



大洋彼岸的移民国家

# 美国

丛书总主编\张伯香

编著\姚宗立

世界之旅双语丛书



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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大洋彼岸的移民国家—美国/姚宗立编著. —武汉: 武汉大学出版社, 2003. 11

(世界之旅双语丛书/张伯香总主编)

ISBN 7-307-03549-9

I. 大… II. 姚… III. 美国—概况—英、汉 IV. K971.2

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 020900 号

责任编辑: 黄朝昉 责任校对: 程小宜 版式设计: 支 笛

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出版发行: **武汉大学出版社** (430072 武昌 珞珈山)

(电子邮件: wdp4@whu.edu.cn 网址: www.wdp.whu.edu.cn)

印刷: 武汉市科普教育印刷厂

开本: 850×1168 1/32 印张: 10.5 字数: 250 千字

版次: 2003 年 11 月第 1 版 2003 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 7-307-03549-9/H·303 定价: 15.00 元

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## 序

中国二十多年来的改革开放政策的实施,极大地促进了中国社会的经济发展,提高了中国人民的生活水平。随着中国加入世界贸易组织和奥运会的申办成功,中国在世界中的地位与形象得到了进一步的改善与提高。当许多外国人纷纷来中国旅游、经商、留学、工作的同时,越来越多的中国人也开始迈开大步,走出国门。当然好些人是出国求学、经商或移民,但更多的人是去旅游,想亲身领略一下多彩的外部世界。据世界旅游组织1997年的预测,到2020年,中国将成为世界第四大旅游客源国,年出境旅游人次将超过1亿。这一预测不仅是对中国经济发展良好态势的认可,而且也使世界各国的商家看到中国出境旅游的巨大潜力。这一预测也给中国的出版界提出了要求,那就是如何满足中国人民了解世界各国的要求与愿望。

正是在这一背景下,武汉大学出版社组织了一大批曾经长期在国外学习、工作过的专家、学者编写了一套全新的《世界之旅双语丛书》,其目的就是为了帮助中国公民更好地了解世界。本丛书共分两辑。第一辑推出的有:《大洋彼岸的移民国家——美国》、《通往北方之路——挪威王国》、《白云之乡——新西兰》、《美丽的岛国——日本》、《北风的故



乡——俄罗斯》、《城市之国——新加坡》和《东方明珠——中国香港》。

《世界之旅双语丛书》的内容十分丰富,从自然景观、社会发展、风俗习惯、社交礼仪等各个方面系统地介绍了世界各国辉煌灿烂的历史、蓬勃发展的经济、多姿多彩的文化、引人入胜的风光美景和自强不息的奋斗精神。丛书始终以帮助读者增长知识,提高文化修养为基调,作者们尽量选用贴近读者的素材,使之读起来平实有趣、原汁原味,而且图文并茂,集知识性、可读性和趣味性于一身。

《世界之旅双语丛书》的选材也很新颖。根据读者对异域文化感兴趣的阅读心理和商务交流的实际需要,丛书特别突出了对具有代表性、影响力的自然和人文景观的介绍,例如:《白云之乡——新西兰》重点介绍的是该国美丽的海湾、奇异的花草、珍奇的动物以及独特的毛利文化;而《大洋彼岸的移民国家——美国》则侧重该国民族的多样性、文化的包容性、科技的先进性和都市的现代性;《通往北方之路——挪威王国》向读者重点展示的是该国人民酷爱自然、重视环保和热爱和平的美好品质;《美丽的岛国——日本》则强调了岛国的山水风光和自主的民族精神;《北风的故乡——俄罗斯》突出的是红场的肃穆、芭蕾的绚丽和疆域的辽阔;《城市之国——新加坡》展现的则是南亚的风光、洁净的街道和花园的城市;《东方明珠——中国香港》令读者向往的是美食家的乐趣、购物的天堂和中国人的骄傲。

随着中外交流的日益扩大,外语显得越发重要,而且相当多的人也开始学习外语。一个令人欣喜的情况是不仅英



语受到国人的青睐,而且其他语种,如法语、德语、日语、俄语、西班牙语等也开始在中国走俏。《世界之旅双语丛书》采用两种语言撰写,其目的正是为了满足广大外语学习者的这种需要。即使对那些初学者,或者只懂得很少外语的人来说,双语的使用也大有裨益,因为丛书既方便他们查阅需要了解的人名、地名、商品名,而且也能从中获得简单而又地道的日常用语和表达法。

《世界之旅双语丛书》有着深厚的文化内涵。当我们谈及旅游的时候,其实说的是一种体验生活的方式,是一种文化旅游。它包括欣赏自然和人为的景观、观赏表演、品尝美食、逛街购物,当然还有参观博物馆,等等。考虑到中国出境观光者文化旅游的需要,丛书作者们从中国的文化背景出发去介绍、探讨外国文化,比较中外文化的异同,从而较为准确地把握住了不同民族所具有的独到的、特别的国民心理状态和民族活力,并从表现形式上,充分考虑了读者的阅读欣赏习惯。因此,本丛书既是出国访问、留学、考察、旅游者不可多得的参考指南,又是一套难得的大中专青年学生的课外读物。而且丛书所选的国家具有相当的代表性,再加上丰富的背景资料,使其具有了一定的收藏价值。

为了向广大读者奉献一套质量上乘、可读性强、信息量大的图书,作者们以饱满的热情和强烈的事业心,全身心地投入了这套丛书的编写工作。收集资料到编写结束共用了两年的时间。今天,《世界之旅双语丛书》终于同广大读者见面了,这是作者们和出版社编辑们的智慧和辛勤劳动的结晶。希望读者能喜欢这套丛书,并愿她能陪伴您徜徉在异国



的都市,寄情于异国的山水,享受体验民俗风情和浏览风景名胜的快意。

张伯香

2003年10月于珞珈山





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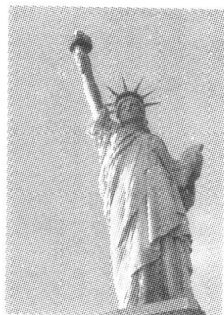
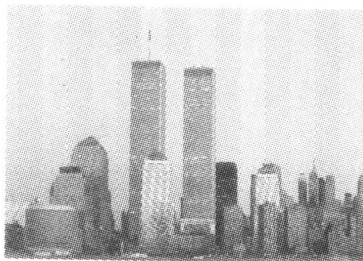
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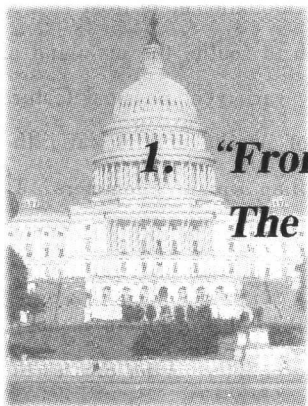


*A Panorama of  
Geography and History*



史  
地  
五  
谈





## **1. “From Coast to Coast” : The Mainland America**

[1] On board a Boeing 747 jet taking off in Shanghai and flying non-stop eastward across the Pacific Ocean, after about 10 hours' flying, you will see under the wings the zigzag coast line, and get the first sight of the vast expanse of North American Continent. Soon as the plane lands you are in the United States of America.

[2] The mainland of the United States of America is situated in the south of North American Continent. On the north it shares a land boundary with Canada, which runs along the 49th parallel of north latitude and across four of the five Great Lakes. Its southern land neighbors Mexico and waters are bounded by the Gulf of Mexico. To the east of the mainland is the Atlantic Ocean, and its west coast is washed by the Pacific Ocean.

[3] The United States of America is the world's fourth



largest country in size. Stretching 4 500 kilometers from east to west and 2 500 kilometers from north to south, the mainland of the United States offers almost every variety of physical feature and climate. Including the States of Alaska and Hawaii, the country covers an area of 9.37 million square kilometers. To help understand how large the country is, the following facts may be noticeable:

[4] A fast railroad train, travelling 96 kilometers an hour, takes more than 48 hours to cross the country. A jet crosses the continental United States from east to west in five hours.

[5] Another way to consider the size of the country is to compare distances in the United States with other distances that may be more familiar to you. For example, the distance from New York to Washington, D. C. , is about the same as London to Paris, or Tokyo to Kyoto; New York to Los Angeles is farther than Lisbon to Cairo, or New Delhi to Rome; New York to Chicago is similar in distance to Berlin to London, or Manila to Hong Kong.

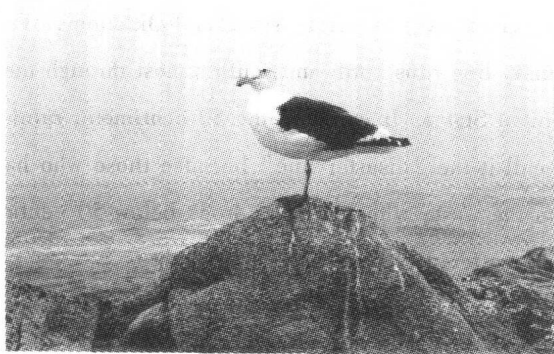
[6] The United States consists of 50 states and the District of Columbia, an area set aside for the national capital, Washington. Of the 50 states, apart from Alaska and Hawaii, 48 continental states border on one another, and constitute

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[7] Unfolding a geographical map showing the land and altitudes of Mainland America, you can see that there are several



large plains. On the east coast, the Atlantic Coastal Plain stretches from Maine to Florida. The wide Gulf Coastal Plain, bordering the Gulf of Mexico, extends from Texas to Florida. The Central Plains cover the Great Lakes region. A large prairie region with rich farmland, known as the Great Plains, extends from the Midwest region to the Rocky Mountains.



Seaside

[8] The Atlantic coastal line is about 3 038 kilometers. Along the coast is lowland plain, where some important seaports are situated such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore. To the west of lowland is the Fall Line, where streams suddenly drop from a higher level to the lower level. The coastal plain is narrow in the North, but it widens as it goes south and joins together in the Gulf Coastal Plain.



[9] The gently sloping prairie land of the Central Basin was



once the frontier to those who crossed the Appalachian Mountains. Before them was a rich grass land. The fertile soil and the long hot summers with enough rain were a farmer's dream. There the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska are known as "the Corn Belt". Farther north in Wisconsin and Minnesota it is cooler and more moist. There the Great Plains on the west of the Central Basin is where the rain gives out, about halfway across Texas and Oklahoma. From here an imaginary line runs north and south almost through the middle of the United States. It is called the 50-centimeter rainfall line. Farmers call it the "disaster line" because those who have tried to farm to the west, where rainfall drops below 50 centimeters a year, have suffered ruin in years of drought.

[10] The Great Plains is a hard country. The heat of the summer is scorching, the cold of the winter is freezing. The wind blows fiercely, with few hills or forests to stop it, from Montana on the Canadian border to the Mexican border State of Texas. Not until the eastern prairies were settled and the valleys of the Pacific coast were fairly well filled, did the farmers come to the Plains. Before them came the cattlemen who stocked the former buffalo pastures with cattle. Cowboys rounded up wild longhorn cattle and drove them north and east to market. In the second half of the 19th century, Indians, cattlemen, cowboys were all fighting each other for land. Those were the days of the Old Wild West.