

这就是美国 I



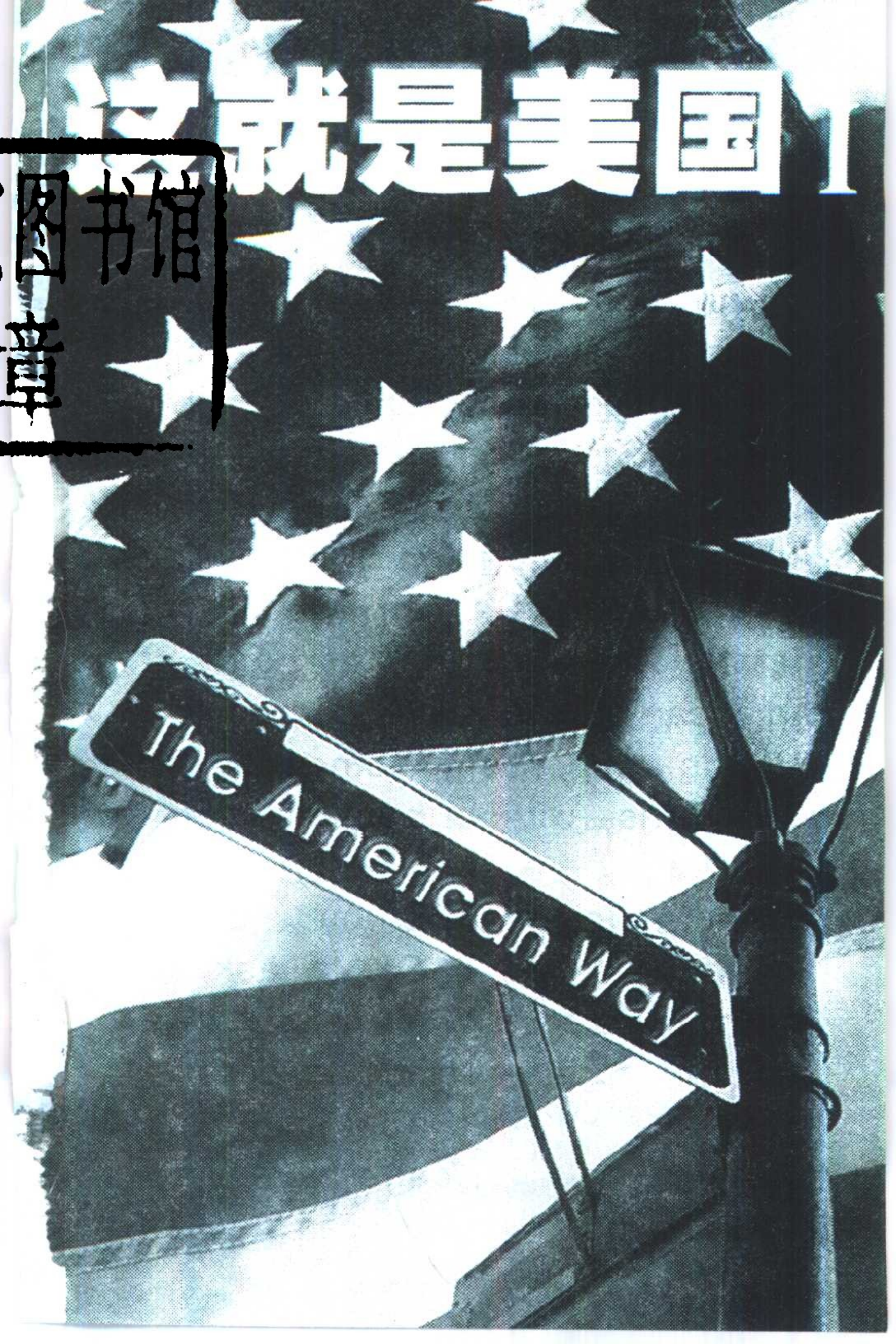
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空中英语教室

Studio Classroom

文化篇

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这就是美国1

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口袋书有声系列

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The American Way



吉林科学技术出版社


American culture means Coca-Cola, Mickey Mouse and McDonald's, right? Well, wait just a minute. These things are part of America's pop culture, but American culture is much more than just soft drinks and movies. Understanding all the ins and outs of American culture will help you make friends and do business with Americans—without a lot of embarrassment.

How much do you know about Americans? Is it OK to ask an American his age? When he says, "We should get together sometime," does he really mean it? Or is he just being friendly? If Americans have ever confused you, "The American Way" is for you. In this first

volume, you' ll learn how Americans relate to each other. You' ll find out how they make friends, fall in love and get married. You' ll discover some of the unique aspects of American family life. And you' ll learn how to talk about these topics in English.

Even if you have no plans to travel or study in the U. S., "The American Way" can broaden your cultural understanding. Then when you meet Americans, you' ll know how to deal with them. So turn the page and discover why Americans do what they do.

Your Friend

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris Brougham". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

Doris Brougham

Friendship 1

美式友谊

Love9

美式爱情

Marriage 17

美式婚姻

Moral Values 25

美式道德

Family 33

美国家庭

Christmas41

美式圣诞节

目录

Pets	49
美国宠物	
Travel	57
美国旅游风尚	
Raising Children	65
美式教养观	
Growing Old	73
美国老年人	
Hospitality	81
美式待客之道	
Home	89
美国人的家	
中文翻译	98

FRIENDSHIP



Steve and Yaser first met in their class at an American university. Yaser was an international student from Jordan. He was excited to get to know an American. He wanted to learn more about American culture. Yaser hoped that he and Steve would become good friends.

At first, Steve seemed very friendly. He always greeted Yaser warmly before class. Sometimes he offered to study with Yaser. He even invited Yaser to eat lunch with him. But after the semester was over, Steve seemed more distant. The two former classmates didn't see each other very much at school. One day Yaser decided to call Steve. Steve didn't seem very interested in talking to him. Yaser was hurt by Steve's change

of attitude. “Steve said we were friends,” Yaser complained. “And I thought friends were friends forever.”

Yaser is a little confused. He is an *outsider* to American culture. He doesn't understand the way Americans view friendship. Americans use the word “friend” in a very general way. They may call both casual *acquaintances* and close *companions* “friends.” Americans have school friends, work friends, sports friends and neighborhood friends. These friendships are based on common interests. When the shared activity ends, the friendship may *fade*. Now Steve and Yaser are no longer classmates. Their “friendship” has changed.

In some cultures friendship means a strong life-long bond between two people. In these cultures friendships develop slowly, since they are built to last. American society is one of *rapid* change. Studies show that one out of five American families moves every year. American friendships develop quickly, and they may change just as quickly.

People from the United States may at first seem friendly. Americans often chat easily with strangers. They exchange information about their families, hobbies and work. They may smile warmly and say, "Have a nice day" or "See you later." Schoolmates may say, "Let's get together sometime." But American friendliness is not always an offer of true friendship.

After an experience like Yaser's, outsiders may consider Americans to be . Learning how Americans view friendship can help non-Americans avoid misunderstandings. It can also help them make friends the American way.

Here are a few tips on making friends with Americans:

1. Visit places Americans enjoy: parties, churches, Western restaurants, parks, sports clubs.
2. Be willing to take the first step. Don't wait for them to approach you. Americans in China may not know you speak English. They may be embarrassed if they can't speak your language.

3. Use *small talk* to open the conversation. Ask them where they're from, why they came to China, etc. Remember: Be careful to avoid personal questions about age, salary, *marital status* and appearance.
4. Show an interest in their culture, their country or their job. (Americans like to talk about themselves!)
5. Invite them to join you for dinner or just for coffee or tea. Try to set a specific time. Americans sometimes make general invitations like "Let's get together sometime." Often this is just a way to be friendly. It is not always a real invitation.
6. Don't expect too much at first. Maybe they're just being friendly. But maybe they do want to be your good friends. It will take time to tell.

People like Yaser shouldn't give up trying to make American friends. Americans do value strong, life-long friendships, even with non-Americans. When making friends, it helps to have a good of cultural understanding.

chemistry(n)	[ˈkɛmɪstri]
化学	
outsider(n)	[aʊtˈsaɪdər]
局外人	
acquaintance(n)	[əˈkwɛntəns]
相识的人	
companion(n)	[kəmˈpænjən]
同伴	
fade(v)	[fed]
消失; 褪色	
rapid(adj)	[ˈræpɪd]
迅速的	
fickle(adj)	[ˈfɪkl]
易变的; 不坚定的	
small talk(n phr)	[ˈsmɔl,tɔk]
闲谈; 聊天	
marital status(n phr)	[ˈmærɪtl ˈstætəs]
婚姻状况	
dose(n)	[dos]
一份; 剂量	

Love



Love

9