

英美概况

赵春荣 主编 刘延 副主编

INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH
AND AMERICAN CULTURE



北京语言大学出版社
BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
UNIVERSITY PRESS



新航标 全国高职高专、电大及成人英语系列教材



英美概况

主 编：赵春荣

副主编：刘 延

编 者：邓长胜 武丽娜 聂 丹

李 欣 李晓贺 容华丽

INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN CULTURE



北京语言大学出版社

BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英美概况/赵春荣主编; 邓长胜等编. —北京: 北京语言大学出版社, 2009. 8

ISBN 978-7-5619-2328-3

I. 英… II. ①赵…②邓… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校: 技术学校—教材②英国—概况—英文③美国—概况—英文 IV. H319.4; K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2009) 第 131031 号

书 名: 英美概况
责任印制: 陈 辉

出版发行: 北京语言大学出版社
社 址: 北京市海淀区学院路 15 号 邮政编码: 100083
网 址: www.blcup.com
电 话: 发行部 82303648/3591/3651
编辑部 82303223
读者服务部 82303653/3908
网上订购电话 82303668
客户服务信箱 service@blcup.net
印 刷: 北京画中国画印刷有限公司
经 销: 全国新华书店

版 次: 2009 年 8 月第 1 版 2009 年 8 月第 1 次印刷
开 本: 787 毫米×1092 毫米 1/16 **印张:** 17.5
字 数: 385 千字
书 号: ISBN 978-7-5619-2328-3 / H. 09074
定 价: 29.80 元

凡有印装质量问题本社负责调换, 电话: 82303590

前言

国内外英语教育专家一致认为：要想学好英语，必须了解英语国家历史背景、地理概貌、政治制度、价值观念、教育体系等方面的基本知识，因为语言与文化息息相关，语言是文化的载体。

若问学习者对“英语国家概况”教材的感受如何？学习者通常会用信息量大、难度大来形容。因此，秉着“实用为主，够用为度”的原则，我们希望能够编写一本简明而实用的教材，在帮助学习者轻松、愉悦地掌握英美文化知识的同时，也能够掌握英语的阅读方法。根据我国英语教学的实际状况和学习者的学习特点，本书以全新的视角，深入浅出地介绍了英美两国的历史、地理、政治、宗教、教育、娱乐生活以及文学等主要方面。

教材特点

根据多年的教研经验，我们发现英美概况教材仅靠简单的文字描述，很难吸引学习者的兴趣，提高学习者的学习能力。与国内现有的英美概况教材相比，本书具有以下亮点：

1. 注重英语语言能力培养，将英语阅读策略融入教学活动设计中。“授之以鱼，不如授之以渔。”通过教材渗透式活动设计，培养学习者的阅读策略，从而提高终身学习的能力。

2. 语言难度适中，重点突出，简明扼要，脉络清晰。教材尽量避免使用生僻词汇，编写思路清晰，既能帮助学习者合理地分配学习时间，又能直击学习目标，高效地掌握知识要点。

3. 选材新，时代感强，图片丰富。教材选材涵盖 2009 年的最新信息，辅以大量图片，从而激发学习者的兴趣，增强学习者的理解力。

4. 多种渠道、立体式的教学支持服务。教材中的课文参考译文、注释和配套网络资源的电子教案、考试题库，为教师与学生提供了集教学与自学为一体的全方位的支持服务。

5. 以比较的写作方法，对英国和美国文化进行对比。这种编写方法有利于改变学习者机械地记忆知识点的习惯，引导学习者运用比较的方法学习英美文化，加深理解。

适用对象

本教材既可以作为高职高专院校英语专业的必修课教材，同时，也适用于成人院校

英语专业的学习者和英美文化爱好者。由于本教材尽量避免使用生僻词汇和复杂的句法结构，具备高中以上的基础语法知识、英语词汇量在 3000 以上的学习者均可使用。

教学建议

本教材共分为 7 章，每章内容中包括了英国和美国两个部分，建议选用以下两种教学组织方案之一：

方案一：适用于全日制学习者，每周学习 3~4 学时，两周学习一章，一学期 14~16 周完成课程学习。

方案二：适用于成人业余学习者，每周学习 3~4 学时，每学期 8 周课时，两个学期学完课程。第一学期学习前四章，两周学习一章；第二学期学习后三章，考虑“文学”一章对学习有一定难度，可用两周完成该章学习。学期末，教师可以用两周时间组织学习者参加实践活动，如：英美文化展、文化知识演讲、跨文化调查、英美文化知识竞赛，等等。

另外，教材中每一章节的活动设计思路及作用如下：

活动	内容	作用/使用建议
Proverb 谚语	一句简洁的英语谚语	引入本章话题
Learning Focus 学习要点	每章的重点概念	考试中的重点概念
Before You Read 读前活动	热身问题 (Warm-up)	通过浏览图片和小标题，让学生思考问题。教师可以安排学生在学习课文前反思，也可以在课堂上组织全体同学参加讨论
After You Read 读后活动	阅读策略、词汇学习策略和归纳总结活动，如：根据上下文猜测词义 (Guessing the Meaning of Words from Context/Word Detective)、根据单词的词缀猜测单词 (Learning Words from Affixes)、归纳信息 (Transferring Information)、寻找具体信息 (Scanning for specific Information/Complete a Timeline)、连线 (Matching) 以及影片推荐 (Movies to See) 等	教师可以选取一些活动让学生课前完成，另外一些在课堂上做，要引导学生掌握学习策略
Focus on Testing 测试练习	判断正误 (Comprehension Quiz)、填空 (Scanning for Specific Information)、选择 (Recalling Information) 和名词解释 (Learning Some Common Terms)	题目由易到难，一方面能够帮助学生掌握与考试相关的具体信息，另一方面，也能够方便任课教师组织测试

另外，课文中用黑体标示的单词配有词汇练习，用醒目的字体标示便于学习者更快捷地寻找相关词汇，掌握词汇学习策略。课文后“词汇浏览 (Vocabulary)”中的单词排列顺序与其在文中出现的顺序一致，也是为了便于学习者查找。

教材编写队伍

教材编写队伍由具有丰富教研经验的教师组成，具体分工如下：赵春荣负责制定教材的编写纲要以及体例、全书的统稿、修改和审改，并编写第1章和第3章；刘延负责编写第2章以及本书的整体设计；李欣负责编写第4章，远在美国攻读博士的李晓贺老师提供了部分最新资料；武丽娜负责编写第5章；聂丹负责编写第6章；邓长胜负责编写第7章。同时，负责各个章节编写的教师还提供相应章节的电子教案、试题库以及网络课程。

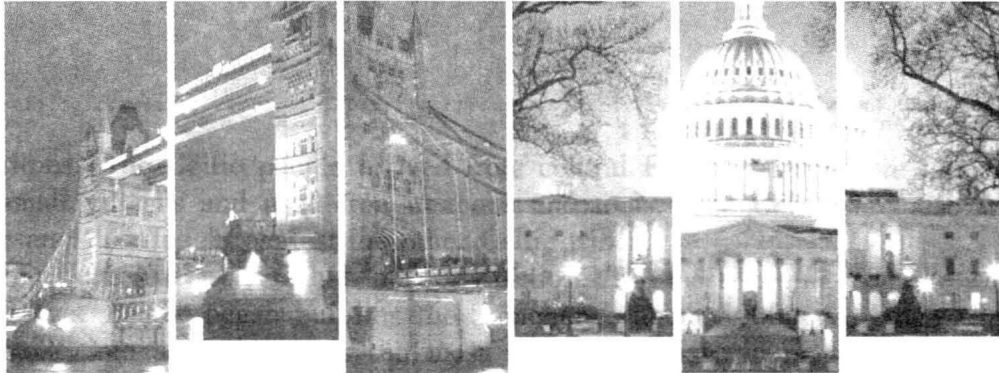
本书在编写过程中得到了教育部高等学校高职高专英语类专业教学指导委员会主任刘黛琳教授的悉心指导。她不仅不辞辛苦地审阅本书，并且提出了具体的修改意见。另外，美国专家 Timothy Arthur Sietman 也严格地审阅了英文部分，并做了校订，确保了本书内容的准确性和语言表达的自然流畅。本教材在编写过程中参考引用了一些国内外文献及网络资料，得到了2007年北京市优秀人才项目的资助。谨此一并表示深深的感谢。

将英语阅读策略训练融入《英美概况》教材编写，同时兼顾英美概况课程的知识性和趣味性，对我们来说是一项创新性的工作。由于编者经验不足，本书难免存在纰漏和错误，欢迎各位专家同仁及广大读者提出批评和建议，以期再版时予以修正。

赵春荣
2009年6月

Table of Contents

	Chapter 1 History	1
Part One	History of Britain	2
	The Beginning of Britain/2	
	Feudal Britain/6	
	The Beginning of the Modern World/8	
	Britain in the Two World Wars/11	
Part Two	History of the United States	18
	Colonization of North America/18	
	The Birth of the United States of America/22	
	The American Civil War/25	
	The United States in the Two World Wars/27	
	Chapter 2 Geography	33
Part One	The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	34
	The Land/34	
	Main Cities and Tourist Attractions/38	
Part Two	The United States of America	47
	The Land/47	
	Main Cities and Tourist Attractions/50	
	Chapter 3 Politics	60
Part One	Political System of the United Kingdom	61
	The Government/61	
	British Parties/67	



Chapter 1 History

History repeats itself.

历史总是重演。

Learning Focus

Part One

History of Britain

- Roman Invasion
- King Arthur
- Norman Conquest
- The Hundred Years' War
- Charles I and the Civil War

Part Two

History of the United States

- Columbus and the New World
 - American Indians
 - The Mayflower
 - The War of Independence
 - The American Civil War
-

Part One History of Britain

BEFORE YOU READ



Robin Hood

Warm-up

Before you read, preview the chapter by looking at the pictures and reading the headings. Think about the following questions.

1. Where did the British people come from?

2. Do you know any famous historical places or people in Britain?

3. Who are the most famous kings or queens in Britain's history?

The Beginning of Britain

Compared with America, Britain has a fairly long history. Since it is really hard to introduce every event and its detail of Britain's history, the following is a brief glimpse of Britain's history about the beginning of Britain, the most famous **historical** events and the monarchs of Britain.

The Early Settlers (...-55 B.C.)

Thousands of years ago, Great Britain was covered with ice. About 15,000 years ago, the weather became warmer. The ice melted and the sea level rose. Great Britain became an island about 8,000 years ago.

The tall and golden-haired Celts are the natives of Britain, who were later called



Stonehenge



the Britons. The Celtic people arrived from central Europe. They were farmers who built small villages and used iron weapons and tools. The Celts were also **warlike** people and they fought against the other Celtic tribes.

The Celts had created their own civilization. The most shining example was their Stonehenge. People began building the Stonehenge about 5,000 years ago, dragging each stone into a circle. It is the most famous **prehistoric** monument and tourist attraction in Britain today. The Celtic language also contributed some names of places, such as the River Thames and London.

Roman Britain (55 B.C. -410 A.D.)



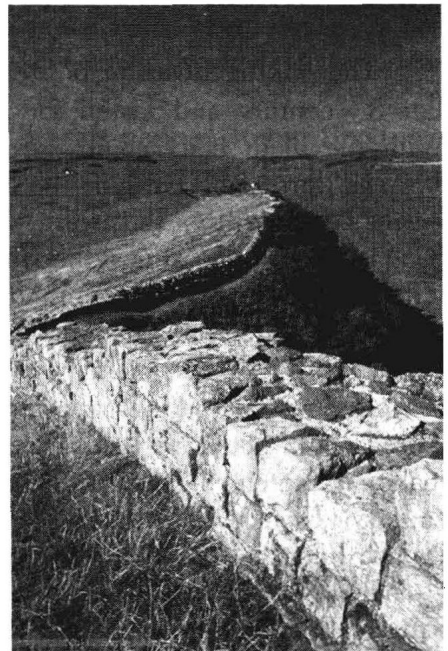
"All roads lead to Rome."

Do you know where the old saying "All roads lead to Rome" came from? Do you know that the calendar we use today was started by the Roman **Emperor** Julius Caesar? To understand these, we have to learn what the Roman **invasion** has brought to Britain. Early British history is a history of invasion. In 55 B.C. and 54 B.C. the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar invaded Britain twice. Almost 100 years later, in 43 A.D. Roman Emperor Claudius invaded England again. Subsequently, Britain remained part of the Roman Empire until 410 A.D. That is almost 400 years. The Romans drove many of the native Celts to mountainous Scotland and Wales. Around 410 A.D., when the Romans'

homes in Italy were being attacked by other fierce tribes, the Roman soldiers left to defend their home country.

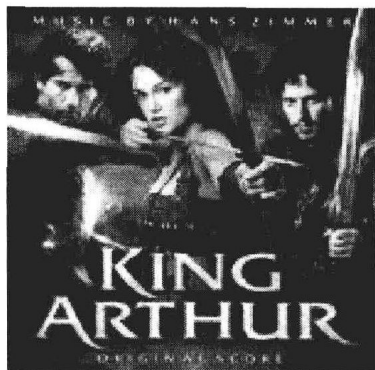
The Romans brought their Roman civilization along. The names of English months came from the names of Roman gods and rulers. The month "July", in fact, is named after Julius Caesar himself. In addition to that, the Romans had built towns, temples, theaters and roads. All of the major centers are still linked today by the system of Roman military roads radiating from the port of London. Roman's extraordinary achievement in building roads may help you understand the old saying "All roads lead to Rome."

Additionally, Hadrian's Wall, like the Great Wall in China, is called England's great wall, and was built by the Romans 2,000 years ago. It allowed the Roman soldiers to control the movements of people coming into or leaving Roman Britain. It was so well built that you can still see parts of it today.



Hadrian's Wall

Anglo-Saxon Britain (410-871)



King Arthur

When the Roman army had left Britain about A.D. 410, there was no strong army to defend Britain, and again, the island of Britain came under threat from outside. The Angle, Saxon, and Jute tribes who invaded Britain in the 5th and 6th centuries are known as the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons left their homelands in northern Germany and Denmark and crossed the North Sea in wooden boats. They liked the land and the climate much better than their own frozen north, so they decided to stay. By the end of the 5th century, the Anglo-Saxons ruled most of Britain.

One of the best-known English legends, King Arthur, derives from this time. According to legend, in the 5th century King Arthur united the British Isles with his famous “round table” knights and drove the Saxons back with his magical sword. The story of King Arthur has often been made into films by filmmakers and praised by singers, poets and novelists ever since, in spite of the fact that it has not been fully proven by **historians**.

Interestingly, although King Arthur now tends to be regarded as a hero of the British, actually Arthur was fighting against the **forefathers** of the English, the Anglo-Saxons. From them comes the names of “**England**” and “English”; “England” came from “Angle-land”, meaning the land of the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons’ language was called Old English.

Viking Britain (871-1042)

The Viking invasion of Britain began in the late 8th century and lasted for about 300 years. With the main body coming from Denmark, the Vikings were also known as the **Norsemen**, which means “people from the North”. Like the Anglo-Saxons, they came across the North Sea, attacked villages and towns, made their home here and drove the Saxons out of part of the country. The Saxon king Alfred fought against the Vikings bravely, but the Vikings were so strong that King Alfred could not drive them right away and had to make an agreement and let them have part of the country. From 1017 to 1041 England was ruled by Danish kings.

In 1042 the Anglo-Saxon, Edward, became King of England. As a faithful Christian, he built Westminster Abbey, which still exists today, just

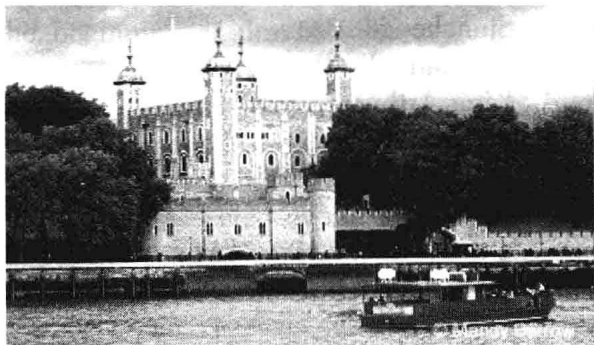


Westminster Abbey



to the west of Westminster Palace. Westminster Abbey is one of the oldest buildings in London, is England's most visited religious site, and is often regarded as a living monument to British history. Since then, almost all English kings have been crowned in Westminster Abbey and many kings and queens and famous people were buried there.

Norman Conquest (1066)



Tower of London

The Norman Conquest of 1066 is perhaps the best-known event in English history. After King Edward died, Duke William of Normandy, from northern France, declared Edward had promised to let him become the king. On October 14, 1066, William and his army invaded England and defeated the English army. He was made king and crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066. William is often

referred to as William the **Conqueror** in English history and this invasion is called Norman Conquest.

The next 300 years may be thought of as a time of Norman nobles ruling a largely Saxon population. One of the most striking results of the conquest was naturally to be seen in the language. The Norman French replaced English as the language of the ruling upper classes while English became a lower-class language.

During William's reign, he built many castles, among which the most famous one is the Tower of London. For over 900 years, the Tower of London has been standing guard over the capital. As a royal palace, fortress and prison, and jewel house, it has **witnessed** many great events in Britain's history and became a world-famous visitor attraction.

England's best-loved legend of Robin Hood is set in this period. Robin Hood is a **heroic** Saxon nobleman oppressed by the Normans. With a longbow, he hid in the secret wood near Sherwood with his band of followers, called "merry men", robbing from the rich to give to the poor. Robin Hood's story is in many aspects similar to the Chinese classic literature *Shuihu Zhuan*, translated into *Outlaw of the Marshes*. Robin Hood has been a popular subject of numerous films, television series, books, comics and plays, both in Britain and in America. The period of Middle English began soon after 1066.

AFTER YOU READ

Matching

Based on what you read, match the items in column B with the most appropriate one in column A.

Column A

- 1. The Celts
- 2. The Romans
- 3. The Anglo-Saxons
- 4. The Vikings
- 5. The Normans

Column B

- a. Robin Hood
- b. Stonehenge
- c. Hadrian's Wall
- d. King Arthur
- e. Westminster Abbey

Transferring Information

Complete the table below based on the information given in the text. Some of the items have been done for you.

Invasion Time	Invaders
43 A.D.	The _____
_____ century	The Angles and Saxons
8 th century	
	The Normans

Word Detective

Play detective and find the following words in the article, using your scanning skills.

- 1. Julius Caesar and Claudius are two Roman _____.
- 2. A noun meaning “entering a country with an army to control it” starting with i: _____
- 3. A noun meaning “Angle-land”, the land of the Anglo-Saxons: _____
- 4. “Norsemen” means people from the _____.
- 5. A verb meaning “experience or see” starting with w: _____

Feudal Britain

The Norman Conquest was the last invasion of England by foreigners and it marked the establishment of feudalism in England. However, several important **historical** events, which took place in the 14th and 15th centuries, shook the



foundation of the feudal society. Among them were the Hundred Years' War and the Wars of the Roses.

The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453)

The term "Hundred Years' War" was a later historical term invented by **historians** to describe a series of wars fought between England and France. At the beginning of the 14th century, England developed into a stronger state in Europe. Consequently, the rich wanted to control more markets and the nobles wanted to **regain** their lost land. When King Edward III of England claimed that he should become the French king, it was rejected by the French, so he declared war on France in 1337. The war lasted intermittently for 116 years, hence being known as the Hundred Years' War.



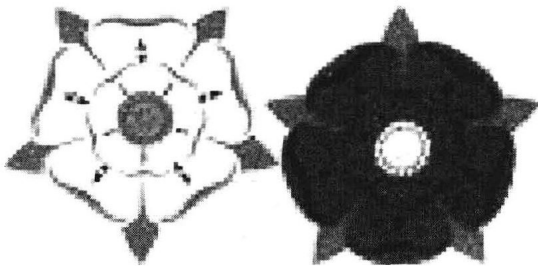
Joan of Arc

In the early stage of the war, the English won great victories. When the French peasants came in under the famous peasant girl Joan of Arc, French won a number of victories. Joan of Arc claimed to have direct inspiration from God at an early age and was regarded as a national French **heroine** in the Hundred Years' War.

The Hundred Years' War brought unexpected benefits for the English people. After losing their territory on the Continent, the ruling Normans began to regard England as their home and themselves as belonging to the English nation. By the end of the 14th century, the English was **reestablished** as the official language.

The Wars of the Roses (1455-1485)

Two years after the ending of the Hundred Years' War with France, England was thrown into another civil war, the Wars of the Roses.



Badges of the Roses

The Wars of the Roses were a series of civil wars between supporters of the rival houses of Lancaster and York. The war got such a name because the badge of the House of Lancaster was a red rose and that of York was a white one. In 1455 the Duke of York tried to displace the Lancaster king, Henry VI, and the Wars of the Roses broke out. Both houses fought for power,

wealth and the throne.

The war lasted 30 years and ended in 1485 with Henry Tudor, as Henry VII, founding the Tudor Monarchy. It is generally believed that the Wars of the Roses greatly weakened the feudal noble class and marking the beginning of modern world history.

AFTER YOU READ

Expanding Your Vocabulary: Learning Words through Their Suffixes and Prefixes

Becoming familiar with suffixes and prefixes can help you remember the meaning of some English words.

- al, -ic, -like — of, like, or suitable for
- ian, -ine, -or — to change into a person
- pre-, fore- — before

Can you guess the meaning of the following adjectives (derivatives) from the meanings of their roots and prefixes and suffixes?

Roots	Derivatives	Meanings
1. history	historical	_____
	prehistoric	_____
	historian	_____
2. hero	heroic	_____
	heroine	_____
3. conquest	conqueror	_____
4. war	warlike	_____
5. father	forefather	_____

The Beginning of the Modern World

From the 16th century to the 20th century, British history was marked by rapid growth of capitalism. During this period, the houses which ruled the country are shown in the following table:

Ruling Houses	Ruling Period
House of Tudor	1485-1603
House of Stuart	1603-1649
House of Stuart (restored)	1660-1714
House of Hanover	1714-1910

There are four monarchs among the most well-known figures during this period: Henry VIII and his daughter Elizabeth I from the Tudor House, Charles I from the



House of Stuart, and Queen Victoria from the House of Hanover.

Henry VIII (1509-1547)

The Tudor was a Welsh-English family, descendant of the House of Lancaster, which ruled England for 118 eventful years. It had two of the strongest monarchs in British history: Henry VIII and his daughter Elizabeth I.

Henry VIII was eager to have a son to rule after him, but his wife only gave birth to daughters, so Henry wanted to divorce and take a new wife. At that time, most people belonged to the Catholic Church, which was headed by the Pope, in Rome. Henry VIII asked the Pope for permission to divorce, but was refused. Henry VIII became very angry and decided to establish his own church, the Church of England. Henry passed a law in 1534, which allowed him to divorce his wife and led to the formation of the Church of England. This movement was known as the **Religious Reformation**.



Henry VIII

In total Henry VIII married six times. As the famous English saying goes “Two beheaded, two divorced, one died and one survived.” So technically Henry was responsible for three of his wives’ deaths. By the end of his life everyone was afraid of him, mainly because of his **ruthless** behaviour toward anyone who didn’t agree with him. In spite of his trouble with his six wives, his courage and political wisdom left England strong and free to make her way in a new world.

Elizabeth I (1553-1603)

Elizabeth I, the last Tudor monarch, came to the throne at the age of 25. Elizabeth was very well-educated and was fluent in six languages. Elizabeth’s 45-year rule is generally remembered as the Golden Age of British history. Socially and culturally, the Elizabeth’s period saw many changes. Under her rule, the English navy defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588, which associated her name forever with what is popularly viewed as one of the greatest victories in British history. Britain developed into one of the leading European colonial powers, with the first settlers sent to America to open the way for a great colonial empire. Elizabeth’s reign is also known as the Elizabethan era, famous above all for the **flourishing** of English drama, with William Shakespeare writing his great works of drama and poetry.



Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I was the younger daughter born to Henry VIII and his second wife. She did not have a happy or stable childhood for her mother was beheaded when she was two and a half years old. Henry's third wife was kind to her but she died when Elizabeth was six years old. Elizabeth never got married in her life. So she was also known as the "Virgin Queen", a name which suggested a selfless woman who **sacrificed** personal happiness for the nation, to which she was "married". Under the Tudors, Britain started changing into a modern country.

Charles I (1625-1649)



Charles I

The Stuarts had been Kings of Scotland since the 14th century. When Elizabeth I died childless, James I became king of both Scotland and England uniting the two kingdoms. During the Stuarts' ruling from 1603 to 1714, the most significant event is the Civil War started by King Charles I.

Charles I came to the throne in 1625. He believed in the old theory "Divine Right of Kings", which held that the king's power came directly from God, not from the people. In 1629 Charles I **dismissed** Parliament and managed to rule the country for 11 years. It was only when Charles needed an army to fight against Scotland that he was forced to **recall** Parliament in 1640. Parliament saw no reason why they should give money to a king who did not represent their interests so refused to cooperate with Charles I.

The Civil War (1642-1649)

In January 1642 Charles I burst into the Houses of Parliament with 400 soldiers to arrest the five leading members of the Parliament. The Civil War broke out between the Roundheads (supporters of Parliament) and the Cavaliers (supporters of the King). The Civil War ended with the Parliamentary victory and it led to the execution of Charles I, and his son Charles II was driven out of the country in 1649. In addition to that, Oliver Cromwell, the leader of the Roundheads, formed republican England, known as the Commonwealth of England, and English monarchy was **abolished**.

However, the Commonwealth only had a short life from 1649 to 1660. Charles II was invited back to the throne and the Stuart monarchy was **restored** on May 29th, 1660. This incident was known as the Restoration of the Stuart and put an end to the Commonwealth of England.

Queen Victoria (1837-1901)

In 1714 the British throne was passed to a German family, the Hanoverians, which ruled Germany, the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland. Victoria, the last monarch of the House of Hanover, became Queen at the age of 18