

美国国务院国际信息局 编

杨俊峰 译

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OUTLINE OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY



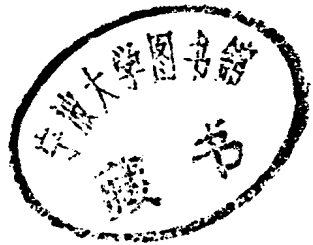
美国地理概况

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杨俊峰 王宗文 董妍妍 车文娇 译
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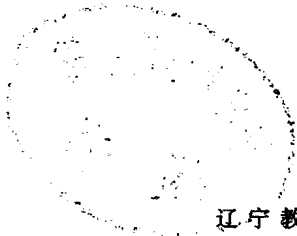
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The United States stretches across the central portion of North America from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. Its territory also includes the states of Alaska, in the northwest corner of North America, and Hawaii, in the mid-Pacific Ocean.

美利坚合众国位于北美大陆中部，东濒大西洋，西临太平洋，领土还包括位于美洲大陆西北角上的阿拉斯加州和太平洋中部的夏威夷州。



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THEMES
AND
REGIONS

CHAPTER

1

This book is about the geography of the United States. And although we look at the country's physical geography, our central interest is not landforms, climate, soils, or vegetation but the human imprint on the landscape.

This does not mean that the physical environment is ignored. In fact, in some instances it holds a central role since the physical environment often plays a significant role in the pattern of people's activities. One factor in the importance of

New York City is certainly its location on one of the world's finest natural harbors. Southern Florida's long growing season and mild winters enable it to be a leader in the production of oranges, lemons, and sugarcane.

Still, Florida's mild climate does not automatically mean that it will be a supplier of oranges, and New York City's harbor is only one of many important reasons for the city's growth. The physical environment helps define human opportunities, but it does not in itself determine human activities. In general, the more advanced the level of technology, the greater the leeway a population has in dealing with the land.

It is obviously impossible to cover all the material that might fit into a geography of the United States. We have therefore chosen to divide the country into a number of areas, each of which has a special identity developed out of several interacting elements. We use these elements to form the themes around which each regional chapter is organized.

BASIC THEMES

A few general cultural patterns cut across regional and political boundaries and, in many cases, ignore major differences in the physical environment. These themes characterize the ways Americans have organized their country.

Urbanization: Millions of Americans, most of them urbanites, prefer to consider their country as a basically rural



这是一本讲述美国地理的书。我们虽然纵览这个国家的自然地理，但兴趣所在并不是地形、气候、土壤或植被，而是人类在大地上留下的痕迹。

这并不意味着我们不重视自然环境，事实上，在某些情况下，自然环境仍然起主要作用，因为自然环境经常对人类活动方式产生重大影响。纽约市之所以重要，一个因素就在于它有世界上最好的天然海港之一。佛罗里达南部之所以能成为橘子、柠檬和甘蔗的最大产地，是因为这里有较长的生长季节和温和的冬季。

不过，佛罗里达温和的气候并不意味着它理当成为橘子的产地，纽约市得天独厚的海港也仅仅是城市发展的众多重要原因之一。自然环境有助于决定人类机会的多少，但是它本身并不能决定人类的活动。一般来说，技术水平越先进，人们治理土地的余地就越大。

本书显然不可能囊括关于美国地理的所有材料，因此，我们选择将整个国家分成若干区域来讲述的方式。每个区域都有其独特的地方，这种独特性又是由若干个相互影响的因素构成的。我们运用这些因素来组织主题，围绕这些主题安排有关每个区域的章节。

基本主题

一些大的文化模式打破了区域和行政界限，在很多情况下，也忽视了自然环境的主要差异。这些主题是美国人民组成国家的特点。

城市化:许许多多的美国人——大部分是城市居民——更喜欢

place, and they seem to believe that this rurality provides the country with a basic national vigor.

There is no longer much justification for this view of rural dominance. About 70 percent of Americans live in urban areas, and more than 40 percent are in areas of 1 million people or more. In 1990, the U.S. farm population numbered about 5 million (2 percent of the population), a figure that has declined steadily since the first national census in 1790, when over 90 percent of all Americans were farmers.

Several elements of urbanization are emphasized in our discussion. Cities have a particular form, a particular layout. Most American cities have a rectangular-grid pattern, partly a result of cultural attitudes, partly a result of a desire for efficient transport before the automobile, and partly because that pattern is an easy way to survey the land. Within cities, there is a collection of industrial and commercial centers, residential areas, warehouses, and so on.

Cities exist for many different reasons. They may have an important transportation role. Or they may provide an important administrative function. Perhaps they are a center of recreation or manufacturing. Most cities, certainly all large ones, contain many different urban functions. Nevertheless, many are characterized by certain dominant functions that were the reason for their development and much of their early growth, and that today continue to give them their special character.

The pattern of continuing and often rapid urban growth in the United States during the last 100 years, coupled with the increasing mobility of the urban population, has stimulated a great sprawling pattern of urbanization. In some areas, the result of urban spread is urban coalescence, with the edges of different urban areas meeting and blending.

Industrialization: A substantial part of U.S. employment is related to manufacturing, either directly or indirectly. Most cities were founded and experienced their major periods of growth when manufacturing was the primary factor in urban growth.

Today, there is substantial regional specialization in manufacturing, partly as the result of variations in the availability

把他们的国家看做是个田园般的地方，他们似乎认为这种乡村气息为整个国家提供了基本的民族活力。

现在的事实证明这种乡村优势的观点有很多方面已不再符合实际情况。大约70%的美国人住在城市区域，40%以上的人居住在人口达100万或100万以上的城市。1990年，美国农业人口约为500万（占总人口的2%），而在1790年第一次全国人口普查时，90%以上的美国人是农民，自那以后，这一数字一直在稳步下降。

我们的讨论将强调有哪些因素推动了美国城市化。城市有其特有的形状、特有的布局。美国大多数城市都呈长方网格状。这部分取决于文化形态，部分取决于在汽车发明之前，人们希望这种布局能提高交通运输效率，部分取决于这种布局便利土地的勘测。市区内分布了工业区和商业区、居住区和仓库等。

城市的存在有许多不同的原因，它们或者位于交通要冲，或者发挥重要的行政职能，或者成为娱乐和生产中心。大多数城市，当然包括所有大城市，都拥有各种不同的都市功能。然而，许多城市都以某种占主导地位的功能而著称，这些功能也是促进它们早期成长和稳步发展的原因。如今，这些功能仍然是这些城市最具特色的地方。

在最近的100年中，美国城市持续不断地快速发展，加之城市人口的大量流动，刺激了城市向四周无序扩展。在一些地区，城市扩展导致城市合并，城区与城区的边缘搭在一起，难辨你我。

工业化:美国的大部分职业都直接或间接地与制造业有关。大多数城市都是在制造业成为城市发展的主要因素时建立和发展的。

如今，制造业已呈现明显的区域专业化局面，其部分原因在于在当地可获得的工业原料，部分原因在于当地的产业链，还有

of industrial raw materials and partly as the result of industrial linkages; manufacturing concerns that produce component parts of some final product are located near each other as well as near the final assembly site to minimize total movement costs.

Other important sources of variation include differences in labor availability or labor skills, in the quality of transportation facilities, and in local political attitudes. Regions tend to specialize in the production of whatever it is that they can best produce. And with this regional specialization has come regional interdependence; few sections of America are truly self-sufficient in manufacturing, in spite of what local pride might lead us to believe.

High Mobility: America's extensive transportation network is an important element in its high level of economic interaction. Goods and people move freely within and between regions of the country. Regional interdependence is great; it is made possible by these interregional flows. Relative isolation is uncommon, but it does exist.

Nearly 20 percent of all Americans change their residence in any one year. Although much of this residential migration is local in nature, it does result in substantial interregional population movement.

Until the last decade of the 19th century, there was a strong westward population shift toward frontier agricultural lands. The focus of opportunity then changed and migration shifted to urban areas. More recently, the U.S. economy has entered what some call a postindustrial phase; employment growth is primarily in professions and services rather than primary (extractive) or secondary (manufacturing) sectors. Such employment is much more flexible in its location, and there has been a more rapid growth in such employment in areas that appear to contain greater amenities.

Resources: About 25 percent of the land in row crops in the United States produces exports. Also, the country is able to satisfy much of its gigantic demand for industrial raw materials domestically. The United States has the potential to be a major supplier for a few nonagricultural raw materials internationally and is the world's leading exporter of coal.

制造某种最终产品的零部件的生产企业彼此邻近，同时又邻近最终装配地，从而降低了运输总成本。

其他重要的原因包括劳动力的数量或劳动技能、运输设备质量以及当地政府的态度等诸方面的差异。各地区因地制宜生产最适合它们生产的产品。地区间的相互依存伴随着这种区域性的生产专门化而产生；美国几乎没有哪个地区可以在制造业方面真正自给自足，尽管当地人的骄傲可能会误导我们相信它们有这个能力。

高度流动性:美国庞大的运输系统是其高水平经济交互作用的重要组成部分。人口和货物在地区内和地区之间自由流动。各地区间的相互依存度很高；地区间的流动使地区间的相互依存成为可能。相对的孤立是罕见的，但也确实存在。

将近20%的美国人每年都更换住所。虽然这些迁移很多发生在本乡本土，但它确实导致了大量的地区间人口流动。

直到19世纪的最后10年，人口的迁移还始终朝向西部边疆农业地区。后来，时移势易，迁移转向城市地区。最近，美国经济进入所谓的“后工业阶段”；就业增长主要集中于需要专门知识的职业及服务行业，而不是第一产业（开采）或第二产业（制造业）。这样的就业在地点上更加灵活，在一些生活福利设施更为便利的地区，就业增长更为迅速。

资源:在美国，行栽作物用地的大约25%用于生产出口物资。同时，美国能够满足国内对工业原材料的巨大需求。美国有潜力成为国际上若干非农业原材料的主要供应国，也是世界上主要的煤炭出口国。

Although the U.S. population is predominantly urban, the extraction of natural resources from its abundant base requires a large nonurban labor force. Furthermore, particularly for agriculture, the development of these resources often involves a substantial land area. As a result, the relationship between the physical environment and human adaptations to that environment are clearly visible. Government plays an important role in this relationship by establishing controls on land use and agricultural production and by regulating the development of many resources. It is partly because processes inherent in urbanization and industrialization lead to high demand for raw materials that the United States has become dependent on imported raw materials in spite of great natural resource abundance.

High Income and High Consumption: The high U.S. national income is achieved through high worker productivity, which requires a significant use of machines. And modern machines are fueled by inanimate energy sources. Mobility also implies heavy use of energy resources. High income spread somewhat evenly among a large share of the population will generate high product demand. All this increases energy consumption.

Americans consume about 25 percent of the world's total energy production. The United States imports half the petroleum it consumes, an increasing share of the iron ore and natural gas used, nearly all of its tin and aluminum, and large quantities of many other mineral ores.

High income also affects diet. Americans eat far more meat products and have a substantially more varied diet than most of the world's population. Beef and dairy production are, therefore, especially important in the agricultural economy.

Environmental Impact: One consequence of high consumption combined with resource abundance and dependence is a strong disruption of the physical environment. Resources seldom can be removed from the natural landscape without some impact, and the manufacture and use of these resources often harm the air and water. The increased severity of such environmental impacts has enlivened the argument between development and conservation—an argument that has stimulated

虽然美国人口主要是城市人口,但是开采储藏丰富的自然资源,需要大量非城市劳动力。此外,这些资源的开发,尤其就农业而言,经常需要占用大量的土地。结果,自然环境与人类对环境适应性之间的关系就显而易见了。政府通过对土地使用和农业生产的控制,以及对许多资源开发的管理,在这种关系中起着重要的作用。在某种程度上,由于城市化和工业化进程必然导致对原材料的大量需求,美国尽管拥有丰富的自然资源,但仍不得不依赖于进口原材料。

高收入与高消耗:美国高水平的国民收入是通过工人生产的高效率实现的,高水平的生产效率则需要大量地使用机器。现代机器靠无生命能源来提供燃料。人口流动也需要耗费大量的能源资源。人口的相当一部分均匀地享有高收入,因而商品需求也随之高涨。所有这一切都增加了能源消耗。

美国人消耗的能源占全世界生产的总能源的25%左右。美国消耗的石油,50%依靠进口,越来越多的被消耗的铁矿石和天然气、几乎全部的锡和铝,以及其他许多矿石都是大量进口的。

高收入也影响饮食。美国人吃的肉制品比世界上大部分人口都多,吃的花样也比其他国家多。因此,牛肉和乳制品在农业经济中特别重要。

对环境的影响:资源丰富和对资源的依赖导致大量消耗资源的后果之一是对自然环境的极大破坏。只要从大地上开采自然资源,就会对大自然造成某种程度的破坏,况且开采和使用这些资源还经常污染空气和水。如此日益严峻的环境破坏引起了开发自然与保护自然之间的争论,也促使政府加大对双方活动的干预,以便形成中间立场。随着国内资源的日益减少及开采和生产成本的增加,这一冲突也必将更加引人注目。

greater governmental intervention in both processes in an attempt to establish a middle ground. As domestic resources become increasingly scarce and their costs of extraction and production increase, the importance of this conflict will grow.

Political Complexity: The United States has a complex political structure, with jurisdiction over an activity or state divided among many different decision-making bodies, some elected and some appointed.

Below the state level, the complexity of the political structure can present a major problem in the effective and efficient distribution of governmental services. Counties, townships, cities, and towns are all governed by their own elected officials. Many special administrative units oversee the provision of specific services, such as education, public transportation, and water supply. The resulting administrative pattern is often nearly impossible to comprehend, because many overlapping jurisdictions may provide one service or another in a given area.

Cultural Origins: The United States has grown from a diverse cultural background. African Americans have made important contributions to the national culture. A distinctive cultural region has developed in the Southwest, with an admixture of Hispanic Americans, American Indians, and European Americans. The Chinese contributed to the life of such cities as San Francisco and New York. This cultural diversity is an important element in the distinctive character of the country.

REGIONS

Geographers use regions as a neat system of categorization, a way of organizing a complex set of facts about places into a more compact, meaningful set of information. As with any categorization, the regions are satisfactory if they identify understandable patterns in the facts and if they help clarify the complex patterns.

To geographers, a region can be either nodal or uniform, single featured or multifeatured. A nodal region is characterized by a set of places connected to another place by lines of communication or movement. The places in the set are associated

政治复杂性:美国的政治结构非常复杂,一项活动或州的管辖权被分散到多个不同的决策机构,这些机构有些是选举产生的,有些是任命的。

在州之下,政治结构的复杂性有可能妨碍政府对其所提供的服务进行有效分配。县、镇、市都由它们自己选举产生的官员管理。对于那些提供特殊服务的部门,如教育、公共交通以及供水,则由许多专门的行政单位监督管理。由此形成的这种管理模式经常让人无法理解,因为很多相互重叠的管辖权可能在一个特定的地区提供一种或另一种服务。

文化起源:美国是一个在多元文化背景下成长起来的国家,美国黑人对民族文化做出过重要贡献。一个独特的文化地区在西南部发展起来,其中混杂着拉丁美洲人、美洲印第安人和欧美混血儿。中国人也为诸如旧金山、纽约这样的城市的发展做出了贡献。这种文化的多元性是使这个国家与众不同的重要因素。

区域

地理学家使用区域这个概念作为一种简明的划分方法,这样可以将有关一个地方的大量事实组织成一组更加简洁、更加有意义的信息。无论如何划分,只要能给人们提供容易理解的信息,只要能够帮助人们将那些复杂的模式讲解清楚,这种区域的划分就是令人满意的。

对于地理学家来说,区域既可能是结点性的,又可能是统一的,既可能只有单一的特征,又可能有多重的特征。结点性区域就是一组地区与另一个地区通过通讯或交通线路联系起来。这组地区彼此相连,因为它们有一个共同的焦点,即使一个地区可能

with each other because they share a common focus, even though each place may be quite different from the others.

In comparison, a uniform region is a territory with one or more features present throughout and absent or unimportant elsewhere. A uniform region may represent some characterization of the total environment of an area, including both its physical and cultural features. It is this type of region that we use for the general structure of this book.

Our perception of the nature of a region, of the things that together shape its personality, is based on a relatively small group of criteria. In each major section of the United States, we have tried to identify the one or two underlying themes that reflect ways in which the population has interacted (within itself or with the physical environment) to create a distinctive region. The most important identifying themes for a region may vary greatly from one region to another. It is impossible to speak of the American Southwest without a focus on aridity and water erosion, of the North without its cold winters, or of the Northeast without cities and manufacturing. The key element that establishes a total uniform region, then, is not how that section compares with others on a predetermined set of variables, but how a certain set of conditions blend there.

This scheme has resulted in our division of the United States into 14 regions (map 1), each of which is discussed in its own chapter. These are: Megalopolis, the American Manufacturing Core, the Bypassed East, Appalachia and the Ozarks, the Deep South, the Southern Coastlands, the Agricultural Core, the Great Plains and Prairies, the Empty Interior, the Southwest Border Area, California, the North Pacific Coast, the Northlands, and Hawaii.

Within this book, regions have been presented largely as though they are distinct territorially, even though they are not. The “feeling” of a region we wish to present is a function of place, but it is also a function of the subject theme chosen. Therefore, for example, the intense urban character of Megalopolis is discussed in chapter 4, but the aspects of manufacturing that affect New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and other manufacturing core cities that comprise Megalopolis are