届“青年十佳教师”；2002年上海外国语大学教育奖励基金“申银万国科研”一等奖；2006年上海外国语大学科研学术专著三等奖；2006年上海外国语大学奖励基金“卡西欧专著奖”；2007年上海外国语大学奖励基金“卡西欧论文奖”；2008年上海外国语大学科研学术论文一等奖；2009年上海外国语大学教育奖励基金教学科研一等奖及“卡西欧专著奖”；2010年获上海外国语大学“卡西欧论文奖”；2011年获上海外国语大学“卡西欧论文奖”。2012年获上海外国语大学科研学术专著三等奖。

研究领域

主要从事美国文化、美国黑人政治思想与现代美国妇女的教学和研究工作。

主要学术成果

出版的论著包括：《美国文化史纲》（上海外语教育出版社）、《美国反正统文化运动—嬉皮士文化研究》（北京大学出版社）、《美国黑人领袖及其政治思想研究》（上海

外语教育出版社)、《20 世纪美国妇女研究》(上海外语教育出版社)、《当代美国社会与文化》(上海外语教育出版社)、《美国名校风采》(上海外语教育出版社)等。

主编教材有《美国社会文化》(北京大学出版社)、《美国文化教程》(复旦大学出版社)、《美国文化与社会》(上海外语教育出版社)、《英语国家概况》及其《学生手册》(上海外语教育出版社)、《英美文化基础教程》(上海外语教育出版社)和《高级翻译教程》(上海外语教育出版社)。

此外,在《世界经济与政治》、《美国研究》、《世界历史》、《世界民族》、《世界宗教文化》、《史学月刊》、《史学集刊》、《历史教学问题》、《妇女研究论丛》、《国际论坛》和《国际观察》等 CSSCI 检索源期刊及其他学术刊物上发表了 60 余篇美国文化、历史、政治和女性等方面的论文。其中主要包括《美国历史上的政教关系》、《从政治边缘走向政治中心》、《美国的新自由主义》、《美国嬉皮士文化运动》、《美国新左派运动》、《当代美国妇女运动》、《马尔科姆·爱克斯的黑人民族主义思想》、《论布克·T·华盛顿的妥协主义思想》、《也谈美国多元文化主义》、《当代美国新保守主义的兴起》、《试论美国新右翼》、《试论美国新宗教右翼》、《战后美国新保守主义的思想重构》、《论美国新型保守派》和《美国 20 世纪末的一场文化战争》等。另外还有译著《危机》《美国人的生活和社会制度》和《永不满足:特朗普传》等。

授课情况:

本科生:美国经典作品选读、美国文化与社会、外报外刊选读;

硕士研究生:美国文化、现代美国妇女、美国政治;

博士研究生:美国思想文化史、美国研究导论、美国妇女研究及女性主义。

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Unit One The Land and the People

Focal Points

a vast and rich land
a nation of immigrants
the American Dream
salad bowl

a City upon a Hill
success story
the “melting-pot”
cultural diversity

the Great Plains
the Gold Rush
assimilation

Discussion Questions

1. What makes an American?
2. What is the American Dream?

Text

a varied land 多彩多姿的
国家

the temperate zone 温带

Gulf of Mexico 墨西哥湾

The United States is a **varied land**—of forests, deserts, mountains, high flat lands and fertile plains. Almost every kind of climate can be found in the country, but, taken as a whole, the United States lies mostly in **the temperate zone**. The continental United States stretches 4,500 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean. It borders Canada on the north, and reaches south to Mexico and the **Gulf of Mexico**. With an area of 9,363,123 square kilometers, the United States is exceeded in size only by Russia, Canada, and China.

In this vast area there inhabit tens of millions of immigrants and their **descendents**, who, in search of the American Dream, have turned this vast stretch of wilderness into the most modern and most powerful country in the world within a short **span** of a few hundred years. Beginning as a **sparsely** settled land with about 10 million Native Americans living across the whole North America in **pre-Columbian** era, the present-day United States has now become a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and multi-cultural country with an **estimated** population of 325,127,000 as of December 2015, making it the third-most populous country in the world.

A Land of Abundance

The most **pronounced** feature of the United States is its vast size and great variety. Because of its vastness and diversity, American natural environment varies from the **Arctic** to the **tropical**, from **rainforest** to desert, and from vast **plains** to **rugged** mountains. Indeed, the present-day United States **comprehends** most of the physical conditions known to human beings: heat and cold, **swamp** and dry waste land, mountain ranges and endless plains, empty spaces and **megalopolis**, and above all, the world's largest river system. Given such great variations, it is not difficult to appreciate the fact that life in the hot southern sub-tropical forests can be in sharp contrast to that in the North, where winters may constitute an entirely different world to people living in the South.

Another advantage of American geography is its richness, in addition to its size and variety. When the early colonists came to the New World, they were all struck by the abundant supply of its natural resources. **The New England seas**, for example, were thick with fish, and a wealth of forest was found along the Atlantic coast and on the Appalachians. Even greater wealth lay in the Appalachian coal fields. Beyond that, the trans-Appalachians had a super-abundance of coal and oil, together with i-

descendent 后裔

span 一段时间

sparsely 稀疏地、稀少地

pre-Columbian 哥伦布“发现”美洲大陆之前

estimated 估计的

pronounced 显著的、明显的

Arctic 北极

tropical 热带的

rainforest 雨林

plain 平原

rugged 崎岖的

comprehend 包含、包括

swamp 沼泽地

megalopolis 超大城市

the New England seas 新英格兰内海

fertile and productive soil

肥沃多产的土壤

abound with 充满

ranges 山地

irrigable 可灌溉的

basin 盆地

asset 长处、优点、有利条件

haven 避风港、安全的地方

a City upon the Hill 山巅之城

the Appalachians 阿巴拉契亚山脉

forge 使形成、打造

trait 特征、特点、特性

reckless 鲁莽的、不计后果的

throw-away culture 一次性使用文化

retreat 与世隔离之地

cross-roads 汇聚地

densely-populated 人口密集的

gulf 鸿沟、裂口

lifeline 生命线

ron, copper, lead and zinc, and above all, of **fertile and productive soils**. The Far West **abounded with** precious metals as well as forested **ranges** going down to its **irrigable basins**. So abundant were America's natural resources that they were thought to be boundless, capable of lasting for many, many years to come, if not forever.

Besides its enormous wealth of natural resources, the position of the United States has also been thought to be one of its chief **assets**. Over 2,000 miles from Europe (or 3,000 miles from Great Britain) and 7,000 miles from Asia, it was long isolated from the conflicts of these troubled continents, offering itself as a **haven** for those who wished to seek a new life. Not surprisingly, many of the first settlers were Pilgrims who ran away from their own country to build **a City upon the Hill** in this New World. However, as the settlers moved westward, striking inland first across **the Appalachians** and then across the Mississippi River, they isolated themselves further, enjoying a still greater opportunity to create a different and better life in the West than could have ever been imagined by their cousins left behind in the East or back home in Europe. In this sense, isolation helped America to **forge** many of its **traits**, not least of which was the **reckless** use of its abundant natural resources, creating what scholars later called "**throw-away culture**".

As the world grew less land-based and more ocean-centered, the position of the United States received fresh value. With improvements in transportation and communication, America ceased to be a **retreat** and instead became a **cross-roads**: a cross-roads between East and West, facing the two most **densely-populated** regions of the world—Western Europe and Eastern Asia. This shift has given the United States a vast scope of opportunity, for instead of being **gulfs** of separation, the Atlantic and the Pacific have become the **lifelines** of a new world in which Americans have made their country the focus of the world connections, reaping huge benefits from trades and

commerce with Western Europe and Eastern Asia.

Additionally, the geographical position has favored Americans in placing their country in the middle of **latitudes**. America, as a whole, is a warm-temperate land and only in northern Alaska is it under the **permanent** threat of frost. Moreover, with the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans on both sides, America is swept by **humid** and **maritime** airs and only in the extreme Southwest does it experience **chronic drought**. No other country has such a favorable climatic **disposition**—comfortable, **stimulating**, and productive. Take Russia and China for example. Two-thirds of Russia is in the **cool-temperate** and arctic zones, often frustrated by frost, and in the case of China, a large part of its land is so continental that they are virtually away from **rain-bearing** winds, frequently **plagued** by droughts. Evidently, both Russia and China **pale** in comparison with the United States in geographical position.

While America's resources are plentiful, it does not mean that they would automatically yield beneficial results. Barriers of distance and **relief** and certain difficulties in the climate have all had to be overcome before the rich rewards could be won. So, there has been a strong element of challenge in each part of America in the **exploitation** of natural resources, evident from the beginning to the present. New England **fisheries** are set in a storm-swept sea where **storm-tracks** from the interior are carried out over the ocean. Virginia and the Carolinas have their "dismal swamps" to put up with: poor drainage and an all but tropical summer often meant fever of one kind or another in the past. And once the interior is reached, new hazards are there to be dealt with. A truly continental climate with strong heating in summer and intense chilling in winter brings July **thunderstorms** and **blizzards**. Before the arrival of science and technology, the killing of crops by severe winter frosts was quite common, and when spring came and snow melted, dangerous floods often rolled down the rivers and brought widespread ruin. Further

latitude 纬度

permanent 永久性的

humid 潮湿的

maritime 海洋性的

chronic drought 长久性干旱

disposition 布置、配置

stimulating 令人心情振奋的

cool-temperate 寒温带

rain-bearing 负载(裹挟)
雨水的

plagued 苦恼、受灾

pale 显得逊色、相形见绌

relief(地形的)高低起伏

exploitation 开发、利用

fishery 渔业、养鱼业

storm-track 风暴路径

thunderstorm 雷暴雨

blizzard 冰风暴