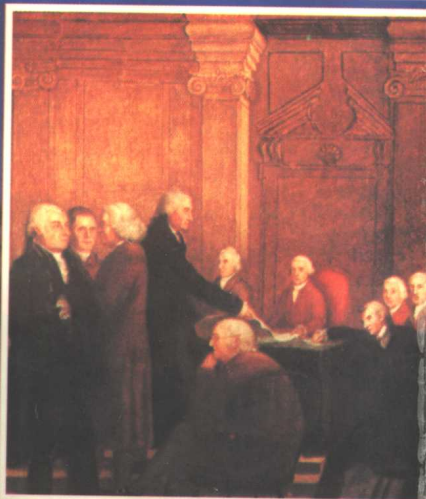
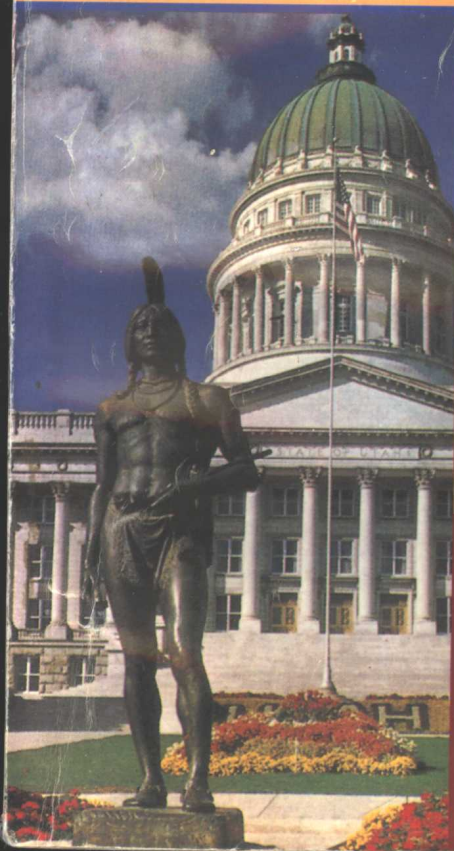


Highlights of the History of the United States

美国 历史 纵横

孙靖 编译

英汉对照美国风情丛书

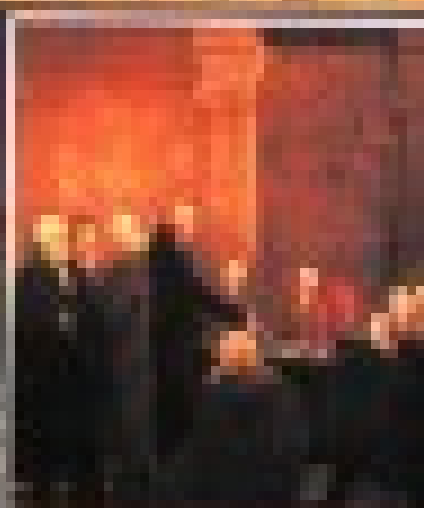


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英汉对照美国风情丛书

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孙 靖 编译

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内 容 提 要

本书是《美国风情系列丛书》中的一种，采用英汉对照形式编译而成。全书对美国历史进程中一些有重大影响的事件和人物作了广泛生动的介绍，从中可以了解美国诞生的过程、首届政府的产生、解放奴隶的艰辛、珍珠港事件的原委、越南战争的前前后后以及水门事件的内幕等等；还可以重睹美国一些著名人物的风采。全书选材精当、译文准确流畅，是了解美国历史进程的理想读物，也可作为学习英语的辅助读物，适合于具有中等英语程度的广大英语爱好者。

前 言

美国是个高度多样化的国家,自然地貌千差万别,民族和文化类型多种多样,经济生活五光十色。早在几万年前,印第安人便已居住在南部和密西西比河流域,直到16世纪初,欧洲殖民者才开始涌入。1776年7月4日,第二次“大陆会议”正式通过了“独立宣言”,标志着美国的诞生。本书撷取了美国历史进程中一些有重大影响的事件和人物,采用英汉对照的形式,介绍了美国人对美国历史的看法和评价。这些看法和评价,当然会受介绍者自身的地位、立场、世界观等方面的影响。编者不可能要求介绍者对美国历史事件的看法与我们完全一致。对此,相信读者会有自己的分析和理解。本书主要供英语学习之用,读者通过阅读本书,可加深对美国社会和历史的了解,在获得知识的同时,提高自己的英语阅读水平。

编者

1996.9

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英语原文

1. The Oldest Citizens of North America

The vast and rich lands of the North and South American Continents were not uninhabited before Columbus' time. The earlier residents, people who had been there for thousands of years, were people Columbus mistakenly called "Indians". He, of course, thought he had landed in the Indies of the Far East. To this day, the oldest citizens of the New World are still referred to as "Indians" or sometimes, to distinguish them from the people of India, as "American Indians."

The ancestors of all the American Indians once lived in Siberia. Thousands of years ago some of the Siberian tribespeople began to cross over to Alaska on a natural causeway that then connected the Asian and North American continents. These migrants were probably looking for new hunting grounds or for refuge from pursuing enemies, The crossings, a few people at a time, went on for centuries, then ceased when the land bridge disappeared. Generation after generation the descen-

dants of the arrivals from Asia moved southward and spread out. Their numbers greatly increased. By 1492 there were probably a million people living in North America north of Mexico, about 3 million in Mexico and Central America, and perhaps as many as 20 million in South America.

The Stone Age forebears of these people brought little with them from Asia. But over the centuries the first Americans developed a wide range of living patterns. When the Europeans arrived, there existed in America a great variety of languages and ways of life. Indian cultures ranged from the simple to the complex, from those of primitive hunting tribes to those of elaborately organized empires with civilizations superior in some respects to those of contemporary Europe. If, after landing in northeastern North America about the year 1000, the Norsemen had managed to make their way to Central America, they would have been amazed at what they saw. At a time when Norway itself was still a fairly crude, wild country, here were well-cultivated fields and bustling cities with beautifully carved stone pyramids and temples. These were some of the accomplishments of the Mayas, who also had accurate astronomical tables, a well-developed numbering system, and a kind of hieroglyphic writing.

Certainly the Spaniards were impressed when, in the sixteenth century, they came upon the Aztec empire in Mexico and the Inca empire centering in Peru. (By this time Mayan civilization had greatly declined.) Here, too, were remarkable stone buildings, great treasures of gold and silver, and finely made works of art. The Spaniards were horrified, however, by Aztec and Inca religious beliefs and practices, which they considered heathenish and which, in the case of the Aztecs, included human sacrifices. Both of the empires had resulted from military conquest, and both remained military despotisms. The Spaniards quickly conquered them. Though the conquerors were few, they had the advantage of guns, horses, and steel armor.

Between the tenth and sixteenth centuries, the Indians had not advanced their technologies as fast and far as the Europeans had. Even the most highly civilized of the Indians lagged a long way behind in the development of tools and machines. They lacked draft animals such as horses and oxen. As of 1492, none of the peoples anywhere in America were using wheeled vehicles or machines.

The Indians whom the early English colonists encountered along the Atlantic coast of North America were quite widely scattered. Altogether, those in the area to be occupied by the thirteen

colonies numbered no more than 150,000-less than the population of the single small city of Springfield, Massachusetts, today. They spoke different languages, most of which belonged to one or another of three linguistic stocks. The largest group of tribes, as classified by language type, was the Algonkian. Speakers of Algonkian language were located in various places from Canada south to Virginia. Next in numbers were those speaking an Iroquoian tongue, who centered in New York and formed a wedge between the northern and southern Algonkians. The Iroquois included the "five nations" (Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk), and also, far to the south, the Cherokees and the Tuscaroras. Still farther south lived the tribes of the third largest language group, the Muskogean.

Most of the eastern woodland Indians carried on a rather simple form of agriculture. They made clearings by cutting into trees to kill them and by setting fires in the forest. Among the dead and blackened trunks they planted pumpkins, squash, beans, and corn-crops they had learned of indirectly from the Indians of Central America. A tribe abandoned its clearing and made a new one when the yields fell, or when the accumulated filth of the village became too deep to endure. As a rule, the

tribe supplemented its farming by gathering wild fruits and by hunting wild game. It also made its own baskets, pottery, stone tools, bows and arrows, and other such items. Trade with neighboring tribes brought in additional goods and also raw materials such as seashells, soapstone, copper, and gems.

The Indians of the eastern woodlands didn't develop a political organization comparable with that of the Aztecs or the Incas. The nearest thing to it was the Iroquois League, the Five Nations. Each member tribe sent chiefs to represent it on a confederation council, over which a great chief, or sachem, presided. Other tribes had their own separate and rudimentary governments, often including chieftains of several related bands, one of whom acted as head chief. Intertribal wars were frequent. The Iroquois were especially warlike. During the seventeenth century, after obtaining guns from the Dutch, they succeeded in conquering and collecting tribute from, or else driving off, most of the neighboring Indians.

The divisions and rivalries among the Indians weakened them when it came to resisting the advance of the Europeans. One tribe was tempted to cultivate the friendship of the whites as allies against another tribe, or against other whites. Nev-