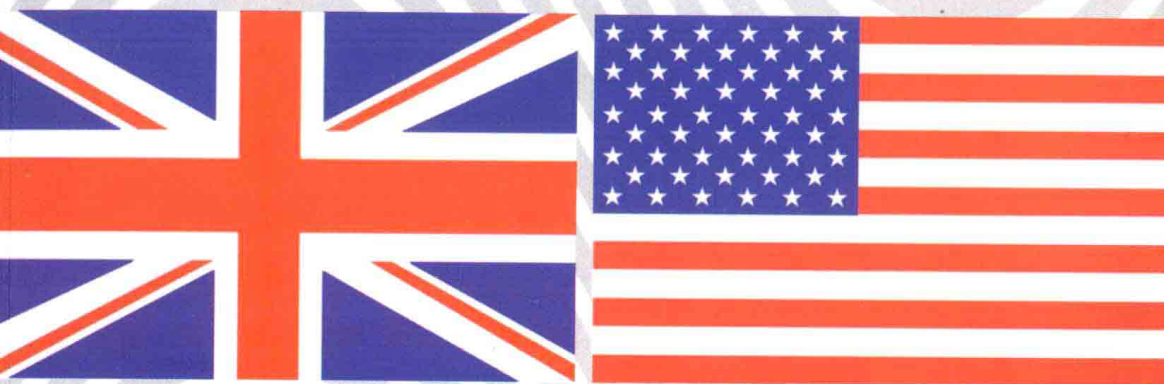


高等学校教材

张奎武/主编

SURVEY OF BRITAIN & AMERICA



英美概况

第四版

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吉林科学技术出版社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英美概况/张奎武主编. —4版.

—长春: 吉林科学技术出版社, 2008. 5

ISBN 978-7-5384-0137-0

I. 英… II. 张… III. ①英语—高等学校—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 (2008) 第 065319 号

责任编辑: 张瑛琳 装帧设计: 吴文阁

英美概况 (第四版) 上下

张奎武 主编

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吉林科学技术出版社出版发行

吉林省吉新月历制版印刷有限公司印刷

*

880×1230 毫米 32 开本 25 印张 725 000 字

2008 年 5 月第 4 版 2009 年 3 月第 33 次印刷

每套定价: 38.00 元

ISBN 978-7-5384-0137-0

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如有印装质量问题, 可寄本社退换

社址 长春市人民大街 4646 号 邮编 130021

发行电话、传真 (0431) 85635177 85651628 85651759 85677817

编辑部电话 (0431) 85635183

网址 [www. jlstp. com](http://www.jlstp.com)

实名 吉林科学技术出版社

第四版前言

《英美概况》自 1988 年出版以来，先后做了多次修订和补充。2000 年在修订完第三版时，我曾下决心，那是最后一次修订。时光荏苒，不觉七年又过去了。2007 年春，吉林科学技术出版社总编辑张瑛琳先生（本书责任编辑）向我提议，对本书再做一次修订，以满足教学和广大读者的需要。当时我虽然感到有些力不从心，还是满口应承下来。因为几十年的教学生涯培养了我一种信念：作为教师，凡是学生需要的，我都会尽力满足；作为编者，凡是读者需要的，我也要尽最大努力去满足。虽然年近古稀，我还要尽一点绵薄之力，这也是一种快乐。夕阳无限好，漫天洒余辉。带着这种心情，经过半年多的努力，在《英美概况》已出版发行了 20 年的 2008 年的春天，《英美概况》第四版又与广大读者见面了。

第四版做了比较大的删节、补充和修订。补充、修订的主要内容是：

1. 英美两国的人口、经济指标等，删去 20 世纪 90 年代的统计数字，采用了 21 世纪的最新统计资料。

2. 历史部分，删节了某些过细的历史事件的描述；对第二次世界大战后的历史阐述做了重新整合，使这段历史的脉络更加清晰；增加了英美两国 21 世纪的内容，阐述了 2001 年至 2007 年间的经济发展和重大历史事件。

3. 补充了英美两国文化、科技、教育、艺术等方面的新内容，如：好莱坞、奥斯卡奖；艺术家，影视、体育明星；美国“长青藤大学”，英国牛津、剑桥大学，诺贝尔奖和最新科技成果奖。

4. 尽量使教材跟上时代的步伐，增添最新的内容。如，在英国概况中，增添了 2007 年 10 月刚刚获得诺贝尔文学奖的英国作家多丽丝·莱辛（Doris Lessing）的内容。

5. 其它内容也做了适当的增删。

6. 为适应新的教学手段,专门为《英美概况》第四版制作了教学课件。

我相信,第四版《英美概况》会受到广大读者的欢迎和喜爱。同时,我也对20年来广大读者给予我的厚爱和支持以及吉林科学技术出版社的鼎力相助,表示诚挚的谢意。

参加本书1988年编写的有张奎武、隋铭才、谢江巍、符延军;1994年第二版由张奎武修订;参加2000年第三版修订的有张奎武、庄晓明、沈燕;2008年第四版由张奎武修订。

张奎武

2008年1月20日于长春

第一版前言

学习外语的学生应该了解所学语言的国家的地理、历史、政治、文化、社会习俗以及该国人民的思想、态度和生活方式。然而多年来,外语教学却很少重视这些文化背景知识,致使念了三四年英语专业的学生尚不知“John Bull”为何物,岂不贻笑大方?有些人把学习语言和学习知识对立起来,殊不知语言水平是“综合知识的汇集”。无论是攻读英美文学,还是阅读英美报刊,语言并不是唯一的困难,缺乏背景知识倒常常是一大障碍。况且中国与西方世界在政治、历史、文化诸方面有相当大的差别,一个中国学生在理解西方文化时将会遇到何等的困难是可以想象得到的。基于这种认识,我们在5年前就开设了英美概况课。可是,当时找不到一本合适的教材,我们只好给学生编写一些零零星星的材料,以解燃眉之急。后来,我们把这些材料收集起来,进行整理、加工、补充,使之更具有系统性,于是就编出了这套《英美概况》教材。现在,又做了新的补充和修订,正式出版,希望它能成为学生开阔视野、扩大知识面的益友。

在编写过程中,我们参照了高等师范院校《英语专业英美概况教学大纲》,并对《大纲》内容做了适当的调整和补充,使这套教材内容更丰富,更具有广泛的适应性。在编写过程中还注意到以下几条原则:

1. 以事实为基础,介绍有关背景知识,对重要事件、人物等以马克思主义观点进行扼要的分析和评论。
2. 尽可能多地收入对英语学习有益的背景知识,并保证教学大纲所规定的重点。
3. 英文力求浅显易懂,便于阅读。
4. 编写中文提要,编制表格和附录,为读者提供自学方便,使之“无师自通”。

本书分上、下两册,上册是《英国概况》,下册是《美国概况》。每册

分五编:地理、历史、文化、社会生活、政治制度与政党。每编之首有中文提要,简要介绍本编的主要内容。每编分若干章,每章末尾有习题,习题分回答问题和解释名词两种。中文提要与习题所涉及的内容是读者应掌握的重点。书后有附录。

在本书编写过程中,我们曾得到外籍专家道格拉斯·克雷(Douglas Clay)先生和大卫·富尔顿(David Fulton)先生的支持和帮助,他们为本书的英文做了较详细的修订工作,吉林大学外语系陈林华副教授和杨廉著老师为本书提出许多宝贵意见并做了详细的修订工作,在此一并致谢。

本书涉及的内容较广,编者水平有限,挂一漏万自不待言,谬误或不妥之处也一定不少,恳切希望广大专家、读者不吝指教。

编 者
1987 年 10 月

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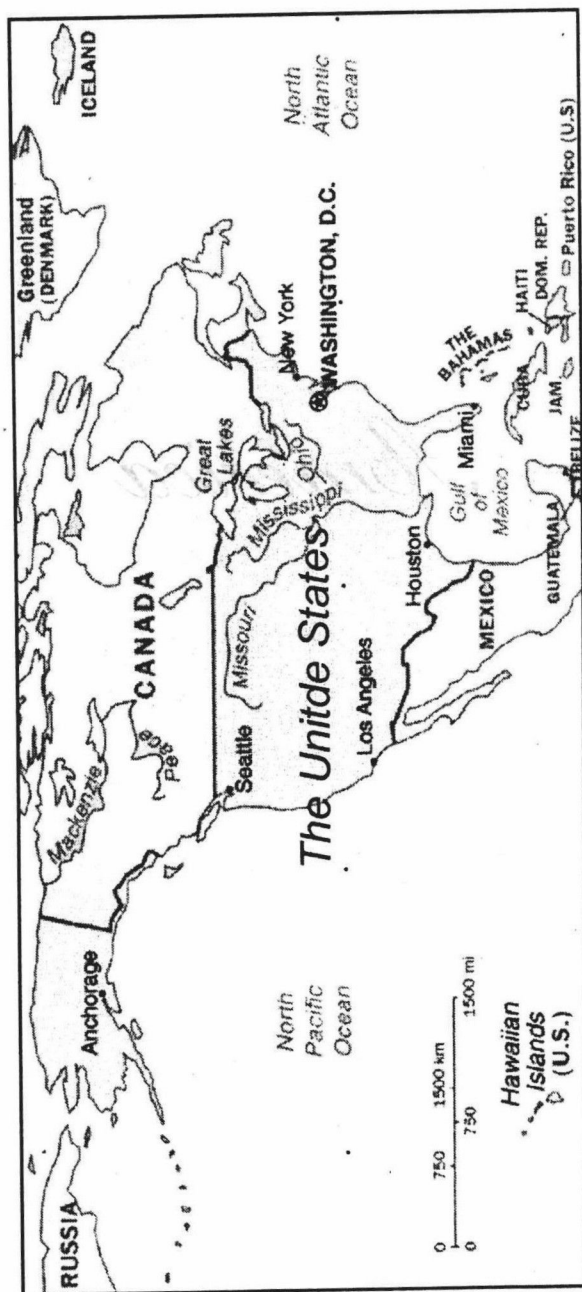
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America



PART ONE GEOGRAPHY

内 容 提 要

美国是一个幅员辽阔,地理条件比较复杂的国家。在这一编里,我们只是简略地介绍一下美国地理的一般情况。

第一章扼要地介绍了美国大陆本土的自然地理轮廓。美国大陆自东向西形成三大自然区域——东部的阿巴拉契亚山地,中间的中部大平原和西部的科迪勒拉山系。这种自然环境构成了两侧高、中间低的地形特征。在这三大区域内分布着三大水系——大西洋水系、墨西哥湾水系和太平洋水系。重要的河流有密西西比河、哈得孙河、特拉华河、哥伦比亚河及科罗拉多河等。在美国东北部有世界最大的淡水湖群——五大湖和世界著名的尼亚加拉大瀑布。北美最大的咸水湖——大盐湖位于美国西部的犹他州。这一章还简要地介绍了美国大陆的气候类型和各个区域的气候特点,并谈到了美国丰富的矿物、森林和水力资源以及美国国土形成的历史。

第二章简单介绍了美国人口的构成和分布情况。美国总人口约三亿零一百七十六万四千(2007),其中白种人占百分之八十以上,黑人约占百分之十一.六,余为其他少数民族,包括印第安人、墨西哥人、波多黎各人、中国人、日本人及菲律宾人等。美国人口的分布很不均匀,将近半数人口居住在两大洋沿岸地区、五大湖地区和墨西哥湾沿岸地区。

第三章介绍了构成美国全部国土的八大区域——新英格兰地区、大西洋中部地区、南部地区、中西部地区、大平原地区、西部地区、阿拉斯加地区与夏威夷地区。我们在本章内简述了各区的地理位置、自然

特点、经济特点及该区内的一个重要城市,如大西洋中部地区所属六州被看做是美国的经济中心和工业心脏,纽约市为美国的最大海港城市等。

第四章概要介绍了美国经济的发展。美国独立战争和内战为美国的资本主义发展扫清了道路。20 世纪初美国经济进入了垄断阶段。在两次世界大战中美国获得了巨大利益。在经济发展中,美国政府起着重要作用。由于美国农业机械化程度高,又采用先进的科学方法,农业发展很迅速。主要农产品有玉米,产量占世界总产量的一半;大米出口量占世界第二位。棉花、小麦等也是美国农业的重要产品。美国工业在 20 世纪处于领先地位。核工业、电子工业、飞机制造业发展迅猛。1975 年以 900 美元起家的微软公司,到 1994 年已有 9000 亿美元的资产。进入 90 年代以后,美国更加注意发展计算机和信息产业。1997 年美国进入了经济连续发展的第七个年头。

最后一章介绍了美国若干重要城市,并简述了各个城市的历史、地理位置、经济特点、风景名胜以及它们在美国人民生活中的作用。这些城市包括首都华盛顿,东北部的纽约、芝加哥、费城、底特律、波士顿、匹兹堡、圣路易斯,西部地区的洛杉矶与旧金山,南部地区的休斯敦。

Chapter I A General Introduction to Physical Geography

The United States is situated in the central part of North America with its two youngest states — Alaska in the northwestern part of North America and Hawaii in the central Pacific. The country is bounded by Canada on the north and by Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico on the south with the Atlantic Ocean on the east and Pacific Ocean on the west. The total area of the country is 9 372 614 square kilometers. The total population is about 301 764 000(2007). The whole country includes 50 states and a federal district, the District of Columbia, which is the seat of the Federal Government.

1. Three Geographical Divisions

The United States can be divided into three parts according to its geographical features: the eastern part, the western part, and the great central plain in between.

(1) The eastern part is made up of the highlands formed by the Appalachian Range. It holds one sixth of the national territory on the continent. These highlands are relatively low. The average altitude is only 800 meters above sea level. The range begins from north Maine and reaches to central Alabama, covering a distance of 1200 miles. The average width of the upland belt is not more than 300 miles. Three components make up this upland belt, the Piedmont Plateau in the east, the Appalachian Plateaus in the west and the Appalachian Range in the middle.

In the east of the upland belt lies the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which

begins south of New York City, includes southward the entire peninsula of Florida, and merges with the wide Gulf Plain. The Atlantic Coastal Plain is bounded on the west by the "Fall Line" creating the passage to the Piedmont lying beyond, where the rivers are marked by water-falls and rapids.

(2) The western part consists of high plateaus and mountains formed by the Great Cordillera Range, extending from Canada through the western part of the United States to Mexico and further south. From west to east, this mountain system is composed of the Coast Range, the Cascades and the Rocky Mountains. The whole area of this part holds one third of the country's territory on the continent.

The Rocky Mountains reach from the Canadian border in Montana and Idaho, through Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, into New Mexico having an average altitude of more than 3000 meters above sea level. The worldknown Yellowstone National Park is located in the northwestern part of Wyoming. It is the oldest national park in the world and the largest wildlife preserve in the United States. It covers 2 219 785 acres. Established in 1872, the park got its name from the yellow rocks lining the Yellowstone River section north of it. Yellowstone has thousands of hot springs and over 200 geysers (hot springs that shoot steam and boiling water into the air). Old Faithful is the most famous geyser in the park, erupting more than 100 feet in the air about every 73 minutes.

In the west of the Rocky Mountains lie two plateaus: the Colorado Plateaus in the south along the Colorado River and the Columbia Plateau in the north, bearing the name of the Columbia River which runs through the plateau.

The Colorado Plateaus are threaded by many deep valleys or canyons among which the best known is Colorado Valley, also called Grand Canyon, in northern Arizona. It is one of the great natural wonders of the world. It measures about 277 miles long, up to 18 miles

wide, and more than a mile deep. The walls of the Grand Canyon show layers that tell the story of the formation of the earth. Visitors can hike or ride mules down to the Colorado River at the bottom of the canyon where the Havasupai Indians have lived for hundreds of years.

Between the two plateaus lies the Great Basin, including the whole of Nevada, a small section of Oregon and the southeastern part of California. It is the driest part of the country. Along the border between Oregon and Idaho is Hells Canyon, the deepest chasm in North America. The powerful Snake River has carved out depths of up to 2408 meters here. Much of southeastern California is desert. The Sierra Nevada, in eastern California, is the highest mountain range in the continental United States. Beautiful waterfalls and steep mountains in Yosemite National Park offer spectacular views. Farther north along the coastline are forests of beautiful redwoods. These trees grow to heights of 91 meters and are the tallest living things on earth.

Along the Pacific Coast Line is the Pacific Mountain System which contains two major chains of mountains. The first chain includes the Cascade Range in Oregon and Washington, lower and broader, stretching southward until it reaches the Sierra Nevada, which is high and deep. Along the Pacific border is the second chain, which includes the California Coast Range, the Oregon Coast Range, etc.

Between the two chains of mountains lies the broad and rich valley, the valley of California which is 450 miles long and 50 miles wide. In eastern California lies Death Valley, 85 meters below sea level. It is the lowest point in the whole of North America.

(3) Between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians lies the central plain which occupies one second of America's landmass on the continent. It stretches from the Great Lakes in the north to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. Drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries, it

slopes towards the east where it merges with the Atlantic Coast Plain.

The western part of the central plain is also called the "Great Plains." This region stretches from central Texas to the Canadian border with 1200 miles in length and 300 miles in width. The eastern part of the central plain is the central lowlands, which are the most important agricultural area in the United States. The Gulf Plains are a vast area of lowland, including all of Mississippi and Louisiana, the greater part of Florida, Alabama and Texas; and lesser areas in western Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Great Plains is also a treeless plateau that gently rises from the central lowlands to the foothills of the Rocky Mts. The Black Hills of South Dakota form the region's only upland area which is opened up for tourism with two memorials—Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial, located in Black Hills, attracts more than 20 000 tourists daily during the summer. There, carved on the face of the mountain and visible for 60 miles are the enormous (18.3 meters high) heads of four U. S. presidents—Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. The sculpture was designed by Gutzon Borglum, who had even more ambitious plans for the site. These were abandoned when he died (1941), and the work was finished later that year by his son Lincoln. In all, it took 14 years to complete the figures.

Another memorial is Crazy Horse Memorial. Crazy Horse Memorial, home of the world's largest mountain sculpture in progress, is in the Black Hills of South Dakota, just 17 miles southwest of Mount Rushmore. It is a huge project that is said to be completed in almost one hundred years. Now only the head of Crazy Horse is completed and the long arm and the horse head are still under carving. When it is completed, the 563-foot-high mountain carving-in-the-round will dominate the horizon. Sculptor Korczak

Ziolkowski began the project in 1948 at the request of Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear and other Native American elders. Sculptor Korczak was determined to honor the Indian hero Crazy Horse by designing Crazy Horse on a galloping horse with one arm pointing forward. He overcame many difficulties and hardships such as lack of equipments and financial shortage. Korczak died in 1982. His wife, Ruth, and some members of their family continue the project, working with the nonprofit Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation. Over the past 25 years, the growing voluntary public support for the private, nonprofit project has expanded the mountain carving and the Memorial's educational programs. Now the Memorial's visitor complex includes the 40 000 square foot Welcome Center and theaters, the Indian Museum of North America, the Native American Educational & Cultural Center, the sculptor's log home studio and workshop, indoor and outdoor galleries, museum gift shop, restaurant and snack bar areas and expansive viewing veranda.

2. The Three Major River Systems

The three river systems in the United States are the system of the Gulf, the system of the Atlantic and the system of the Pacific.

The Rocky Mountains form the most important continental divide in North America, separating the system of the Atlantic and the system of the Pacific.

(1) The Mississippi River is the longest and the most important river in the system of the Gulf. It flows from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, having the length of 6262 kilometers and a drainage area of 3 225 000 square kilometers. It is of the greatest rivers in the world. The Mississippi has many tributaries, among which the Missouri and the Ohio are two of its largest ones. These rivers form an important inland navigation and irrigation system.

(2) There are no long rivers in the system of the Atlantic. The