

北京高等学校青年英才计划资助（项目编号YETP0783）

教育部大学英语教学改革示范点项目

教育部高等学校特色专业建设点（英语专业）项目



中国当代社会与文化 英文教程（第二版）

A Textbook of Contemporary
China's Society and Culture

史宝辉 总主编

訾纓 李芝 本册主编



北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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中国当代社会与文化英文教程

（第二版）

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北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

中国当代社会与文化英文教程/瞿纓,李芝主编.—2版.—北京:北京大学出版社,2015.1
ISBN 978-7-301-25034-1

I. ①中… II. ①瞿… ②李… III. ①英语—高等学校—教材 IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2014)第 246291 号

书 名: 中国当代社会与文化英文教程(第二版)

著作责任者: 史宝辉 总主编 瞿 纓 李 芝 本册主编

责任编辑: 李 颖

标准书号: ISBN 978-7-301-25034-1/H·3614

出版发行: 北京大学出版社

地 址: 北京市海淀区成府路 205 号 100871

网 址: <http://www.pup.cn> 新浪官方微博: @北京大学出版社

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电 话: 邮购部 62752015 发行部 62750672 编辑部 62754382 出版部 62754962

印 刷 者: 三河市博文印刷有限公司

经 销 者: 新华书店

787 毫米×1092 毫米 16 开本 10.25 印张 350 千字

2013 年 3 月第 1 版

2015 年 1 月第 2 版 2015 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 29.00 元

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第二版前言

由北京市教学名师史宝辉教授担任总主编的“英语话中华”拓展课系列教材已列入北京大学出版社的出版规划。目前在版的头两本教材为《中国当代社会与文化英文教程》和《中国古代社会与文化英文教程》。这是一套以英语为媒介传播和弘扬中华文化的高等院校文化素质类通识课系列教材，旨在通过对中国古代和当代社会历史文化等方面的介绍以及相关英语表达方式的训练，提高学生“向世界说明中国”的能力，增强其文化传承的使命感和民族自豪感，在跨文化交际中能够熟练运用所学中国文化知识，以规范、流畅的英文表达方式对外宣传介绍中华民族悠久的历史文化遗产，全方位、多角度展现今日中国之风采，树立中国国家形象，弘扬中华民族精神，让世界充分了解中国，增强中华文化的国际影响力。

“英语话中华”拓展课系列教材的选题和编写紧扣新时代主旋律，紧跟教育部新一轮大学英语教学改革的要求，紧密结合大学英语教学改革实践，具有很强的时代感和实用性。教材融知识性和趣味性于一体，图文并茂地提供了一种展现中国社会历史文化风貌的视觉方式，凸显重要主题，课程内容生动、直观，符合90后大学生的认知心理。与教材配套的课堂版教学电子课件，制作精美，信息量大，使用便捷，有助于教师的备课和授课工作。在使用过程中，效果良好，受到了任课教师和学生的欢迎。

本册为《中国当代社会与文化英文教程（第二版）》，全书共10个单元，建议授课学时为30学时左右，一学期完成；每单元分为两部分：Section A 和Section B。通过听说读写等多种训练方式教授学生了解和介绍中华文化。Section A 包括两篇短文，通过阅读和写作训练方式使学生掌握如何介绍当代中国社会与文化的方方面面。Section B 包括一篇情景对话和一篇演讲或解说词，以听说训练的方式提高学生的英语口语表达能力和跨文化交际能力，实现语言与文化两个层面的输出。

教材语篇长度、难度适中，生词采用文中注释的方式，文化背景知识注释采用脚注方式，方便学习和查找。每篇文章后均有长难句注释。

第二版对练习部分做了较大的修改，形式更加多样化，以提高学生跨文化交际能力为宗旨，以提高“写”和“说”的能力为突破口。练习的设计原则分为三个层次：第一个层次注重语言和内容的基础理解，第二个层次关注学生的思辨能力发展，第三个层次侧重语言输出能力的培养。特别增加了汉译英和段落匹配等练习形式，以期对学生通过四、六级考试有所帮助。

该系列教材的读者群广泛，主要读者对象为大专院校非英语专业本科生和研究生，也

可供英语专业本科生和在华的各国留学生使用。

本系列教材是北京林业大学外语学院参与北京高等学校“青年英才计划”项目(YETP0783)教育部大学英语教学改革示范点项目、教育部高等学校特色专业建设点(英语专业)项目和北京林业大学教务处“基于中西文化教育的大学英语教学改革”项目的教师合作研发的产物,特此感谢上述机构对本项目研发的资助。

编者

2014年8月

编写说明

《中国当代社会与文化英文教程（第二版）》是高等院校文化素质类通识课教材，旨在通过对中国当代社会文化诸方面的学习以及相关英语表达方式的训练，使学生了解今日中国风采和中华民族风貌，并能以规范、流畅的表达方式对外介绍、弘扬中华文化，让世界了解今日中国。

本教程读者对象为非英语专业本科生和研究生，也可供英语专业本科生使用。

全书共10个单元，建议授课学时为30学时左右，一学期完成。每单元分为两部分，通过听说读写等多种训练方式帮助学生了解并能够用英语介绍中华文化。Section A 包括两篇长度各500词左右的短文，通过阅读和写作的训练方式使学生掌握如何介绍中国当代社会与文化的方方面面。Section B 包括一篇情景对话和一篇400词左右的演讲或解说词，以听说训练的方式提高学生的英语口语表达能力和跨文化交际能力。Section A 的课文与 Section B 的对话和演讲均有录音供学习者模仿。

本教程语篇长度和难度适中，生词采用文中注释的方式，文化背景知识注释采用脚注方式，方便学习和查找。每篇文章后均有长难句注释。

练习形式的设计以提高学生跨文化交际能力为宗旨，以提高“写”和“说”的能力为突破口。写作练习以训练写摘要总结和应用文为主。口语训练旨在教会学生如何以流利的英语介绍中华文化。

本教程融知识性和趣味性于一体，图文并茂地提供了一种展现代中国风采的视觉方式。在讲授过程中，充分利用电子教程的资源优势，根据所授内容插入相应图片和简短音视频资料，以凸显重要的主题，使课程内容生动、直观，符合90后大学生的认知心理。

本教程配有图文并茂的课堂版教学电子课件，方便教师备课、授课使用。

本教程由北京林业大学“211工程”三期研究生创新人才培养建设计划子项目资助。

《中国当代社会与文化英文教程（第二版）》

尊敬的老师：

您好！

为了方便您更好地使用《中国当代社会与文化英文教程（第二版）》，我们特向使用该书作为教材的教师赠送本书配套参考资料。如有需要，请完整填写“教师联系表”并加盖所在单位系（院）或培训中心公章，免费向出版社索取。

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填写完毕后，请将此表邮寄给我们，我们将为您免费寄送本教材配套资料，谢谢！

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Talking about China

导读

本单元旨在通过对中国国家标志、地理特征、历史朝代和主要城市的介绍，使学生能运用相关的英语表达进行跨文化交流，让世界了解中国。

Before You Start

While you are preparing for this unit, consider what you know about the following questions:

1. What national symbols do you think of at the sight of the word “China”?
2. What are the geographic features of your hometown?
3. Can you list the dynasties in Chinese history chronologically?

Section A Reading and Writing

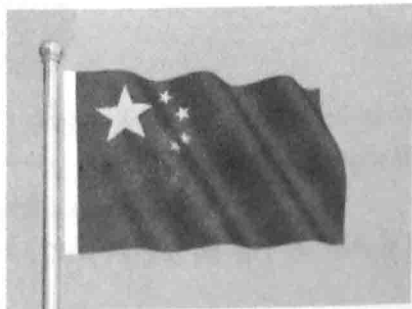
Text 1 General Survey

Country Name

Contemporary China’s official name is the People’s Republic of China, often abbreviated as P. R. China or PRC. China is called *Zhōngguó* in Mandarin Chinese. The first character *zhōng* (中) means “central” or “middle”, while *guó* (國/国) means “state” or “nation”. Many Western works use the translation “middle kingdom” or “central kingdom”. In ancient texts, *Zhōngguó* referred to a state, a city or the group of states in the central plain. It became the shortened form of the People’s Republic of China in 1949.

National Flag

The national flag of China is red with a large yellow five-pointed star and four smaller ones (arranged in a vertical arc toward the middle star) in the upper hoist-side corner. The color red symbolizes the spirit of revolution,



and the five stars signify the unity of the people of China under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The flag was officially unveiled in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on October 1, 1949, the formal announcement of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

National Emblem

① The design of the national emblem of the People's Republic of China, published by the Central People's Government on September 20, 1950, shows Tiananmen under the light of five stars, and it is framed with ears of grain and a cogwheel (齿轮). Tiananmen is the place where the inauguration of the People's Republic of China was held. The cogwheel and the ears of grain represent the working class and the peasantry respectively, and the five stars symbolize the solidarity (团结) of the various nationalities of China. The emblem clearly indicates that the People's Republic of China is a socialist state led by the working class and based on the alliance of industrial and agricultural workers.



National Anthem

March of the Volunteers, written in 1935, with lyrics by the poet Tian Han and music by the composer Nie Er, honors those who went to the front to fight against the Japanese invaders in northeast China in the 1930s. The song was officially adopted as the national anthem of the P. R. China on December 4, 1982.

Lyrics (Translation)

March of the Volunteers

Arise, ye who refuse to be slaves!

Let us amount our flesh and blood towards our new Great Wall!

The Chinese nation faces its greatest peril,

The thundering roar of our peoples will be heard!

Arise! Arise! Arise!

We are many, but our hearts beat as one!

Selflessly braving the enemy's gunfire, march on!

Selflessly braving the enemy's gunfire, march on!

March on! March on! on!

Administrative Divisions & Capital



The entire country is divided into 23 provinces, five autonomous regions (Tibet, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Guangxi and Ningxia), four municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing) and two special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau).

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It is not only the nation's political center, but also its cultural, scientific and educational center, and a key transportation hub.

People

China, as the world's most populous nation, has a population of over 1.3 billion. Out of every five persons living in this world, one is a Chinese. People live mainly around the coastal areas and industrialized zones of central China.

China is home to 56 ethnic peoples. The Han people account for 92 percent of the total population, while the other 55 ethnic groups are known as minorities. All nationalities in China are equal according to the law. The state protects their lawful rights and interests and promotes equality, unity, and mutual help among them.

Language

The official language of China is standard Chinese or Mandarin, known as Putonghua. It is based on the Beijing dialect. Many other dialects and ethnic minority languages are also spoken.

All of the Chinese dialects share a common written form that has evolved and been standardized during two millennia and serves as a unifying bond among the Han Chinese. The government has aggressively developed both simplified Chinese and Pinyin (phonetic spelling) as ways to increase literacy and transliterate Chinese names.

National Animal

The Giant Panda is regarded as a national treasure. Just over 1,000 survive in the wild and most of them live in Sichuan Province. The panda has a black-and-white coat. ② It is easily recognized by its large, distinctive black patches around the eyes, over the ears, and across its round body. Though it belongs to the order Carnivora (食肉类), the panda's diet is 99% bamboo. (740 words)



Based on:

1. <http://english.gov.cn>
2. Catherine Field, 2004, *China*, Oxford: Raintree



Difficult Sentences

- ① The design of the national emblem of the People's Republic of China, published by the Central People's Government on September 20, 1950, shows Tiananmen under the light of five stars, and it is framed with ears of grain and a cogwheel.

中华人民共和国国徽的设计由中央政府于1950年9月20日颁布，图案中间是五星照耀下的天安门，周围是谷穗和齿轮。

- ② It is easily recognized by its large, distinctive black patches around the eyes, over the ears, and across its round body.

熊猫的眼睛周围、耳朵上、滚圆的身体上都长着大块的、独特的黑色皮毛，很容易识别。

Text 2 Geographic Overview

China, an ancient, mysterious and beautiful land, is located in the eastern part of the Asian continent, on the western Pacific Rim. Occupying an area of 9,600,000 square kilometers, it is the third largest country in the world, next to Russia and Canada. When inhabitants of eastern China are greeting the dawn, people in western China still face four more hours of darkness. When northern China is still gripped in a world of ice and snow, flowers are already blooming in the warm and pleasant south.

China has a total of 22,117 kilometers of land boundaries with 14 other nations. The coastline extends 14,500 kilometers from the border with North Korea in the north to Vietnam in the south. The coasts are on the Korea Bay, the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea.

Broadly speaking, the relief (地貌) of China is high in the west and low in the east; consequently, the direction of flow of the major rivers is generally eastward. The surface may be divided into three steps, or levels.



① The first step is represented by the Plateau of Tibet, which is located in both the Tibet Autonomous Region and the province of Qinghai and which, with an average elevation of well over 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level, is the loftiest highland area in the world and often known as “the roof of the world.” At the southern rim of the Tibetan Plateau, on the Nepalese-Tibetan border, are the soaring Himalayan Mountains. Here stands the world’s tallest peak, Mount

Qomolangma (meaning “Goddess” in Tibetan; known to the West as Mount Everest), which is 8848 meters (29,028 feet) high.

The second step lies to the north of the Kunlun and Qilian mountains and (farther south) to the east of the Qionglai and Daliang ranges. ② There the mountains descend sharply to heights of between 1,800 and 900 meters (6,000 and 3,000 feet), after which basins intermingle with plateaus. This step includes the Mongolian Plateau, the Tarim Basin, the Loess Plateau (loess is a yellow-gray dust deposited by the wind), the Sichuan Basin, and the Yunnan-Guizhou (Yungui) Plateau.

The third step stretches down to the Pacific Ocean and is the most fertile and populous area of China. Almost all of this area is made up of hills and plains lying below 450 meters (1,500 feet). In the far north, the terrain is low and flat, broken only occasionally by mountains. Farther south are the vast flood plains of China’s great rivers. In the far south, there are low mountains crossed by river valleys.

The most remarkable feature of China’s relief is the vast extent of its mountain chains.

By rough estimate, about one-third of the total area of China consists of mountains. China has some of the world's tallest mountains and the world's highest and largest plateau, in addition to possessing extensive coastal plains. The five major landforms—mountain, plateau, hill, plain, and basin—are all well represented. China's complex natural environment and rich natural resources are closely connected with the varied nature of its relief.

③ China's climate diversity mirrors that of its topography, ranging from extremely dry desert-like conditions in the northwest to a tropical monsoon climate in the southeast. From September to April of the following year, dry and cold air masses (冷气团) blow from Siberia and the Mongolian Plateau, resulting in cold and dry winters, and great differences between the temperatures of north and south China. From April to September, warm and humid summer monsoons blow from the seas in the east and south, resulting in overall high temperatures and abundant rainfall, and the range of temperatures between north and south is quite small. (604 words)

Based on:

1. *Kenneth Pletcher, 2011, The Geography of China: Sacred and Historic Place, Britannic Educational Publishing*
2. *Discover China, 2009, China Intercontinental Press*
3. *Catherine Field, 2004, China, Oxford: Raintree*



Difficult Sentences

- ① The first step is represented by the Plateau of Tibet, which is located in both the Tibet Autonomous Region and the province of Qinghai and which, with an average elevation of well over 4,000 meters (13,000 feet) above sea level, is the loftiest highland area in the world and often known as the "roof of the world."

第一阶梯以青藏高原为主，青藏高原位于西藏自治区和青海省境内，平均海拔在4,000米（13,000英尺）以上，是世界上最高的高原，有“世界屋脊”之称。

- ② There the mountains descend sharply to heights of between 1,800 and 900 meters (6,000 and 3,000 feet), after which basins intermingle with plateaus.

那里的山脉海拔高度迅速下降到1,800至900米（6,000至3,000英尺），接下来盆地和高原交错分布。

- ③ China's climate diversity mirrors that of its topography, ranging from extremely dry desert-like conditions in the northwest to a tropical monsoon climate in the southeast.

中国的气候与地形一样具有多样性，从西北部极其干旱的沙漠气候到东南部热带季风气候，复杂多变。



Exercises 1

Task 1 Short Answer Questions

Directions: Read Text 1 and Text 2 first and then answer the following questions briefly.

1. What is the title of the national anthem of P. R. China?
2. How many administrative divisions are there in P. R. China?

3. Where is China located?
4. Why do major rivers in China generally flow from west to east?
5. What is the world's highest highland?

Task 2 Reading Comprehension

Part A

Directions: In this section, there are 5 incomplete sentences. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in the word bank below. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

hoist	relief	millennia	unveiled	lofty
gripped	plain	inauguration	monsoon	deposits

1. As the river slows down, it _____ a layer of soil.
2. The _____ tower of the City Hall overlooked the whole panorama of the streets and avenues.
3. The city _____ a package of measures to deal with the threat.
4. In his _____ speech, the newly elected president promised to fight corruption and promote social justice.
5. Every summer, tourists flock to the _____ for its abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery.

Part B

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with five statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

A) The vast landmass of China lies in Asia, the world's largest continent, and faces the Pacific, the world's largest ocean, along an extensive shoreline. The country's climate is thus heavily influenced by the seasonal movement of the tropical Pacific air mass and the continental Siberian air mass.

B) The Siberian air mass is extremely cold and dry. Because North China is affected by this air mass most of the time, it is dry with clear weather and an abundance of sunshine during the winter months.

C) As the Siberian air mass spreads southward, the Qinling Mountains become an effective barrier to the advance of the cold waves. Thus, the Huai River-Qinling Mountains line is generally regarded as the geographical dividing line between North China and South China. South of the line, the mean January temperature increases progressively, rising from freezing to 22°C on the southern coast of the Hainan Island. Snow rarely falls and the rivers do not freeze. North of this line, the temperature drops from freezing to -28°C in the Northern part of Heilongjiang.

D) In summer when the tropical Pacific air mass predominates, the frontal zone between the two air masses shifts northward; as a result, North China receives heavier rainfall. When the

southeastern monsoon slackens, however, the frontal zone moves southward, and central China receives more rainfall, which can cause flooding.

E) As the Pacific monsoon gradually loses its moisture on the way to the north, precipitation in China decreased from the southeast to the northwest. Northwest of a line linking the Greater Khingan, Yin, Lang, Qilian, and Altun ranges, the annual precipitation is less than 10 inches (25 cm). Because these regions are far from the sea, high mountains prevent the southern monsoon from reaching them, and only grasslands are found there. In western Inner Mongolia, the Gansu Corridor, and the Tarim Basin, the annual precipitation drops to 4 inches (10 cm) or less. These are areas of true desert, where sometimes not a single drop of moisture is received for several years.

- () 1. The northern parts generally receive less rainfall than the southern ones annually.
- () 2. The tropical Pacific air mass is the chief source of summer rainfall.
- () 3. It is dry in the northwestern part of China.
- () 4. In winter the range of temperatures between North and South China is quite big.
- () 5. The Qinling Mountains prevent the cold air mass from spreading to the south.

Task 3 Translation

Directions: *Translate the following passage from Chinese into English.*

总体而言，中国地势西高东低。西部为青藏高原，位于西藏和青海省境内，平均海拔超过4000米，是世界最高地，号称“世界屋脊”。东部海拔450米以下，是中国最繁荣、人口最稠密的地区。北部地势低平，间或为高山阻断；往南是河流冲积而成的平原；再南部是丘陵地带，沟壑纵横。

Task 4 Writing

Directions: *For this part, you are required to write a composition on the topic of **The National Emblem of the People's Republic of China.***

Section B Listening and Speaking

Text 3 Situational Dialogue: Chinese History

Mark: Guess what I did today!

Li: Called that ... what's her name again... and asked her out?

Mark: Come on, give me a break. I've been to the museum. There's an exhibition of ancient Chinese relics.

Li: Sounds great.

Mark: It's fantastic! They look so elaborate and so Chinese! Each item seems to tell a lot about its time.

Li: Taking you back to hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

Mark: Yeah, exactly. But the problem is I've got totally lost about those names of dynasties. Could you straighten it out for me?

Li: Of course. Xia is the first Chinese dynasty. But nothing much is known about it for lack of archeological evidence.

Mark: Did Xia really exist? Isn't it a legend?

Li: I'm not sure. ① But I believe it once flourished, linking the late Neolithic¹ cultures with the urban civilization of the Shang Dynasty. Shang is the first historically documented dynasty.

Mark: Written on oracle bones²?

Li: Right. Then, the Zhou Dynasty began to emerge in the Yellow River valley, overrunning Shang. This period in China was like ancient Greece, a time of incredible development in thought.

Mark: Any great thinkers?

Li: I'm sure you've heard of Confucius and Lao Tze. And how about *The Art of War*?

Mark: Is it a person's name?

Li: No, it's a book about military laws and tactics of deploying troops. But many sales leaders read it for marketing and negotiation strategies.

Mark: Business is war.

Li: As the power of the Zhou court gradually diminished, the kingdom broke apart into smaller states. Qin was one of them. Its King, Ying Zheng, ended the rivalry among the independent states and established the first centralized, multiethnic (多民族的) state in Chinese history under the Qin Dynasty.

Mark: Wow, he was cool!

Li: He sure was. ② He unified Chinese script, standardized the currency and measures, and built the old Great Wall as well as an extensive network of roads and canals.

Mark: Was he the owner of the terracotta (兵马俑) army?

Li: That's right. Those warriors in his tomb were to guard him in the afterlife.

Mark: Impressive.

Li: The Han Dynasty succeeded Qin as the second imperial dynasty. It witnessed further advances in science and culture. Papermaking technique is a great contribution to human civilization. This period also produced China's most famous historian, Sima Qian. His work *Shiji* provides a detailed chronicle from the time of a legendary Xia emperor to that of the Han emperor Wu Di.

Mark: Was the Silk Road developed in Han?

1 新石器时代始于距今8000年前的人类原始(母系)氏族的繁荣时期。一般认为新石器时代有三个基本特征: 1) 开始制造和使用磨制石器; 2) 发明了陶器; 3) 出现了原始农业、养畜业和手工业。

2 甲骨文是中国的一种古代文字, 被认为是现代汉字的早期形式。甲骨文是商朝(约公元前17世纪—前11世纪)的文化产物, 距今约3600多年的历史。