



英语国家社会与文化研究

于桂敏 贺丽励 / 著

民族出版社

Society & Culture of English-Speaking Countries

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前 言

人类步入21世纪,世界范围的信息与技术传播,国际间的政治对话与贸易往来,资源与教育的共享都以英语为主要传媒工具。对于英语学习者和研究者而言,了解英语国家的社会与文化无疑是有效地掌握和应用英语、提高英语语言修养和进行跨文化交流的必要基础,是一条通向英语信息的高速公路。本书在较为完整地展示英语国家文化内涵和发展历程的同时,特别注意凸显贯穿其中的推动人类文明进程、对人类社会进步产生深远影响的思想 and 成就。本书在对英语国家自古至今的精神文化成果进行诠释、对英语国家文化精粹进行细致梳理、对英语国家文化的起源进行追溯时,还探讨了英语国家文化的价值取向及其与中华文化的碰撞与汇合,因此说本书是一部具有学术价值的研究性著作,体现了较强的创新性。

本书从广义的文化哲学层面去审视英语国家文明的精髓,梳理了英语国家社会思想文化的脉络,理性思辨英语国家文明的思维模式和行为准则,旨在提高英语语言学习者和研究者对英语国家社会与文化的理解和认知能力,增强他们综合运用英语语言的能力和跨文化交际能力,进而提升他们对新世纪英语国家社会丰富多彩的实用文化的体验和鉴赏能力,也有助于提升人们的道德修养和对英语文化的感知能力,使之更好地为中外文化交流服务、为中华文化走向世界服务。故此,本书具有较强的前瞻性和重要的应用价值。

全书由五章构成,从自然环境及资源、国民结构及人口、政治体制及功能、教育体制及特色、宗教习俗及信仰、家庭生活及娱乐、传统节日及庆典等12个层面详细剖析了英国、美国、加拿大、澳大利亚和新西兰五个主要英语国家的深层文化内涵。为了便于读者透彻地理解,每章前面都有对该国文化特征以及与中国关系的汉语简介,此外包括英文论述、中文注释和疑难句子翻译。而每一章由三个板块11~12篇文章组成,文章观点鲜明、思路清晰、语言流畅、信息量大、富有时代特征,并且以诠释和梳理的方式探讨了英语国家文化的价值取向,揭示

了英语国家文化与中华文化的碰撞与汇合，使其具有较强的研究价值和可读性，有利于英语学习者和研究者学习语言、研究文化、对比差异。本书的最后面还设有涉及英语国家文化的重点专有名词及解释、重点理解题、参考答案以及参考书目，便于英语语言文化学习者和研究者研究和借鉴。

由于作者能力有限，错误在所难免，如在使用中发现不妥之处，敬请赐教。本书撰写过程中参阅了大量相关书籍和文章，在此一并表示感谢，同时感谢在本书写作过程中给予指导和帮助的学者及同行。

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作者

2014年6月

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Chapter I United Kingdom

英国概况

国名：大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国（The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland）

国庆日：国王生日

国旗：呈横长方形，长与宽之比为2：1。为“米”字旗，由深蓝底色和红、白色“米”字组成。旗中带白边的红色正十字代表英格兰守护神圣乔治，白色交叉十字代表苏格兰守护神圣安德鲁，红色交叉十字代表爱尔兰守护神圣帕特里克。此旗产生于1801年，是由原英格兰的白地红色正十字旗、苏格兰的蓝地白色交叉十字旗和爱尔兰的白地红色交叉十字旗重叠而成。

国徽：即英王徽。中心图案为一枚盾徽，盾面上左上角和右下角为红地上三只金狮，象征英格兰；右上角为金地上半站立的红狮，象征苏格兰；左下角为蓝地上金黄色竖琴，象征爱尔兰。盾徽两侧各由一只头戴王冠、代表英格兰的狮子和一只代表苏格兰的独角兽支扶着。盾徽周围用法文写着一句格言，意为“恶有恶报”；下端悬挂着嘉德勋章，饰带上写着“天有上帝，我有权利”。盾徽上端为镶有珠宝的金银色头盔、帝国王冠和头戴王冠的狮子。

国歌：《上帝保佑女王》“God Save the Queen”（如在位的是男性君主，国歌改为“God Save the King”）

国花：玫瑰花

国鸟：红胸鸽

国石：钻石

人口：62,041,708（2010年统计），人口密度246人/平方公里。官方和通用语均为英语。威尔士北部还使用威尔士语，苏格兰西北高地及北爱尔兰部

分地区仍使用盖尔语。居民多信奉基督教新教，主要分英格兰教会（亦称英国国教圣公会，其成员约占英成人的60%）和苏格兰教会（亦称长老会，有成年教徒66万）。另有天主教会和佛教、印度教、犹太教及伊斯兰教等较大的宗教社团。

与中国关系：1950年1月，英国政府宣布承认中华人民共和国。1954年6月17日，中英达成互派代办的协议。1972年3月13日，两国签订了升格为大使级外交关系的联合公报。1982年9月，英国首相撒切尔夫人作为英国第一位在职首相访华。1984年12月，撒切尔夫人再访中国，两国共同签署了关于香港问题的中英联合声明。1986年10月，英国女王伊丽莎白二世对中国进行国事访问。这是历史上英国国家元首第一次访华。1997年7月1日，中英顺利完成香港回归的政权交接。1998年，两国政府首脑成功互访，并建立了全面伙伴关系。1999年10月，江泽民主席对英国进行国事访问，这是中国国家主席首次访问英国。2004年5月，温家宝总理对英国进行正式访问，两国发表联合声明。2005年9月，布莱尔首相访问中国。2005年11月，国家主席胡锦涛对英国进行国事访问。2008年1月，英国首相布朗对中国进行正式访问，双方达成9项共识签署近8亿美元合同，并发布中英工商峰会部长级新闻公报。2009年2月，温家宝总理对英国进行正式访问，两国发表关于加强合作积极应对国际金融危机的联合声明。温家宝在英国剑桥大学发表了题为《用发展的眼光看中国》的演讲。2010年5月中国外交部发言人姜瑜在例行记者会上表示，中方希望英国新政府继续从战略高度和长远角度把握两国关系，也愿与英方共同努力，进一步深化各领域的务实合作，推动中英全面战略伙伴关系平稳、健康向前发展。2011年9月26日国务委员戴秉国在伦敦同英国外交大臣黑格举行中英战略对话，就当前国际形势、中英关系等深入交换看法。2012年4月，中共中央政治局常委李长春在伦敦会见英国首席大臣兼外交大臣黑格，出席了英中贸易协会晚宴并发表重要演讲。之后两国关系重现良好发展势头，积累的正能量逐步释放。2013年1—8月，中英贸易额达431亿美元，同比增长4.7%。两国教育、科技、人文等领域合作十分活跃，取得积极成果和良好效果。2014年4月23日，英国卫生大臣杰里米·亨特和中国国务院副总理刘延东共同主持了在北京钓鱼台国宾馆召开的人文交流机制会议，中英签署了一系列新协议，标志着两国合作达到了新的高度，是中英关系发展的重要支柱，它提供了一个增进两国人民关系的平台，一个推动两国加强合作和实现宏伟目标的平台。

General Introduction

In the 19th century, the United Kingdom used to be the leading power with maritime hegemony and thus boast itself as “the Empire where the sun never sets”. However, during the first 50 years of the 20th century, its national power was weakened by the two world wars, and in the late half, its colonies began to declare their independence from the immense colonial empire. In spite of its weakening of national power and economic retrogress in the post-war period, the kingdom had managed to recover its economy and international influences since the drastic reforms by Prime Minister Thatcher, “the Iron Lady” after her election in 1979. Her follower Tony Blair of the Labor Party, elected as the Prime Minister in 1997, continued the implementation of free economy and advocated his new liberalism, the so-called “the Third Path”, which resulted in a consistent prosperity. At present, UK is a mighty nation which plays a significant role in the international and diplomatic arena. It has performed better than other developed nations in terms of economy, as one of the western countries with the lowest unemployment. As an important trade party, economical power and the financial center, UK constitutes the fifth economic system of the world. It is one of the countries which enjoy most wealth, most advanced economy and the highest living standard.

1. The Land and People

1.1 The Formation of the Land

The British Isles consists of two large islands: one is called Ireland and the other Britain with an area of about 93,000 square miles. This is remarkably small when you consider its population and its importance in world affairs. Britain, or Great Britain, is the larger of these two islands, and it is divided into three parts: Scotland, Wales and England. “GB” on the back of British cars abroad is short for Great Britain, which is the name for England, Scotland and Wales. “The UK” is short for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Most of the United Kingdom is low-lying land with mountains in the north and west. It has a temperate climate and a mild temperature, with

a fairly distributed rainfall throughout the year. Rain can occur at any time, however, on average, March to June are the drier months and September to January the wettest. During May, June and July, the average daily duration of sunshine varies from five hours in the north to eight hours in the south.

Traveling across Britain, visitors will be shocked by the large areas of unspoiled countryside between the villages and towns. Another spectacular thing is that many of the towns and villages are old, historic buildings which have been protected with great pride. The British tend to have a strong sense of history and consider the preservation of such monuments as critical. They pay tribute to those who have made a significant contribution to British, or international culture.

England

Among the three parts, England is the largest, most populous, and overall the richest. England possesses the largest, southern part of Great Britain with Wales to its west and Scotland to its north. It has an area of more than 130,000 square kilometers which takes up nearly 60% of the whole island. The southwest and west except for the Severn Valley and the Cheshire-Lancashire Plain (round Liverpool) are largely a plateau, with rolling plains, downs and occasional moors. ^①The Pennines, a range of hills running from North Midlands to the Scottish border, are the principal mountain chain. But the highest peak of England, Scafell (978 m), is in the Lake District in northwest England. The east of England is mainly an open cultivated plain, narrowing in North Yorkshire to a passage (Vale of York) between coastal moors and Pennines, and in Northumberland to a coastal strip.

Two rivers run through the country. The Thames ^② is the best known in Britain and the Severn is the longest on the island. England has a long coastline; Brighton in the south, and Blackpool in the northwest are among the famous seaside resorts. Dense population are distributed in London and Southeast, South and West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.

Within England the eight administrative regions do not have strong cultural identities of their own. The styles of architecture do not vary, though there are parts of the southwest and north where stone houses were more common until recently than the red brick houses which predominate in most other regions. ^③ There is clear difference between the northern way of speaking English and the southern way, though each has local variants and each is different from what has been called “standard English” or “received pronunciation”, which has no regional basis and is spoken by about 3 percent

of the people, scattered around the country. ^④

Half of England's people live north of a line drawn from the south edge of Birmingham to the Wash. Four-fifths of them are in big towns or their suburbs. With its lack of heavy industry and its slightly sunnier and milder climate England is more agreeable to some people than the north, though it has less good scenery. ^⑤ In the past fifty years its relative advantages have grown. Being nearer both to London and to the Continent it has had easier connections with the outside world, and nearly all today's visitors from other continents arrive at London airports. The south's economy has adapted itself more easily than the north's to the needs of the late twentieth century, and it is the main base of the most modern industries and enterprises. More people stay at school after the age of sixteen, more go to university, fewer are unemployed, more have middle-class jobs.

Scotland

Scotland is the most rugged and sparsely populated part of the UK. Between the Highlands in the north and the hilly Uplands in the south, most Scottish people live in the lowlying Central Belt. However, much of the land in the "lowlands" is still too high for easy cultivation. On arriving in the Highlands, most people would agree that the scenery is indeed magnificent. The Highlands are, as the name implies, the hilly or mountainous region of the country; they form the greater part of the western half of Scotland north of Glasgow.

On the first night in Scotland a tourist may choose to put up at a hotel in the little town of Callander, which is known as one of "the Gateways to the Highlands". On the following day he can set out to see the various lakes, or rather lochs, in the neighborhood, and will be delighted with wild and romantic aspect of the countryside. When he returns to his hotel he will be glad to eat a copious "high tea". This is a meal which, in Scotland and many parts of northern England, takes the place of tea and dinner. It consists of one substantial course, such as one would have at dinner, followed by bread-and-butter, with jam or honey, and some cakes; tea is drunk with the meal, which is taken at about six o' clock in the evening. One has a light supper late in the evening.

The next morning many tourists journey on to the west coast, passing on their way Loch Lomond, one of the largest and most famous of the Scottish lakes (these are called "lochs", with the exception of the Lake of Menteith, not far from Glasgow). The road twists and turns, dips and climbs, but is not dangerous. The greatest hazard is the black-faced sheep: these animals are as active and impudent as goats, and frequently

wander recklessly into the road. The tourist may also see a herd of long-haired Highland cattle, which look savage but are no more so than ordinary cattle. Eventually the road runs parallel with the sea, along a coastline fringed with little inlands and made ragged with rocky bays and the deep inlets that are also called “lochs”.^⑥

Wales

On the western side of Britain lies one of the most beautiful parts of the British Isles: the principality of Wales. The Welsh mountains have a beauty which is rugged and forbidding, but the slopes are as green and fertile as the valleys and provide rich pasture for sheep and cows. In central and north Wales, farming is the main occupation, but the valleys of south Wales are very heavily industrialized. Here the wealth of the land lies below the surface in rich coal seams and the mining villages have grown into busy towns around iron and steel foundries, chemical works and oil refineries.

Wales has been called “The Land of Song”. The Welsh people are renowned for their good voices and it is rare to find a village without at least one choir competing in an “eisteddfod” or arts festival. The biggest festival of all is the International Eisteddfod held every year in Llangollen in Clwyd. Singers, dancers, musicians and poets come from all over the world to compete for the awards, often wearing colorful national costume. The Welsh girls contribute to the festival gaiety with their national dress—a tall black hat, a scarlet skirt and a starched white apron. The streets of this small country town bustle with the comings and goings of visitors speaking many languages. One of the foreign languages heard will be English, for in North Wales many of the local people speak Welsh as their native tongue. Today, only about a quarter of the Welsh population speak this ancient language as their first language, although many more who use English can understand Welsh as well, and encourage their children to learn it at school. The Welsh people are proud of being Celtic^⑦, different from the Anglo-Saxon^⑧ English, with an ancient language and a heritage of their own.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is a fourth region of the United Kingdom. It takes up the northern fifth of Ireland and has an area of 14, 147 square kilometers. It is a mostly rural, green land with low hills and is suitable largely for animal farming and shipbuilding. It has a rocky and wild northern coastline, with several deep indentations. In the northeast lie the uplands of County Antrim, while the mountains in the southeast gradually give way to the central lowlands of the Neagh basin. Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

The whole of Northern Ireland has a temperate maritime climate, rather wetter in the west than the east, although cloud cover is persistent across the region. The weather is unpredictable at all times of the year, and although the seasons are distinct, they are considerably less pronounced than in interior Europe or the eastern seaboard of North America.

Northern Ireland's economy, based partly on farming and partly on the heavy industries of Belfast, has brought its people a standard of living well above that of the Republic, but lower than Great Britain's. With the decline of shipbuilding there is now serious unemployment, and vast sums have been spent by UK governments in attempts to improve the situation.

Notes:

①除了七峡谷和芥立舍·兰卡仕平原（环绕利物浦）外，在西南部和西部都是高原，连绵起伏的平原、洼地和沼泽。

②The Thames: 泰晤士河，是英国著名的“母亲”河。发源于英格兰西南部的科茨沃尔德希尔斯，全长 338 公里，横贯英国首都伦敦与沿河的 10 多座城市，流域面积 13,000 平方公里，在伦敦下游河面变宽，形成一个宽度为 29 公里的河口，注入北海。在伦敦上游，泰晤士河沿岸有许多名胜之地，诸如伊顿、牛津、亨利和温莎等。泰晤士河的人海口充满了英国的繁忙商船，然而其上游的河道则以其静态之美而著称于世。在英国历史上泰晤士河流域占有举足轻重的地位。

③建筑风格基本相似，尽管西南部和北部的石头房子时至今日依然比其他大多数地区成行的红砖房子更加普遍。

④北方英语和南方英语大相径庭，尽管各自都有地方性变异，并且有别于“标准英语”或者“公认发音”，但是它们都无区域基础，只有百分之三零散于全国各地的人操用。

⑤由于缺少重工业，加之比北方日照好，气候温和，尽管它风景一般，人们还是更愿意选择居住在英格兰。

⑥最后公路与海沿着海岸线平行延伸，有一些内陆，弯弯曲曲夹着岩石海湾和深水区，在当地被叫作“湖”。

⑦Celtic: 凯尔特 (Celts) 人，是自公元前 2000 年中叶起便活跃于欧洲的一支族群。该民族主要分布在北欧，延伸到苏格兰南部，后来又随历史大发现迁徙到非洲和美洲。他们的子孙后代，他们的古城遗冢，遍布在今天的爱尔兰、不列颠、法国、西班牙、德国、奥地利、捷克、意大利、巴尔干和土耳其。

⑧Anglo-Saxon: 盎格鲁-撒克逊人，是盎格鲁 (Angles) 和撒克逊 (Saxons) 两个民族结合的民族（大部分英国人是盎格鲁-撒克逊人后裔）。语言学上指一种英语的分类：古英语或盎格鲁-撒克逊语 (Old English 或 Anglo-Saxon)，指从 450 年到 1150 年间的英语。地理/历史：盎格鲁-撒克逊英格兰/盎格鲁-撒克逊时代，指 5 世纪中期，凯尔特 (英文 “Celtic”，

拉丁文称“Celtae”或“Galli”，希腊文“Kelttoi”，又译“凯尔特”的不列颠被盎格鲁-撒克逊的英格兰所替代，盎格鲁人把不列颠称为“盎格兰”。

1.2 The Makeup of Population

The English are quite different from all other nationalities including their neighbours, the French, Dutch and Belgians. It might relate to the fact that they live on an island separated from the rest of Europe. Whatever the reasons, it may be fair to say that Englishman has their distinctive attitudes and habits. Broadly speaking, the English people are quiet, shy, and reserved.

“The UK” is short for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Nevertheless, a majority of people call the UK “Britain”, and a number of foreigners simply say “England”, which is incorrect. The English people tend to use the words England and English when they mean Britain and British, but this sometimes annoys the Scots and the Welsh. The Scots in particular are very proud of their separate nationality; they have their own legal system, and some of their internal affairs are managed by special Scottish departments, though they have no separate Parliament. The Welsh too do not regard themselves as English, and have a culture and even a language of their own. There is a Welsh Nationalist and a Scottish Nationalist party, demanding a measure of independence from England, but although they have held seats in the House of Commons, they are not very strong; and in general the Scots, the Welsh and the English feel sufficiently similar to each other to be quite content to form a combined Parliament in London.

With the Irish, the question is more complicated and much less happy. Ireland became part of the United Kingdom in 1801, but it soon grew discontented, and for forty years the “Irish Question” was the biggest headache of the British Parliament^①. At last, after much bloodshed, Ireland divided itself into two: Northern Ireland remained loyal to the Crown (though it has its own Parliament sitting in Belfast for internal affairs), and in 1922 the rest of the country broke away to form an Irish Free State, later called Eire (pronounced Aira) and now the Republic of Ireland. The Republic of Ireland is almost entirely Roman Catholic^②; it does not regard itself as British, and is not now even a supporter of the Commonwealth^③. Unlike the major Commonwealth countries it did not lift a finger to help Britain in the Second World War. It is still discontented, as it resents the existence of Northern Ireland, and wants the whole of Ireland to be a republic.