

人文素质教育丛书

丛书主编 刘世平 王春阁

# 走进英国

Understanding the UK

艾蓉 朱雪梅 冯健 胡晶 编



WUHAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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# 序 言



根据《国家中长期教育改革和发展规划纲要(2010—2020)》和教育部《关于全面提高高等教育质量的若干意见》等文件精神,大学外语课程是高等学校人文教育的一部分,兼有工具性和人文性双重性质。就人文性而言,大学外语课程的重要任务之一是进行跨文化教育。语言是文化的载体,同时也是文化的组成部分,学习者学习和掌握外语这一交流工具,除了学习、交流先进的科学技术或专业信息之外,还要了解国外的社会与文化,增进对不同文化的理解,培养跨文化交际能力。人文性的核心是“以人为本”,弘扬人的价值,注重人的综合素质培养和全面发展。因此,高校应充分挖掘大学外语课程丰富的人文内涵,帮助学习者了解中外不同的世界观、价值观、思维方式等方面的差异,培养学习者跨文化意识,提高学习者社会语言能力和跨文化交际能力。

为了进一步提升学习者的人文修养,我们编写了人文素质教育丛书,旨在丰富学习者中外文化知识,培养学习者中外文化差异意识,帮助学习者提升文化和跨文化意识,提高跨文化交际能力。

《走进英国》(*Understanding the UK*)为人文素质教育丛书之一,是一本重点介绍英国历史与文化的中英文对照的教材,内容涵盖英国自史前到现代的各主要历史阶段(朝代)、英国的人文、自然特征、当今英国的政治体制、教育体制、宗教信仰、经济贸易、社会福利、传统习俗、生活方式、礼仪举止、休闲娱乐、文学艺术等方面。教材主要以英国历史和文化为依托,旨在提升学习者的语言技能,扩展学习者的知识面,提高学习者的语言和人文素质修养。

为了帮助学习者更好地理解,各章节的文章除了配以汉语译文以外,还对一些重点知识做了简明扼要的注释,每章节后设有一些理解性的问题和思考题。

本教材主要用做高等学校外语通识课教材,也可供其他英语和文化爱好者阅读。

编 者

2017年3月

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## Chapter 1

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# Formation of the British Empire and Its Monarchies

British history has been a history of conquest and merger. It has experienced several dynasty changes and has been reigned by over forty Monarchies. It has undergone civil wars, international wars, occasional insurrections or rebellions, and widespread political intrigues amongst the aristocratic and monarchic elite. It has also seen a lot of destructive natural and man-made disasters. Yet it is those changes and events that contribute to the evolution and development of the country politically, militarily, diplomatically, economically, industrially, as well as linguistically and culturally.

The formation of the British Empire was the result of over 300 years' trade, immigration and the conquest by force. At the peak of its power, it was the largest empire in history. It used to be described as "the empire on which the sun never sets", because its expanse around the globe meant that the sun was always shining on at least one of its territories.

### 1.1 Early Settlers in Britain

Thousands of years ago, Great Britain was joined to Europe and 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 8000 years ago.

The first known settlers of Britain were the Iberians. At about 3000 BC<sup>1</sup> during the New Stone Age, they came to Britain probably from the Iberian peninsula, now Spain. At about 2000 BC the Beaker Folk<sup>2</sup> arrived from the areas now known as Holland and Rhineland.

About 700 BC, during the Iron Age, the Celts began to arrive at Britain. The name "Iron Age" comes from the discovery of a new metal called iron. The Celts found out how to make iron tools and weapons. Before the Iron Age the only metal used in Britain to make tools was bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin (hence the Bronze Age). The Celts



lived across most of Europe, especially what are now Austria, Switzerland, southern France and Spain. The Celts came to Britain in three main waves. The Goidelic Celts (Gauls or Gaelic) were first to invade Britain in about 600 BC. They were later pushed into Ireland by their cousins the Brythonic Celts (Britons or British) who came over in 500-400 BC. The Brythonic occupied present day England and Wales. The small tribes of Brythonic Celts grew over the years into larger tribes with their own distinctive identities and living in their own special regions throughout Britain. By the time Julius Caesar Gaius<sup>3</sup> was ready to launch his Roman invasion of Britain, more Celts had crossed over from Gaul, and had settled in the south-east of England. These were largely the Belgic tribes—the Belgae, from what is now southern Belgium and northern France. The Celts living in Britain today stem from the two main types of Celt who invaded Britain; the Goidelic Celts—Scotland, Isle of Man and Ireland; the Brythonic Celts—roughly Wales and Cornwall.

The Iron Age Celts living in Britain were warriors and farmers who were skilled at making metal tools and weapons. There were lots of different tribes and each large tribe was ruled by a chieftain / king or queen. A chief would lead his warriors into battle in chariots pulled by horses. For defense against enemies, they built forts on hilltops. These hill-forts had earth banks and wooden walls.

In Celtic Britain there were no towns. Most people were farmers living in villages. They made round houses from wood and mud, with thatched roofs. There were no roads. People travelled by boats on rivers, or along muddy paths. Some British Celts crossed the sea to trade with other Celts in the Roman Empire.

There are still quite a lot of Celts living in the British Isles today. They live mainly in Wales, Cornwall, Scotland, the Isle of Man and Ireland.

The Celts of different tribes spoke a vaguely common language. The word Celt comes from the Greek word, *Keltoi*, which means barbarians and is properly pronounced as “Kelt”. They were not called Celts until the 18th century. The Romans called these people Britons, not Celts. The name Celts is a “modern” name and is used to collectively describe all the many tribes of people living during the Iron Age. Celts called Gauls lived in Ireland.

The Celtic languages form a branch of the larger Indo-European family. By the time speakers of Celtic languages enter history around 400 BC, they were already split into several language groups, and spread over much of Western continental Europe, the Iberian Peninsula, Ireland and Britain.

Today, the term Celtic generally refers to the languages and respective cultures of

Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Man, and Brittany, also known as the Celtic nations. These are the regions where four Celtic languages are still spoken to some extent as mother tongues. The four are Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton; plus two recent revivals, Cornish (one of the Brythonic languages) and Manx (one of the Goidelic languages). There are also attempts to reconstruct the Cumbric language (a Brythonic language from North West England and South West Scotland).

### 📖 Notes

1. **BC** (Before Christ) 公元前(基督教会历法用)。BC 通常的书写形式是放在年代的后面, 如 700 BC.
2. **the Beaker Folk** 宽口陶器人。公元前 2000 年左右, 从荷兰和莱茵兰地区来到不列颠。宽口陶器人因他们墓穴中陪葬的宽口陶制容器而得名, 他们带来了陶器制造工艺。
3. **Julius Caesar Gaius** 尤利乌斯·恺撒·盖乌斯(公元前 100—公元前 44), 罗马将军, 政治家。

### 📖 Questions for comprehension and discussion

1. Who were early settlers in Britain?
2. What have you learnt about the Celts; what kind of people they were; where they came from? What were the Celts called by the Romans? What did the Iron Age Celts do?
3. What were the three main Celtic groups coming to Britain in the Iron Age?
4. What are the two main types of Celts in Britain today and where do they live?
5. What languages do the Celts speak? What are the characteristics of the Celtic languages?

## 1.2 Roman Britain (AD<sup>1</sup> 43 to AD 410)

British recorded history begins with the Roman invasion. The Romans came to Britain 2,000 years ago. They changed the country. The Roman Empire made its mark on Britain, and even today, the ruins of Roman buildings, forts, roads, and baths can be found all over Britain.

The Romans lived in Rome, a city in the centre of the country of Italy. In August 55 BC the Roman general, Emperor Julius Caesar invaded Britain. He took with him two Roman legions. After winning several battles against the Celtic tribes (Britons) in south-east England he returned to France.

The following summer (in 54 BC) Caesar came to Britain again landing at Walmer near Deal in Kent. This time he brought with him no fewer than five legions, 30,000 foot soldiers and 2,000 cavalymen (horse riders). This time the Romans crossed the River Thames. After more fighting, the British tribes promised to pay tribute to Rome and were then left in peace for nearly a century.

Nearly one hundred years later, in AD 43, Emperor Claudius organised the final and successful Roman invasion of Britain. General Aulus Plautius led four legions with 25,000 men, plus an equal number of auxiliary soldiers. They crossed the Channel in three divisions, landing at Richborough, Dover, and Lympne.

The biggest battle was fought on the banks of the River Medway, close to Rochester. It went on for two days before the Celtic tribes retreated.

Many tribes tried to resist the Romans. It took about four years for the invaders to finally gain control over southern England, and another 30 years for them to conquer all of the West Countries and the mountains and valleys of Wales. The battle for Yorkshire and the remainder of northern England was still underway in AD 70.

The first Roman city was Camulodunum, which is known by the name of Colchester. It was the seat of Roman power and governance of Brittania until sacked during the Boudiccan revolt<sup>2</sup>. London was then established as a seat of governance, and only became important after the Camulodunum event.

The Romans called London “Londinium”. The River Thames was quick way to transport goods between Britain and the Continent. The Romans saw this and built the town of Londinium around the river’s main crossing point.

Why the Romans came to Britain is not quite certain. Two reasons have been suggested:

- The Romans were cross with Britain for helping the Gauls (now called the French) fight against the Roman general Julius Caesar.
- They came to Britain looking for riches — land, slaves, and most of all, iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold.

Britain (not Scotland) was part of the Roman Empire for almost 400 years (AD 43 to AD 410)! The Romans divided England into four areas centred by the following towns London, Cirencester, York and Lincoln. The Romans left Britain because their homes in Italy were being attacked by fierce tribes and every soldier was needed.

The Roman Empire, even today, play an important part in the British lives. Many of the things originated from the Romans.

- The language was developed from the Romans. Many English words are derived

from the Latin language of the Romans.

- The Calendar the British use today is more than 2,000 years old. It was started by Julius Caesar. It is based on the movement of the earth around the sun, and so is called the “solar calendar.” The solar calendar has 365 days a year, and 366 days every leap year, or every fourth year.

- The names of the months are taken from the names of Roman gods and rulers. The month “July”, in fact, is named after Julius Caesar himself.

- Laws and a legal system came originally from the Roman Empire.

- The Census. The Roman Empire was huge and included millions of people living over a large area. In order to keep track of all these people, the Roman Empire began the practice of taking a census, or a “count”, of all the people within its boundaries every so often. Today, many countries like Britain take a census every 10 years.

The Romans also gave the British many other things, such as medical practice, great public buildings and straight roads, temples, central heating, baths, concrete and aqueducts (bridges for water). They made good use of Britain’s natural resources. They also brought the new religion, Christianity, to Britain.

## 📖 Notes

1. **AD** (Anno Domini) 〈拉〉公元。AD 通常置于数字的前面，如：AD 375。但是与世纪 (century) 一起用时，AD 则置于 century 的后面，如：the third century AD。
2. **the Boudiccan revolt** 布狄卡起义。布狄卡的丈夫普拉苏塔古斯 Prasutagus 是不列颠一个名为爱西尼部落 (Iceni tribe, 凯尔特人的一个部落) 的首领。普拉苏塔古斯去世后，罗马人于公元 61 年初夏并吞了爱西尼人在英格兰东部的领土。他的遗孀布狄卡领导了一场反抗罗马帝国占领军统治的起义。

## 📖 Questions for comprehension and discussion

1. When and why did the Romans invade Britain?
2. What do you know about Julius Caesar and his invasions? Who led the final invasion?
3. What names did Romans use for these places respectively: Britain, London and Colchester?
4. How long did the Romans stay in Britain? Why did they leave Britain?
5. What did the Romans contribute to Britain? What other things originated from the Romans?

### 1.3 Saxon Britain ( AD 450 to AD 779 )

The last Roman soldiers left Britain in AD 410, and then new people came in ships across the North Sea. The new settlers were a mixture of people from north Germany, Denmark and northern Holland. Most were Saxons, Angles and Jutes. There were some Franks and Frisians too.

The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so they are often known as Anglo-Saxons. They were warrior-farmers, tall, fair-haired men, armed with swords and spears and round shields. They loved fighting and were very fierce.

Historians are not sure why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain. Some sources say that the Saxon warriors were invited to come to the area now known as England, to help keep out invaders from Scotland and Ireland. Another reason for coming may have been because their land often flooded and it was difficult to grow crops, so they were looking for new places to settle down and farm.

They ruled in England for about 500 years ( 100 years longer than the Romans ). However, unlike the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons never “went home”; many people living in Britain today have Anglo Saxon ancestors. The name England even comes from the Saxon word “Angle-Land”.

Whether they settled peacefully, or drove the Britons from their lands, the Anglo-Saxons took control of most of Britain. However, they never conquered Scotland, Wales or Cornwall. The historian Bede, who lived in the 700s, wrote that Angles settled in East Anglia, the East Midlands and further north in Northumbria. Saxons moved in to Sussex ( named after the “South Saxons” ), Essex ( East Saxons ), Middlesex ( Middle Saxons ) and Wessex ( West Saxons ). Jutes settled mainly in Kent, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The seven principal kingdoms of Kent, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria have been given the name of Heptarchy.

Great Anglo-Saxon kings included Offa of Mercia ( who built Offa’s Dyke ) and Edwin of Northumbria ( who founded Edinburgh or “Edwin’s burh” ). But the most famous of all is Alfred, the only king in British history to be called “Great”. He was King of Wessex from 871 to 899 and became king of all England.

The Anglo-Saxon settlers shared the same language. Each group had a leader or war-chief. A strong leader became “cyning” — Anglo-Saxon for “king”. Each king ruled a kingdom and led a small army. There were many quarrels and wars between kings, to see who was the strongest.

The Roman Britons spoke Latin or local Celtic languages. The newcomers spoke their own languages, which in time became a language now known as Anglo-Saxon or Old English. The Anglo-Saxons themselves called it “Englisc”. The country taken over by the new settlers became “England”.

Some Britons settled down with the newcomers. Others moved west and north, taking their Latin-Celtic culture with them. Place names give clues to where the new “English” lived. A place-name ending in-ham, for instance, shows it was once a Saxon settlement. Ham in Anglo-Saxon English meant “village”.

Anglo-Saxons name for towns was burh or borough. The word “borough” still appears in place names in Britain — Peterborough and Scarborough are two examples.

The first Anglo Saxon Villages were often named after the Chieftain (Leader of the village). This made it clear which tribe the village belonged to. These places often have the letters “ing” of “folk” somewhere in their name, often at the end. The first part of the name was most likely to have been the name of the local chieftain.

The people who lived in the “village” of Hastings were “Haesta’s people” -Haesta was the chieftain. The people who lived in the “village” of Reading were “Redda’s people” -Redda was the chieftain .

Later Anglo-Saxon villages were named after a feature in their surroundings rather than the name of the chieftain. Oxford got its name because it was a place where oxen were driven across a ford in a river.

The Anglo-Saxons laid the foundations of the English state. Firstly, they divided the country into shires, which the Normans later called counties, with shire courts and shire reeves, or sheriffs, responsible for administering law as comprehensive as any in the early medieval world. Secondly, they devised the narrow-strip, three-field farming system<sup>1</sup> which continued to the 18th century. Thirdly, they also established the manorial system<sup>2</sup>. Finally, they created the Witan<sup>3</sup> (council or meeting of the wisemen) to advise the king, the basis of the Privy Council which still exists today.

Anglo-Saxon identity survived beyond the Norman Conquest, and came to be known as Englishry<sup>4</sup> under Norman rule and ultimately developed into the modern English people.

## Notes

1. **the narrow-strip, three-field farming system** 窄条三圃田农耕制。这是英国中世纪的一种轮作制度，田地分成相间窄条，一条种植农作物，两条长牧草，轮换种植，以保持肥力。
2. **the manorial system** 采邑制度（封地制度）。中世纪在西欧实施的一种土地占

有制度，以服骑兵役为条件，供终身享用，但是不能世袭。

3. **the Witan** 贤人会议，也称作盎格鲁-撒克逊国王的顾问团（Anglo-Saxon council, or the council of the Anglo-Saxon kings）。
4. **Englishry**（或 Englescherie）英国血统的人。中世纪的英国对于英国人的合法的名称，特指本土的盎格鲁-撒克逊血统的平民，而非盎格鲁-诺曼精英。

### Questions for comprehension and discussion

1. Who were the Anglo-Saxons? Where were they from?
2. Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain? How long did they stay there?
3. What are modern words for these words respectively: Anglia, Englisce, Sussex, Essex, Middlesex and Wessex? What is the word for the seven principal kingdoms?
4. In what ways were the Anglo-Saxon villages named?
5. What do the Roman Britons and the Anglo-Saxons call the languages they speak respectively?

## 1.4 Viking Britain (AD 793 to AD 1055)

The Viking Age in Britain began about 1,200 years ago in the 9th Century AD and lasted for just over 200 years.

About the year 800, bands of fierce raiders came across the North Sea and began to attack British coasts, just as the Anglo-Saxons had done 400 years earlier. They were the Vikings (also called the Danes although they didn't just come from Denmark). In time, like the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings made their home here. They drove the Saxons out of part of the country and took it for themselves.

Vikings were also known as the Norsemen, which means “people from the North”. They came from the three countries in Scandinavia (in Northern Europe): Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, where they were farmers, fishermen, seafarers and traders. Many Vikings were great travelers and sailed in their long ships to other parts of Europe and the Atlantic Ocean. Viking craftsmen made beautiful objects out of wood, metal and bone; Viking women were skilful weavers, produced fine, warm textiles.

Most Vikings were simply searching for better land for their farms. Their land was not very good for growing crops or rearing animals: Norway was very hilly, Sweden was covered in forests, and Denmark had a lot of sandy soil.

Some historians believe the Vikings left their homes because of over crowding. There was not enough good land for everyone to share. In a Viking family only the eldest son

inherited the family farm so younger brothers had to make their living elsewhere.

The Vikings searched for treasures to make them rich. Britain was particularly a good place to raid, as there was much to steal.

The Vikings first invaded Britain in AD 793 and last invaded in 1066 when William the Conqueror<sup>1</sup> became King of England after the Battle of Hastings<sup>2</sup>.

As the Vikings were attracted by the wealth of the Monasteries and the easy treasure to be found within, the first place they raided in Britain was the monastery at Lindisfarne, a small holy island located off the northeast coast of England. Some of the monks were drowned in the sea, others killed or taken away as slaves along with many treasures of the church.

The raid on Lindisfarne marks the start of the Viking migration from Scandinavia in 793.

In the years that followed, villages near the sea, monasteries and even cities found themselves besieged by these sea-based foreign intruders. Soon no region of the British Isles (Britain and nearby islands) was safe from the Vikings. They attacked villages and towns in Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man and England.

By 866 the Vikings had arrived in York. They made York (or Jorvik as they called it) the second biggest city in the country after London.

No matter how many times the Vikings were beaten, they always came back, and in the end all their efforts paid off. It was the Vikings of Normandy who finally conquered England in 1066 and changed British history for ever. King Alfred, Saxon king of Wessex, fought them in a great battle, but he could not drive them right away and had to let them have part of the country, called Danelaw, which covered an area roughly east of a line on a map joining London and Chester. The Saxons lived south of the line.

The Vikings settled in Islands off the coast of Scotland — Shetland, Orkney and the Hebrides, around the north and north west coast of Scotland, parts of Ireland — Dublin is a Viking city, the Isle of Man, small parts of Wales, Northumbria (which included modern Yorkshire), East Anglia, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stamford and Lincoln.

The long-term linguistic effect of the Viking settlements in England was threefold: over a thousand Old Norse words eventually became part of Standard English; numerous places in the East and North-east of England have Danish names, and many English personal names are of Scandinavian origin.

Scandinavian words that entered the English language included landing, score, beck, fellow, take, busting and steersman. The vast majority of loan words did not appear in documents until the early 12th century; these included many modern words which used sk-



sounds, such as skirt, sky, and skin; other words appearing in written sources at this time included again, awkward, birth, cake, dregs, fog, freckles, gasp, law, moss, neck, ransack, root, scowl, sister, seat, sly, smile, want, weak and window from Old Norse meaning “wind-eye”. Some of the words that came into use are among the most common in English, such as to go, to come, to sit, to listen, to eat, both, same, get and give. The system of personal pronouns was affected, with they, them and their replacing the earlier forms.

There are more than 1,500 Scandinavian place names in England, mainly in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire (within the former boundaries of the Danelaw): over 600 end in -by, the Scandinavian word for “village” — for example Derby, Rugby, Whitby, Selby, Grimsby; many others ending in -thorpe (or -thorp, -throp or -trop) meant “farms”, eg. Scunthorpe and Grimethorpe. Place names ending in -toft or -tofts. A -toft referred to the site of a house or a plot of land. These places mark the earliest Viking settlements.

The distribution of family names showing Scandinavian influence is still, as an analysis of names ending in -son reveals, concentrated in the north and east, corresponding to areas of former Viking settlement. Early medieval records indicate that over 60% of personal names in Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire showed Scandinavian influence.

## 👉 Notes

1. **William the Conqueror** 征服者威廉, 英格兰诺曼王朝第一任国王(1066—1087年在位), 又名: 威廉一世、征服王威廉 King William I the Conqueror。英国国王威廉一世以“征服者”闻名于世。
2. **the Battle of Hastings** 黑斯廷斯战役, 1066年10月14日, 哈罗德二世国王(Harold II)率领的盎格鲁-撒克逊军队和诺曼底公爵威廉一世(William of Normandy)的军队在黑斯廷斯(英国东萨塞克斯郡濒临加来海峡的城市)地域进行的一场交战。

## 📖 Questions for comprehension and discussion

1. Where did the Vikings come from? What kind of people were they?
2. Why did the Vikings come to Britain? What were their homelands like?
3. What was the first place raided by the Vikings, and why?
4. Where in Britain did the Vikings settle?
5. What was the long-term linguistic effect of the Viking settlements in England?