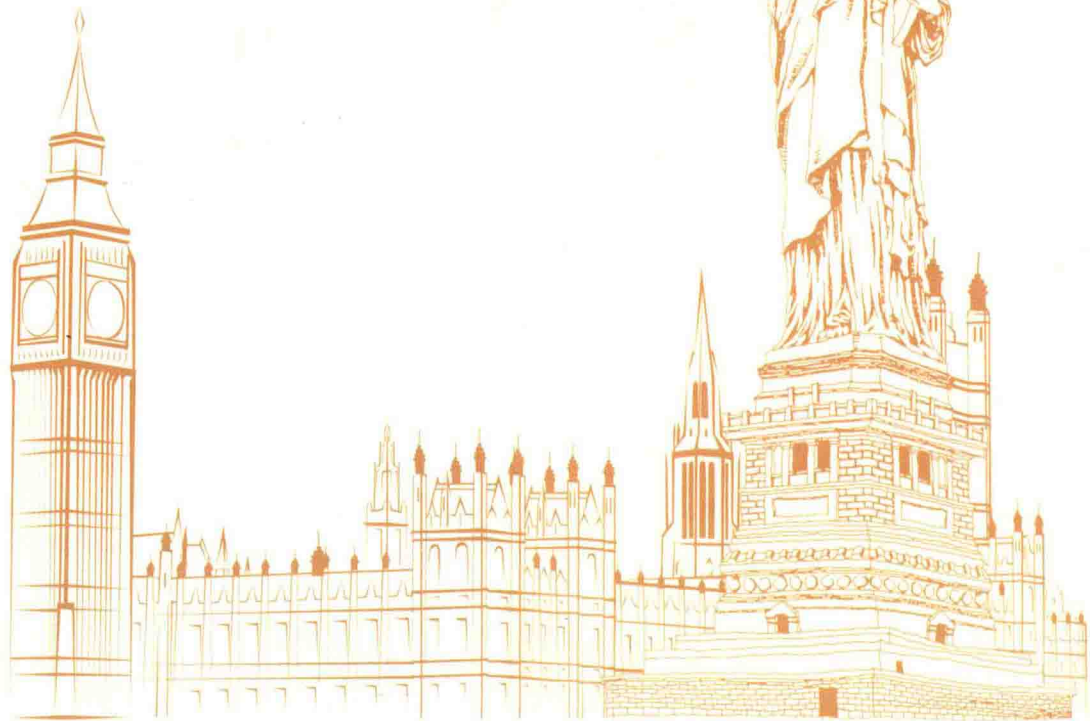


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谭千忠 江芬 编著

Course of British and American Culture

一个国家，我们自然会提到它的政治、经济、文化和法治。政治和制约经济、文化和法治，而经济和法治反作用于政治。政治制统治社会的原则、规则和制度的总和。

英美文化教程

A Course of British
and American Culture

英美文化教程

谭千忠 江芬 编著



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序 言

时代的发展速度往往是惊人的,不可想象的。改革开放转眼就是四十年,中国历经了了不起的变革和发展。其中特别了不起的,就是与世界的交往。这也直接影响到了民族教育的发展。在改革开放之初,中国开始学习外语,尤其是作为一种世界性的语言——英语。当时人们学习英语虽然如饥似渴,但还是循序渐进的。在刚恢复高考的头几年,英语以及其他外语刚开始在高考中只算参考,不算正式的成绩。直到好几年以后,才作为一门课程,登堂入室,堂堂正正地作为高考的一个科目,成为必考的对象。那个时候的英语学习,是从ABC开始的,是一种启蒙性质的教育。

在这之后的三十年,这个从高考、四六级考试、新东方培训教育等全民学习英语的现象可以看出英语学习发生了飞速的变化。虽然也有呼声,要求英语走下神坛,回归到重视母语的中心上来,英语成为世界语言毕竟是一种自然和必然的趋势,是谁也没有办法阻挡的。至少近两百年的思想成果、文化成果和学术成果,人类基本上是用英语表达的。世界上的主要语种,比如汉语、俄语、德语、法语等,即使写出了优秀的成果,为了交流方便,也要译成英语。可以说,英语几乎成了一种衡量文化发展的标尺,促进文化交流的媒介。可以毫不夸张地说,离开了英语,人类就失去了一条腿,就无法稳步、有力地前行。从三十多年前的中国,到现在的中国,英语学习取得了长足的进展。现在中小学学生的英语水平,已经远比那时候高得多。当时除了以课本为主的学习,没有设置用英语学习的人文课程。这不,谭千忠、江芬编著的《英美文化教程》就是一个例子。

学习语言最主要的目的,除了最基本的交流,就是用来进行文化学习和文化交流的。文化是一个包罗万象的概念,但它包含的主要内容是固定的,诸如一个民族或者国家,地区的人口,地理,历史,文学,艺术,政治,教育,习俗等等。对这些有了大致的了解,正如航海有了罗盘,前行有了方向,就能对某种文化形成基本的认识。在全球化日益发达的今天,缺少这一点,就缺少了对世界的认识。从另一个方面来说,就教育而言,这样的高级课程,可以在中学教育与大学教育之间,实现一种必要的过渡和衔接。谭老师、江老师二位编写的《英美文化教程》,在结构上完善,能较为完整地传达英美文化的主要内容;在表述上使用双语,适合中学阶段的实际情况;在语言方面,教程设置了生词、难词词汇表;为了消化教程提供的内容,编者讲用结合,设置了问答题、判断题、选择题、填空题等多种形式,规模和数量都恰当

的互动环节,使得教程不只停留于知识的展现,还体现了教与学的良好对接,是体系完善、教学相长、目的明确的好教材。同时,编者还注意把生动性和趣味性放入教程的材料中,比如本书收入的各种插图,形象、直观地传达了文化信息,图文并茂,让教材平添情趣,不失为一种良好的办法。

就教程的规模而言,全书接近200页,规模适中,适合课堂讲授,也适合掌中捧读。在内容方面,包含英美的政治、地理、习俗、文体、教育、文学艺术、大众传媒等等,可谓一部微型百科,一册在手,含纳天下大事,包卷风土人情,学完此书,可对当今的英美,有一个相对完整的、能概括整体风貌的了解。

以上是这本《英美文化教程》的特色和优势。使用这本教材的老师和中学生读者,一定可以从中获得自己所需要的基本知识和有关信息。既学习了英语这种文字,也通过语言学习了解语言承载的文化内容。这是一举两得,一箭双雕的好事情。

一部教材,是个导航仪,是给前行的人指引方向的。所以,在一定程度上来说,就像一个好的老师,他不仅仅是一个信使或邮递员,也是一位导引。这本教材,除了提供基本信息外,也是为了引领学习者期盼这些基本信息以外更为精彩、迷人的风景的。在这一点上,《英美文化教程》如果能植入、撷取一些经典成果的精华、摘引,这样定可以为“吃不饱”的学生设置一道秀丽的风景,也为他们进一步走进知识的海洋播下了求知欲的种子,为今后的学习提供动力。比如,在介绍莎士比亚这朵人类文化的奇葩的时候,如果有适量的莎剧的精彩段落,不仅可以使文化事实陈述亮起来,也为那些文化事实提供了可靠的证据。同时,会引起读者进一步读下去的欲望。基于这一点,如果能在每个章节后,设置一个简繁适当的,供青少年阅读的中英文课外阅读书目,想必可以起到望梅止渴的作用。

当然,真正的止渴,靠望梅是不能彻底解决的。这一点看来是一个未来的目标,如果也看成一个现在的目的,才是真正起到了点石成金的作用了。这就是说,要真正了解文化,需要更进一步,深入文化涉及的学科领域,中学生朋友能去读那个方面的经典作品与历史材料。比如英国文学,那就要读英国文学历史长河里的那些经典名著,才算是真正了解英国的文学。如果这本文化教程,能够把读者领入展望未来、渴望未来的观景台,那将启迪另一个阅读和理解的航程,将是妙不可言的。我相信,这本教材能有这样的功效。

在看到这样的功效以前,我想说,文字阅读,是一件可喜的事情,意义是重大的。在人类蒙昧的时代,人类渴望文明。文明之中,也包括了技术。如今的技术,可以说是日新月异。手机和网络的普及,让人轻而易举地了解文化。但是,多媒体发展到今天,图像更加有效地展示了直观的美。曾经在历史上发挥巨大作用的书本和文字,却似乎在走向没落。这究竟是一大喜悦,还是一大悲哀,是非常值得思索的问题。我们对图像美感到喜悦,但它也阻碍了想象力的发挥。文字更能表达、

培养和发挥更为广阔、有力的想象力,如果从这个角度说,谭千忠、江芬老师的教程,是做了一件挽救文化,培养、挽救人类想象力的大事儿。这可能让人想起唐代诗人刘长卿所作的一首小诗:“泠泠七弦上,静听松风寒。古调虽自爱,今人多不弹。”我的希望是,文字这一部古调,希望它能成为真正传世和滋养人类文化与想象力的美妙乐曲!

人类把教师这门职业,美称为“太阳底下最光辉的职业”,教师被誉为“人类灵魂的工程师”,教师还被比喻成“蜡烛”。这三个比喻,在不同程度上说明了教师职业的高尚。尤其是第三点,说明了教师职业无私的奉献精神,但在我看来,也可以做另一种理解。我们希望“人类灵魂的工程师”是能够永远为人类的灵魂导航的,可是他却像蜡烛那样不留痕迹地消失了。我以为,好的老师,不应该只是无影无踪地消失,更应该像《绿色的祝福》里唱的,是一棵大树,树的落叶,正如落红,应“化作春泥更护花”。树自己成长,也就有不断的落叶来护花,让花朵更灿烂,更艳丽,从而构成了美丽的春天。如果用这种方法来推断,笔耕不辍,勤若蜜蜂,著作等身的谭千忠老师,就是一颗绿色的大树,而不是到死的春蚕,也不是成灰的蜡炬,这样的老师,是值得推崇的,值得赞美的。由此,恭贺谭老师和江老师,由春蚕和蜡炬变成了绿色的大树。

是为序。

四川九龙山麓文笔湖畔人士罗益民博士



2018年1月1日记于重庆缙云山麓桃花山梦坡斋

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Chapter One

The Political System

When talking about one country, we definitely mention its politics, economy, culture and its legal system. Politics will shape and restrict economy, culture and laws while economy and laws will react to politics. A political system is the totality of principles, rules and institutions that governs a society.

Section One

American Political System

Learning Objectives

1. Get to know the general principles of American politics.
2. Master the main function of the president in the U.S.
3. Tell the key differences between the two houses in the U.S. Congress.

Introduction

The United States is one of the youngest countries in the world while it has the oldest constitution and political party. It is also said to have demonstrated the vitality as well as flexibility of the U.S. Constitution, on which the nation is based. As with the United States, stable political institutions are extremely important, and stable political system,

in turn, depends on the allegiance of people to the basic structures and principles of government.

Political Principles

To know the American political system in detail, you have to understand the fundamental principles embodied in the U.S.

The first principle is the Rule of Law. In the whole society, people advocate the rule of law and proper procedure. In this way, government power is significantly limited.

The second is Popular Sovereignty. In the case of the United States, popular sovereignty means that people are sovereign, for they established the Constitution of the U.S. It is hoped that the word “people” was meant to encourage the growth of democracy in the new nation.

The third is Federalism. With unitary form of government, power is heavily concentrated in the central government, while confederate form of government leaves sovereignty with the state rather than national government.

The fourth principle is Separation of Three Powers. It originated from political theory and appealed to Americans who feared the concentrated power in one branch of government. At the national level, power is divided into three branches—the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. In this case, none of the three branches is fully dependent on any one of the other two, and yet each of them has some interdependence with the other two. The legislative makes law, the executive applies and enforces the law, and the judicial interprets the law. The legislative power is exercised by Congress, the executive power by the President, and the judicial power by the Supreme Court.

The fifth is Protection of Individual Rights. According to the U.S. Constitution, this is one of the most important principles. The Bill of Rights contains the most sweeping and substantive protections for the individual rights in America, including rights to freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly.

Political Parties and Elections

Political activities in the U.S. are based on party politics. There are two major par-

ties in the U.S., the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The Democratic Party was founded in Washington's time. It mainly consists of the Anti-Federalists. It was called the Democratic-Republican Party in the early years. The symbol of the Democratic Party is a donkey which was first used in a caricature.

In the early years, the Democratic Party represented the interests of farmers, small traders and handicraftsmen. The Democrats stood for free and fair competition. After Jackson was elected president in 1828, the Democratic-Republican Party split. The main faction, led by Andrew Jackson, called themselves the Democratic Party while the faction opposed to Jackson formed the Whig Party in 1834. The Democratic Party represented the interests of southwest cotton plantation owners, south slave-owners, and western farmers while the Whig Party represented mainly northern commercial and industrial interests and objected to Jackson's economic policies.

The majority of the Whig Party, some of democrats, and other anti-slavery elements founded the Republican Party in 1854. Abraham Lincoln, as a candidate of the Republican Party, was elected president in 1860. The symbol of the Republican Party was an elephant.

After the civil war, the Democratic Party was weakened. The Republican Party dominated the political scene of the U.S. for most of the time between the 1860s and the 1920s.

American politics is party politics and no one can hope to win any election if he is not backed by a party. Therefore, a party's main function is to help its candidates win elections. So it has to find the most suitable candidate who is most likely to be accepted by the public. The party will help the candidate raise funds to cover the expenditure of running the election.

To win the Grand Election, a candidate has to spend tens of millions of dollars which comes from his personal collection, the party's help, etc. He travels all over the country, delivering countless speeches and he has to debate with the other party's presidential candidate on TV.

The president-elect will prepare his inaugural address which is held before the U.S. Capitol Building on January 20. He will be engaged in forming his administration and preparing for moving into the White House.

The Presidency

What is striking about the presidency of the U.S. is that the authority of the government is not just divided but also limited. There are many things that the president can do only with the cooperation of Congress and approval of the Supreme Court, and many things that he can not do at all. The president is the key figure in the American political system. His responsibilities include: 1. He is the head of the state. 2. The chief executive officer of the U.S. 3. The chief diplomat. 4. The commander of the armed forces. And also he is the head of his political party. He is largely reliant on the efforts of his party, and works with the party to pass the legislative program.

While the president in the U.S. is very powerful, his power is by no means limitless. Constitutional limitations include the four-year term, the ban on the third term, etc. Congress can override a presidential veto by a two-thirds vote of both houses, and remove the president from office if he is found guilty.

Congress

According to the U.S. Constitution, Congress's function is to make laws. That is the reason why it is often regarded as a law-making body. The U.S. Congress consists of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. They are of equal importance. Bills have to pass both houses before being sent to the President to be signed into laws.

The Senate is composed of 100 members, two from each of the fifty states regardless of population. Now they are elected by voters of their respective states. Senators serve six years after they are elected. The House of Representatives has 435 representatives. Seats in the House of Representatives are apportioned among the 50 states according to population, but each state should have at least one seat. The whole country is divided into 435 congressional districts.

The primary duty of congress is to make laws for the country and the process is very complex. Of the two houses, there are some differences, and the most key differences are their size and constituency. The house is much larger and it requires a more formal organizational structure as well as more rigid rules while the rules and procedures of the Senate are more flexible.

The Judiciary

Besides the legislative (Congress) and executive (President) branches, the third branch is the federal judiciary. Its main structure is the Supreme Court. It decides whether or not their laws and acts are in accordance with the constitution. The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices. They are nominated by the President but must be approved by the Senate. Once approved, they hold office as Supreme Court justices for life. Besides the Supreme Court, Congress has established 11 federal courts of appeal and, below them, 94 federal district courts. They form the federal court system.

Most states have a hierarchical system, ranging from lower courts to a state Supreme Court. These courts try civil and criminal cases in which state laws are involved. Nearly all cases including disputes on property, divorce, murder, theft and traffic offenses are dealt with by relevant states' hierarchy of city, country and state courts according to state laws. Each state has a Supreme Court of appeal, but their systems vary from one to another. In some states, judges are publicly elected while in other states they are appointed by the state governor or by special body such as judicial councils. Some judges hold office for fixed periods while others are installed for life or up to retirement age.

第一章 政治制度

谈及一个国家,我们自然会提到它的政治、经济、文化和法治。政治影响和制约经济、文化和法治,而经济和法治反作用于政治。政治制度是统治社会的原则、规则和制度的总和。

第一节 美国的政治制度

简介

美国是世界上最年轻的国家之一,却有着最古老的宪法和政党,这也显示了美国宪法的活力和灵活性,美国就是据此为基础建立起来的。就美国来说,稳定的政治体制是极其重要的,而稳定的政治又取决于人民对政府的基本结构和政治原则的拥护和满意度。

政治原则

想要详细了解美国的政治制度,你就得懂得其所体现的基本政治原则。

第一项原则是法治。在美国的整个社会,人们提倡法治和正当手续。这样一来,政府的权力明显受到限制。

第二项原则是人民主权。在美国,人民主权意味着人民拥有主权,因为他们有美国宪法。人民希望“人民”这个字眼是为了鼓励在这个新的国家中民主得到发展。

第三项原则是联邦制。在集权制政府制度下,权力主要集中在中央政府,而联邦政府则将主权留给州而不是国家政府。

第四项原则是三权分立。它源于政治理论并呼吁那些害怕权力过于集中到某一政府部门的美国人。在国家层面,政府权力分为三大部分——行政、立法和司法机关。在这种情况下,没有哪个部门是完全独立于其他两个部门的,任何一个部门与其他两个部门都是相互依存的。立法机关制定法律,行政机关运用和执行法律,