

Xenophobe's  
guide to the

# 英国人 ENGLISH

英汉对照

安东尼·迈阿尔 著



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**The  
Xenophobe's Guide to  
The English**

英 国 人

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## 英国人

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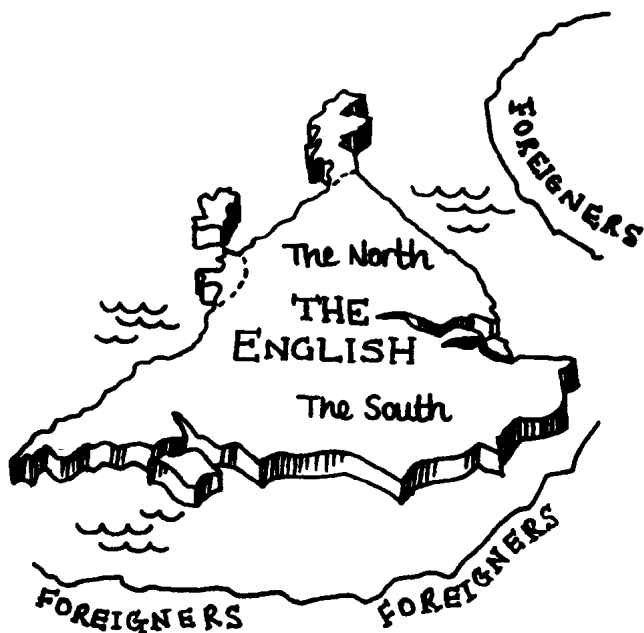
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**'The English have a natural distrust of the unfamiliar and nowhere is this more clearly seen than in their attitude to the geography of their own country.'**

**The English population is 48 million (compared with 5 million Scots, 15 million Dutch, 39 million Spanish, 58 million French, 81 million Germans and 268 million Americans).**

# Nationalism and Identity

## Forewarned

Xenophobia<sup>①</sup>, although a Greek word, has its spiritual home in the English dictionary where it is drily defined as an 'abstract' noun.

This is misleading. It is, in fact, a very 'common' noun – an everyday sort of noun really, with nothing abstract about it at all. For xenophobia is the English national sport – England's most enduring cultural expression. And there is a very good reason for that.

As far as the English are concerned, all of life's greatest problems can be summed up in one word – foreigners.

Nine hundred years ago the last invasion of England was perpetrated by the Normans. They settled, tried to integrate themselves with the indigenous population and failed.

The indigenous population then, as now, displayed an utter contempt for them not merely because they had conquered but more importantly because they had come from abroad.

Even today descendants of those Normans who think to impress with a throw-away remark about

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① Actually the English prefer 'xenolipi' (pity for foreigners) but both words, being foreign in origin, are of limited pertinence in any case.

# 民族性和特性

## 预先警告

Xenophobia<sup>①</sup> 虽说是一个希腊词汇，却在英语词典里找到了它的精神家园，它在词典里被冷面滑稽地定义为一个“抽象”名词。

这是一种误导。这个词实际上是一个非常“普通”的名词——真的是实实在在再具体不过了，没有丝毫抽象的影子。因为 xenophobia 是英格兰人的民族运动——是英格兰最根深蒂固的文化表现。我们这么说自有十分充足的理由。

就英格兰人来说，生活中的所有重大问题都可以用一个词来概括——外国人。

英格兰的最后一批侵略者诺曼人于 900 年前入侵这片土地。他们定居下来，试图与本土人融为一体，结果没有成功。

当时的本土人和现在一样，对侵略者表现出一种彻头彻尾的蔑视，这不仅是因为他们征服了本土，而且更重要的是因为他们来自外国。

就在今天，诺曼人的后裔以为漫不经心地说出自

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① Xenophobia 是对外国人或域外事物的恐惧症。

their families having “come over with the Conqueror” find themselves on the receiving end of the sort of English frost normally reserved for someone who has broken wind in a lift between floors.

The real English deal with them as they dealt with the Romans, the Phoenicians, the Celts, Jutes, Saxons and, more recently, every other nation on earth (especially the French) – with polite but firm disdain.

The whole thing is rather like cricket, the archetypal English game. It lasts all your life and it is apparently more important to play than to win – a sentiment which is more reminiscent of Confucius than Carruthers.

That is what you are up against. It is useless to imagine that you can succeed where so many have failed. But since it is the proudest English boast that they cannot begin to understand foreigners, it would be gratifying to steal a march on them by beginning to understand *them*.

## How They See Others

English views on foreigners are very simple. The further one travels from the capital in any direction, the more outlandish the people become.

When it comes to their neighbours in the British Isles, the English are in absolutely no doubt as to their own innate superiority. This they see as no petty



己家族是“当年与征服者一起过来的”，就能令人刮目相看，却发现英格兰人还以一副极为冷漠的脸色，而这种脸色一般是用来对待电梯里放屁的人的。

真正的英格兰人对待外国人的方式，就像对待罗马人、腓尼基人、凯尔特人、朱特人、撒克逊人和近代对地球上的每个其他民族（尤其是法国人）一样——彬彬有礼，但冷漠倨傲。

整个事情如同典型的英格兰游戏——板球游戏。你整个一生都在玩它，显然更重要的是玩而不是赢——这种情操更像是继承了孔夫子而不是卡鲁特人的遗风。

这就是你所面临的困难处境。这么多人都失败了，幻想唯独你能成功是毫无用处的。但既然英格兰人最爱自夸他们不可能理解外国人，那么我们或许可以通过理解他们而偷偷地抢先一步，这样倒也令人高兴。

### **他们怎样看待别人**

英格兰人对外国人的看法非常简单。离开首都任一方走得越远，那里人的外国气息就越浓。

提到他们对不列颠岛上的那些邻居的态度，英格兰人就坚定不移地毫不怀疑自己天生的优越感。他们认为这不是狭隘的偏见，而是一种科学的结论。在他

prejudice but rather as a scientific observation. The Irish are perceived as being wildly eccentric at best, completely mad at worst. The Welsh are dishonest and the Scots are dour and mean.

However, the Irish, Welsh and Scots should take heart. For most English they are not quite as appalling as their cousins across the Channel. They should also remember that 'foreign-ness' for the English starts to a certain extent at the end of their own street.

The French and the English have been sparring partners for so long that the English have developed a kind of love-hate relationship with them. The English love France. They love its food and wine and thoroughly approve of its climate. There is a subconscious historical belief that the French have no right to be living in France at all, to the extent that thousands of Englishmen try annually to turn the more attractive areas of France into little corners of Surrey.

As to the French people, they are perceived as insincere, unhygienic and given to sexual excess.

With the Germans the English are less equivocal. Germans are megalomaniac, easily-led bullies who have not even the saving grace of culinary skill.

Conveniently forgetting the fact that their own Royal family is of German descent, the English make no pretence at liking the Germans. Confronted with one, they will constantly be reminding themselves 'not to mention the War' whilst secretly wondering

们看来，爱尔兰人从最好的角度说是极端古怪，从最坏的角度说就是疯狂。威尔士人虚伪奸诈，苏格兰人固执而又吝啬。

不过，爱尔兰人、威尔士人和苏格兰人应该增强信心。在大多数英格兰人的心目中，他们还不像他们在海峡对岸的表亲那样骇人听闻。他们还应该记住，对于英格兰人来说，“外国人”的概念从他们自家门口街道尽头的某个范围之外就开始了。

法国人和英格兰人长期以来一直像拳击陪练手一样，以至于英格兰人对他们形成了一种爱恨交织的关系。英格兰人爱法国。他们爱法国的食物、葡萄酒，而且对法国的气候极为满意。他们在潜意识里有一种由来已久的想法，认为法国人根本没有权利住在法国，因此每年都有成千上万的英格兰人试图把法国更为诱人的地区变为萨里郡（在伦敦南部）的边远角落。

至于法国的人民，他们被看成是不真诚、不卫生和纵欲的。

对于德国人，英格兰人的态度就不是这样含糊了。德国人都是狂妄自大、盲目轻信的暴徒，甚至在烹饪技术方面也没有什么可取之处。

英格兰人毫不费力地忘记了自己的皇室家族就是德国后裔，他们从不假装喜欢德国人。当他们和某个德国人正面接触时，他们会不停地提醒自己“不要提及战争”，而私下里又在猜测他或她多大年纪，是否曾

whether he or she is old enough to have fought in it.

For the rest of Europe, as far as the English are concerned, the Italians are hysterical and dishonest; the Spanish, lazy; the Russians, gloomy; and the Scandinavians, Dutch, Belgians and Swiss, dull. Further afield English odium is no less concentrated. Americans and Australians are vulgar, Canadians are boring, and all oriental peoples inscrutable and dangerous.

You will only find this out, of course, by listening at keyholes, for to your face they will always be charming. They appear to be tolerant to a fault. In actuality, they only value foreigners for their backs – which they can use for talking behind.

## **Special Relationships**

The English have a natural distrust of the unfamiliar and nowhere is this more clearly seen than in their attitude to the geography of their own country.

Since time immemorial there has been a North-South divide in England. To the Southerner, civilization ends somewhere around Potters Bar (just north of London). Beyond that point, he believes, the inhabitants are all ruddier in complexion, more hirsute and blunt to the point of rudeness. These traits he generously puts down to the cooler climate.

In the North they frighten their children to sleep with tales of the deviousness of the inhabitants ‘down

参加过打仗。

说到欧洲其他地方，在英格兰人看来，意大利人歇斯底里，不够诚实；西班牙人懒惰；俄罗斯人郁闷；斯堪的纳维亚人、荷兰人、比利时人和瑞士人统统都沉闷无趣。再往远去，英格兰人的憎恨情绪就没有这么强烈了。美国人和澳大利亚人俗不可耐，加拿大人令人乏味，而所有的东方人都是危险的和不可理喻的。

当然啦，你要发现这些只能靠在门外偷听，因为他们当着你的面总是和蔼可亲的。他们似乎很能宽容别人的错误。实际上，他们只尊重外国人的背后——因为在背后可嘀嘀咕咕地议论。

### **特殊关系**

英格兰人对陌生人有一种与生俱来的不信任感，这一点可以从他们对待自己国家地理位置的态度上看得最为明显。

从很久很久以前，英格兰就出现了南北之分。在南部的人看来，文明就在伦敦北面的波特斯巴（Potters Bar）附近戛然而止。他们相信，过了那个地点再往北，居民的肤色普遍更红，而且身体多毛，说话鲁莽，简直到了野蛮粗暴的程度。这些特征，他们一般认为是由于那里气候较冷的缘故。

在北方，人们总是用“南边的”居民狡猾奸诈的故事去吓唬那些不肯睡觉的孩子。他们着重指出南方

South.' They point to their softness, their mucked-about food and their airy-fairness on all matters of real importance. Nevertheless, *any* English man or woman, no matter how soft or hairy, is entitled to special treatment as, to a lesser extent, are the inhabitants of those countries which represent the English conscience – once the Empire, now the shrinking Commonwealth.

## How Others See Them

To outsiders the English are intellectually impenetrable. They express little emotion. They are not so much slow as stationary to anger and the pleasures of life seem to pass them by as they revel in discomfort and self-denial.

Their culinary appreciation is incomprehensible to most, but especially the French, and in their hesitation to be direct or state a view, they are rarely understood.

With an unparalleled sense of historical continuity, they appear to carry on in their own sweet way largely unmoved by developments in the world around them. The unlikely effect of all this is that outsiders have a kind of grudging respect for them. This is partly because they amuse, and partly because they are consistent.

Fascinatingly ghastly they may be, but you know just where you are with them.

人肤色柔软光滑，食物没有章法，对所有至关重要的大事都采取想入非非的幼稚态度。其实，任何一个英格兰男人或女人，不管其皮肤多么光滑或汗毛多么浓密，从较为狭隘的意义上说，都有资格享受特殊待遇，就像那些体现了英格兰意识——曾经是帝国，现沦为联邦——的国家的居民一样。

### **别人怎样看待他们**

在外人看来，英格兰人在智力方面是无法交流的。他们很少表露自己的感情。他们对愤怒与其说是反应迟钝，还不如说是麻木不仁。似乎就在他们沉醉在郁郁不欢和自我克制中的时候，人生的快乐与他们擦肩而过。

他们对烹饪的鉴赏在大多数人看来是无法理解的，尤其法国人更觉得莫名其妙。英格兰人犹豫不决地想要直抒己见或发表一个观点，却很少有人能够听懂。

他们有着无与伦比的历史的连续感，保持着自己那种可爱的风格，一如既往地似乎对周围世界的发展基本上无动于衷。说起来也令人不敢相信，他们这样做的结果却使对外人对他们产生了一种掺杂着妒意的尊敬。这一方面是因为他们逗人发笑，一方面则是因为他们始终如一。

也许他们古怪得令人着迷，但你跟他们在一起的时候心里很踏实。

## **How They See Themselves**

The English don't just believe themselves superior to all other nations. They also believe that all other nations secretly know that they are.

They feel themselves to be natural leaders, the most obvious choice for 'top nation'. Geography reinforces this belief as the inhabitants look out to the sea all around them from the fastness of their 'tight little island'. Nobody would ever question the aptness of the newspaper report: 'Fog in the Channel – Continent cut off.'

With their wealth of experience of 'running the show', as they see it, they are also deeply aware of their responsibilities to others. These they take very seriously, which means that throughout life they act rather like head boys or head girls in school. They see it as their solemn duty to protect the weak, strengthen the faint-hearted and shame bullies into submission. These are their roles in life and they fulfil them, by and large, to their entire satisfaction.

## **How They Would Like to be Seen**

Although it is impossible for the English to appear to care what others think of them, deep down they would like to be loved and appreciated for what they see as the sterling qualities they possess. These qualities, which they bring selflessly to the world forum,



## 他们怎样看待自己

英格兰人不仅认为自己比所有其他民族优越，他们还相信所有其他民族暗地里也对这一点心知肚明。

他们觉得自己天生就是领袖，显然是“最优秀民族”的当选者。当英格兰人从他们安全固定的“紧凑小岛”朝周围的海域放眼远眺时，他们的地理位置更加强了这种信念。决不会有人质疑报纸上的这则报道是否恰当：“雾锁海峡——大陆隔绝”。

在他们自己看来，他们有着“指挥一切”的宝贵经验，同时他们也深深地意识到他们对别人所负的责任。他们义不容辞地担当起这些责任，这意味着他们整个一生的表现都像学校里的领袖生。他们把保护弱者、鼓励胆怯者和使捣蛋分子屈服视为庄严的义务。这些是他们的人生任务，总地来说，他们完成得令自己满意。

## 他们希望别人怎样看待他们

尽管英格兰人不可能表现出很在乎别人怎样看待他们，但在内心深处，他们希望别人会因为——在他们自己看来——他们自身拥有的优秀品质而备受爱戴欣赏。他们大公无私地把优秀品质带到世界的大舞台