

全国翻译专业系列规划教材

中西 文明选读

Selected Readings of Chinese
and Western Civilization

刘婷婷 主编



对外经济贸易大学出版社
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主编 刘婷婷

编者 骆媛 黄梅 张昕昕

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出版说明

“全国翻译专业系列规划教材”是对外经济贸易大学出版社联合全国重点高等院校的骨干教师推出的一套面向翻译专业学生、涵盖不同模块的立体化教材。

全国翻译硕士专业学位(MTI)的目标是培养德智体全面发展,能适应全球经济一体化及提高国家国际竞争力的需要,适应国家经济、文化、社会建设需要的,具有熟练翻译技能和宽广知识面的能够胜任不同专业领域所需要的高层次、应用型、专业型口笔译人才。高层次、应用型、专业型口笔译人才的培养是MTI教育的宗旨,也是开发这套教材所遵循的原则。

教材以职业翻译技能训练为核心,以适当的应用型翻译理论为指导,配合不同学科领域的专题训练,旨在完善学生翻译学科知识结构,提高学生口、笔译实践能力,培养应用型、实践型、专业型高级翻译人才。本套教材由笔译、口译、理论、百科知识四个模块组成:

一、口译模块

口译技巧与实践

同声传译

法庭口译

传媒口译

交替传译

视译

外交口译

口译研究

二、笔译模块

笔译技巧与实践

经贸翻译

科技翻译

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汉英翻译实务

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文学翻译

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中国翻译理论概述

西方翻译简史

西方翻译理论概述

四、百科知识模块

英汉对比研究

文体与翻译

翻译与跨文化交际

中西文明选读

本套教材的编者不仅具备 MTI 教学经验,还拥有极其丰富的口、笔译实践经验,教材中将融入他们多年来累积下来的口、笔译专业训练方法和珍贵的实践素材。编者们的教学经验和专业背景于一身,这是本套教材编撰质量的有力保证。

本套教材配有 PPT 课件等教辅资源,供教师教学参考。

对外经济贸易大学出版社

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翻译理论
翻译实践
翻译研究
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翻译评价

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翻译评价

前 言

文明是指人类所创造的财富的总和，又特指精神财富，如文学、艺术、教育、科学等，也指社会发展到较高阶段表现出来的状态。它是人类审美观念和文化现象的传承、发展、糅合和分化过程中所产生的生活方式、思维方式的总称。不同因素长期积淀而形成的“多样化”赋予人类文明独特而神秘的美，同时，来自不同地域的文明也塑造了人类不同的文化特征、意识形态和价值观念。

《中西文明选读》内含丰富的知识和系统的分类。教材共分八章，分别从政治、经济、宗教、文学、艺术、教育、科技和哲学八个方面选取内容对中西文明进行了分类概述。目前，学界关于西方文明的界定纷繁复杂，本教材主要选择美国、英国、法国和德国作为西方文明的代表。

在编写过程中，编者查阅了大量资料，摘引了多部讲述中西方文明异同的中外书籍和相关网站（详见章节后的参考文献）。本书旨在将中国与西方文明中的多个方面展现给学生，使他们更多地了解中西文明的共性与差异，进而能够更加灵活和准确地将其融入语言的运用当中。

本教材由天津财经大学人文学院外语系刘婷婷、骆媛、张昕昕和黄梅四位老师编写。其中，骆媛老师负责编写第1、5、7章；刘婷婷老师负责编写第2章；张昕昕老师负责编写第3、8章；黄梅老师负责编写第4、6章。教材中的不足之处请广大师生指正。

刘婷婷

2014年7月

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Chapter One Politics

第一章 政治

1.1 Politics of the United States of America

美国的政治

The United States of America is a federal constitutional republic, in which the President (the head of state and government), Congress, and the Judiciary share power reserved to the national government, and the federal government shares sovereignty with the state governments.

1.1.1 Politics of the United States

美国的政治

The executive branch is headed by the President and is independent of the legislature. Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The judicial branch (or judiciary), composed of the Supreme Court and lower federal courts, exercises judicial power (or judiciary). The judiciary's function is to interpret the United States Constitution and federal laws and regulations. This includes resolving disputes between the executive and legislative branches. The federal government's layout is explained in the Constitution. Two political parties, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, have dominated American politics since the American Civil War, although other parties have also existed.

The federal entity created by the U.S. Constitution is the dominant feature of the American governmental system. However, most people are also subject to a state government, and all are subject to various units of the local government. The latter includes counties, municipalities, and special districts.



1.1.2 Major Political Parties of the United States

美国的主要政党

There is one more very important part of the American political scene which is not part of any formal written document: the political party system.

Political parties are organized groups of people who share a set of ideas about how the United States should be governed and who work together to have members of their group elected in order to influence the governing of the country. When members of a political party form a majority in Congress, they have great powers to decide what kinds of laws will be passed. With exceptions, presidents tend to appoint members of their party or supporters of the views of their party to executive branch positions, including those of secretaries (heads of federal executive agencies) within the presidential cabinet.

The modern two-party system consists of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. The Democratic Party evolved out of Thomas Jefferson's party, which was formed before 1800. The symbol of the party is the donkey. The Republican Party was formed in the 1850s, by people in the states of the North and West, such as Abraham Lincoln, who wanted the government to prevent the expansion of slavery into new states then being admitted to the union. The symbol of the Republican Party is the elephant.

Several other parties also operate in the United States, and from time to time achieve relatively minor representation at the national and state levels.

I. The Democratic Party

The Democratic Party is one of two major political parties in the United States. It is the oldest political party in the United States and among the oldest in the world.

The Democratic Party, since the division of the Republican Party in the election of 1912, has consistently positioned itself to the left of the Republican Party in economic as well as social matters. The economically left-leaning philosophy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, which has strongly influenced American liberalism, has shaped much of the party's economic agenda since 1932. Roosevelt's New Deal coalition usually controlled the national government until the 1970s.

The present president of the United States, Barack Obama, is the 15th Democrat to hold the office, and since the 2006 midterm elections, the Democratic Party has been the majority party for the United States Senate. The party's strength in 2012 has been manifested by the reelection of Obama.

II. The Republican Party

The Republican Party is one of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States of America. It is often referred to as the Grand Old Party, GOP, and "Gallant Old Party". Founded in 1854 by anti-slavery expansion activists and modernizers, the Republican Party

rose to prominence with the election of Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president. The party presided over the American Civil War and Reconstruction but was harried by internal factions and scandals toward the end of the 19th century. Today, the Republican Party supports an American conservative platform, with further foundations in economic liberalism, fiscal conservatism, and social conservatism.

Former President George W. Bush is the 19th Republican to hold the office. The party's nominee for President of the United States in the 2008 presidential election was Senator John McCain of Arizona. It is currently the second largest party with 55 million registered members, encompassing roughly one third of the electorate. Since the 2010 midterm elections, the Republicans have held a majority in the House of Representatives.

III. Major Other Parties

1. **The Constitution Party:** The Constitution Party is a conservative United States political party. It was founded as the U.S. Taxpayers Party in 1992. The party's official name was changed to the Constitution Party in 1999; however, some state affiliate parties are known under different names. The Constitution Party advocates a platform that they believe reflects the Founding Fathers' original intent of the U.S. Constitution, principles found in the U.S. Declaration of Independence, and morals taken from the Bible.

2. **The Green Party:** In the United States, the Green Party has been active as a third party since the 1980s. The party first gained widespread public attention during Ralph Nader's second presidential run in 2000. Currently, the primary national Green Party organization in the U.S. is the Green Party of the United States, which has eclipsed the earlier Greens/Green Party USA. Greens emphasize environmentalism, non-hierarchical participatory democracy, social justice, respect for diversity, peace and nonviolence.

3. **The Libertarian Party:** The Libertarian Party was founded on December 11, 1971. It is one of the largest continuing third parties in the United States, claiming more than 200,000 registered voters and more than 600 people in public office, including mayors, county executives, county-council members, school-board members, and other local officials. It has more people in office than all other minor parties combined. The political platform of the Libertarian Party reflects that group's particular brand of libertarianism, favoring minimally regulated, laissez-faire markets, strong civil liberties, minimally regulated migration across borders, and non-interventionism in foreign policy that respects freedom of trade and travel to all foreign countries.

1.1.3 Federal Government of the United States

美国联邦政府

The peace treaty of 1783 recognized the independence of the United States and the former 13 British colonies along the east coast of the Atlantic became 13 states of the new nation.

Although the *Declaration of Independence* proclaimed that 13 united colonies “are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states”, they were not very clear about the future political system of the United States and about the relationship between the states and the government of the new nation. The plan for the government was written in very simple language in a document called the *Constitution* of the United States.

I. The Federal Government

The Constitution set up a federal system with a strong central government. A federal system is one in which power is shared between a central authority and its constituent parts, with some rights reserved to each.

The federal government comprises three distinct branches of government: a legislative, an executive and a judiciary. These branches and their various powers are delineated in the U.S. Constitution; the powers are specified in greater detail in laws enacted by Congress.

The seat of government of the United States is in Washington, D.C., a geographical area that is not located within any state. This has led to “Washington” commonly being used as a metonym for the U.S. federal government.

The United States is a democratic republic. The United States is the oldest continuously functioning democracy in the world.

Democracy—A style of government in which people vote in elections to choose their leaders.

Republic—A style of government where the people retain control over the government and the head of the government is not a monarch.

II. Features of the Government

1. Balance of Power: Writers of the Constitution wanted to make sure no group would become too powerful. They, therefore, created 3 branches of government, each with its own power. So the U.S. has a strong central government and keeps a balance of power.

2. Three Main Branches

1) Legislative Branch

The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government. It is bicameral, comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate.

① House of Representatives

The House currently consists of 435 voting members, each of whom represents a congressional district. The number of representatives each state has in the House is based on each state's population as determined in the most recent United States Census. All 435 representatives serve a two-year term. Each state receives a minimum of one representative in the House. In order to be elected as a representative, an individual must be at least 25 years of age, and must have been a U.S. citizen for at least seven years.

② Senate

In contrast the Senate is made up of two senators from each state, regardless of population.

There is currently a total of 100 senators (two from each of the 50 states), each of whom serves a six-year term. Approximately one third of the Senate stands for election every two years.

③ Powers of Congress

The main duty of the Congress is to make laws, including those which levy taxes that pay for the work of the federal government. Congress has the power to remove the President, federal judges, and other federal officers from office. The House of Representatives and Senate have separate roles in this process. The House must first vote to “impeach” the official. Then, a trial is held in the Senate to decide whether the official should be removed from office.

2) Executive Branch

The executive power in the federal government is vested in the President of the United States, although power is often delegated to the Cabinet members and other officials. The President and Vice President are elected as running mates by the Electoral College, for which each state, as well as the District of Columbia, is allocated a number of seats based on its representation (or ostensible representation, in the case of D.C.) in both houses of Congress. The President is limited to a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms, as well as being able to have served for 2 years after succeeding to the presidency, prior to his last term.

① President

The executive branch consists of the President and those to whom the President’s powers are delegated. The President is both the head of state and government, as well as the military commander-in-chief and chief diplomat. The President, according to the Constitution, must “take care that the laws be faithfully executed”, and “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution”.

The president has the authority to appoint federal judges as vacancies occur, including members of the Supreme Court. All such court appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The President may sign legislation passed by Congress into law or may veto it, preventing it from becoming law unless two-thirds of both houses of Congress vote to override the veto. The President may unilaterally sign treaties with foreign nations. However, ratification of international treaties requires a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate. The President may be impeached by a majority in the House and removed from office by a two-thirds majority in the Senate for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors”.

② Vice President

The Vice President is the second-highest executive official in rank of the government. As first in the U.S. presidential line of succession, the Vice President becomes President upon the death, resignation, or removal of the President, which has happened nine times in U.S. history. Except for the right of succession to the presidency, the vice president’s only constitutional duties are to serve as the presiding officer of the Senate; the vice president may vote in the Senate only in the event of a tie.

③ Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Department of State, the most senior of all federal executive departments. The Secretary of State is the third-highest official of the executive branch of the federal government of the United States, after the President and Vice President. The Secretary is a member of the President's Cabinet and the highest-ranking cabinet secretary both in the presidential line of succession and order of precedence.

3) Judicial Branch

The judicial branch is headed by the Supreme Court, which is the only court specifically created by the Constitution. The Judiciary explains and applies the laws. This branch does this by hearing and eventually making decisions on various legal cases.

3. Checks and Balances: One of the theoretical pillars of the United States Constitution is the idea of "checks and balances" among the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of American government: the executive, the legislative and the judiciary. This system works in many ways to keep serious mistakes from being made by one branch or another. For example, while the Congress (legislative) has the power to create law, the executive (President) can veto any legislation—an act which, in turn, can be overridden by Congress. The President nominates judges to the nation's highest judiciary authority (The Supreme Court), but those nominees must be approved by Congress. The Supreme Court, in its turn, has the power to invalidate as "unconstitutional" any law passed by the Congress.

1.1.4 Elections in the United States

美国的大选

The United States has a federal government, with elected officials at the federal (national), state and local levels. On a national level, the head of state, the President, is elected indirectly by the people, through an Electoral College. In modern times, the electors virtually always vote with the popular vote of their state. All members of the federal legislature, the Congress, are directly elected. There are many elected offices at the state level, each state having at least an elective governor and legislature. There are also elected offices at the local level, in counties and cities.

The United States has perhaps the most complicated electoral system in the world. Voters are asked to make more decisions and asked to do so more frequently than citizens of other democracies.

1. Federal Elections: The United States has a presidential system of government, which means that the executive and legislature are elected separately. Congressional and presidential elections take place simultaneously every four years, and the intervening Congressional elections, which take place every two years, are called Midterm elections.

2. Presidential Elections: The President and the Vice President are elected together in a Presidential election. The election is indirect, the winner being determined by votes cast by electors of the Electoral College.

3. Congressional Elections: Elections to Congress take place every two years. Congress has two chambers.

1.2 Politics of the United Kingdom

英国的政治

The United Kingdom is governed within the framework of a constitutional monarchy, in which the Monarch is the head of state and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is the head of government. Executive power is exercised by Her Majesty's Government, on behalf of and by the consent of the Monarch, as well as by the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales, and the Executive of Northern Ireland. Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as in the Scottish parliament and Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature. The highest national court is the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

1.2.1 Politics of the United Kingdom

英国的政治

The UK political system is a multi-party system. Since the 1920s, the two largest political parties have been the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. Before the Labor Party rose in British politics the Liberal Party was the other major political party along with the Conservatives. Though coalition and minority governments have been an occasional feature of parliamentary politics, the first-past-the-post electoral system used for general elections tends to maintain the dominance of these two parties, though each has in the past century relied upon a third party to deliver a working majority in Parliament.

The constitution of the United Kingdom is uncoded, being made up of constitutional conventions, statutes and other elements. This system of government, known as the Westminster system, has been adopted by other countries as well, such as Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Kenya, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, and countries that made up large and significant parts of the former British Empire.

1. The Crown

The British Monarch, currently Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the Chief of State of the United Kingdom. Though she takes little direct part in government, the Crown remains the



fount in which ultimate executive power over Government lies. These powers are known as Royal Prerogative and can be used for a vast amount of things, such as the issue or withdrawal of passports, to the dismissal of the Prime Minister or even the Declaration of War. The powers are delegated from the Monarch personally, in the name of the Crown, and can be handed to various ministers, or other officers of the Crown, and can purposely bypass the consent of Parliament.

The head of Her Majesty's Government, the Prime Minister, also has weekly meetings with the sovereign, where she may express her feelings, warn, or advise the Prime Minister in the Government's work.

According to the uncodified constitution of the United Kingdom, the monarch has the following powers:

Domestic Powers:

- The power to dismiss and appoint a Prime Minister
- The power to dismiss and appoint other ministers
- The power to summon, prorogue and dissolve Parliament
- The power to grant or refuse Royal Assent to bills (making them valid and law)
- The power to commission officers in the Armed Forces
- The power to command the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom
- The power to appoint members to the Queen's Council
- The power to issue and withdraw passports
- The power to grant Prerogative of mercy (though Capital Punishment is abolished, this power is still used to remedy errors in sentence calculation)
- The power to grant honors
- The power to create corporations via Royal Charter

Foreign Powers:

- The power to ratify and make treaties
- The power to declare war and peace
- The power to deploy the armed forces overseas
- The power to recognize states
- The power to credit and receive diplomats

II. Executive

Executive power in the United Kingdom is exercised by the Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, via Her Majesty's Government and the devolved national authorities—the Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

1.2.2 Major Political Parties of the United Kingdom

英国的主要政党

There are many political parties in Britain, but throughout the whole of England, there are

three dominant political parties: Labor, Conservatives and Liberal Democrats. The Labor party is the newest of these three, created by the growing trade union movement at the end of the nineteenth century. It quickly replaced the Liberal party as one of the two biggest parties.

I. Conservatives Party (Tories)

The Conservative Party is the party that spent most time in power. In the post-1945 period the party of government changed fairly frequently, as Labor government was replaced by Conservative and vice versa. The Conservatives are seen as the party of the individual, protecting the individual's right to acquire wealth and to spend it how they choose, and so favoring economic policies which businessmen prefer, such as low taxes.

Historically, the party has been the mainland party most pre-occupied by British Unionism, as attested to by the party's full name, the Conservative & Unionist Party. This resulted in the merger between the Conservatives and Joseph Chamberlain's Liberal Unionist Party, composed of former Liberals who opposed Irish home rule. The unionist tendency is still in evidence today, manifesting sometimes as a skepticism or opposition to devolution, firm support for the continued existence of the United Kingdom in the face of separatist nationalism, and a historic link with the cultural unionism of Northern Ireland.

II. Labor Party

Labor is a socialist party. They believe a society should be relatively equal in economic terms, and that part of the role of government is to act as a "redistributive" agent.

For most of the 1980s and the 1990s, Conservative governments under Thatcher and her successor John Major pursued policies of privatization, anti-trade-unionism, and, for a time, monetarism, now known collectively as Thatcherism.

Tony Blair became leader of the Labor party after John Smith's sudden death from a heart attack in 1994. He continued to move the Labor Party towards the "center" by loosening links with the unions and embracing many of Margaret Thatcher's liberal economic policies. This, coupled with the professionalizing of the party machine's approach to the media, helped Labor win a historic landslide in the 1997 General Election, after 18 years of Conservative government. Some observers say the Labor Party had by then morphed from a democratic socialist party to a social democratic party, a process which delivered three general election victories but alienated some of its core base.

III. Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democrats are the third biggest party, and to some extent may be seen as a party of the "middle", occupying the ideological ground between the main parties. They emphasize the need for change in Britain's constitutional arrangements to make government more democratic and accountable.

The Liberal Party formed a government in 1868 and then alternated with the Conservative Party as the party of government throughout the late 19th century and early 20th century.