

英国社会与文化

田晓莉 代尊峰 刘佳爱 主编



吉林文史出版社
JILINWENSHICHUBANSHE

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英国社会与文化 / 田晓莉 代尊峰 刘佳爱主编. -- 长春 :
吉林文史出版社, 2016.12

ISBN 978-7-5472-3830-1

I. ①英… II. ①田… III. ①英国—概况 IV. ①K956.1

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2017)第 027909号

英国社会与文化

出版人 孙建军

主 编 田晓莉 代尊峰 刘佳爱

责任编辑 陈春燕 张 蕊

装帧设计 瑞天书刊

出版发行 吉林文史出版社

地址 长春市人民大街 4646 号

网址 www.jlws.com.cn

开本 787mm×1092mm 1/16

印张 12

字数 108 千字

印刷 济南文达印务有限公司

版次 2017 年 6 月第 1 版 2017 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

书号 ISBN 978-7-5472-3830-1

定价 43.00 元

《英国社会与文化》

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前言

如今，英语早已不是英国人的语言了，而成了一种世界型的大众语言。语言并不仅仅是传播的媒介，同时也是文化的载体和身份的标志。19世纪的英国人类学家泰勒（Edward Tylor）就在《原始文化》一书中，给文化下了一个比较经典的定义：“文化是一个复合体，其中包括知识、信仰、艺术、法律、道德、风俗以及人作为社会成员而获得的任何其它能力和习惯。”任何语言都根植于特定的文化背景之中，反映特定的文化内容。实际上，英语学习中，语言的学习与运用就是一种文化与另一种文化的交流与传播。静止孤立地学习某种语言，只能得到语言知识的皮毛，不可能获得语言能力，不可能得体地运用该语言。所以，要学好和使用好英语，就要了解其产生、使用这种语言的特定的社会文化背景和文化习俗。否则，对英语文化背景知识缺乏了解，必然导致交际障碍、冲突和误解。

当我们初学英语的时候，每个月都能感觉到自己的不断进步，每个学期都掌握了新的内容。我们即使学了很多年英语，一般只是应试性的背单词、学语法、通过考试。然而，进入大学，进入社会后，英语学习越久却很难有较大的进步，当我们读国外文章或看英文电影，或去英国留学时，却无法理解英国人的思维方式。对英语思维逻辑和文化背景的不熟悉，阻碍了我们进一步学习英语的热情。所以，若想精通一门语言，没有对其文化背景的深入了解，恐怕永远不能学好。

有鉴于此，我们围绕英国的区域划分、政治体系、教育制度、多元文化、饮食文化、风景名胜及文学影视作品等12个主题，用地道的英文、对应的汉语和精选的图片全景式地趣解英国文化。此外还会根据具体的语言环境，对“原汁原味”的特色词进行讲解，使读者不仅能够学到鲜活生动的语言，更能对其所植根的土地有所认识。通过这本书介绍最具英国特色的文化标志，如伦敦的大本钟、爱丁堡艺术节、建筑历史文化遗产“巨石阵”等，让学生们近距离了解相关文化。

《英国社会与文化》是一本以英国社会与文化为背景的，旨在帮助大学生和英语自学者了解英国的社会与文化概貌，如地理、历史、政治、经济、社会生活和传统文化等方面的基本知识。读者通过阅读此书，在扩大知识面和英语掌握上都将会有很大的收获。阅读可以升华人的情操，增长知识，提高语言文化的综合素质，更可以培养学习者的学习兴趣。这本书正是这样一本让人感觉妙趣横生，受益匪浅的英国文化读物。这将是一本让你增长见闻的读物！

田晓莉

2016年10月

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Chapter One

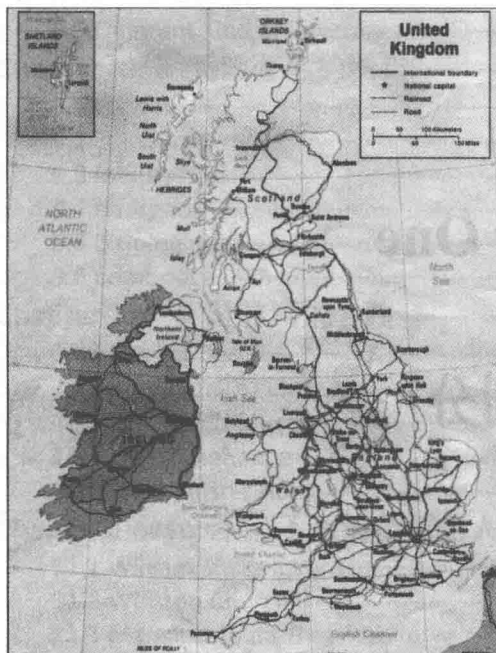
区域划分

英国全称是这样的

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国，又被称为联合王国或英国，是一个主权独立国。它是由英格兰、苏格兰、威尔士和北爱尔兰组成的联合王国。英格兰、威尔士、苏格兰以及北爱尔兰不是独立的国家，英国才是。英国的每个部分都有自己的行政与地理划分区域，这种划分主要形成于联合国形成之前。英国有三个国家下放行政权力机构，每个机构责权各不相同，分别位于北爱尔兰的首府贝尔法斯特、威尔士的首府加的夫与苏格兰的首府爱丁堡。英国位于欧洲大陆西北面的大不列颠群岛，被北海、英吉利海峡、凯尔特海、爱尔兰海和大西洋包围。国土面积 24.36 万平方公里，人口约 6000 万。

Chapter 1 区域划分

The UK is a unitary state governed under a constitutional **monarchy** and a **parliamentary** system. The full name of the country we are studying is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is a complicated name for what is in many ways a complicated country. The UK is one nation, with a single passport, and a single government having **sovereignty** over it all, but as the full name of the nation suggests, it is made up of different elements. It includes four parts within the one nation-state: the island of Great Britain is made up of England, Scotland and Wales, and Northern Ireland, a province on the neighboring island of Ireland, completes the set. Each country of the United Kingdom has its own system of **administrative** and geographic demarcation, which often has origins before the formation of the United Kingdom itself.



As for their geographic distribution, we all know that the UK is an island group in Western Europe, islands constituting the island of the Great Britain and the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland and many smaller islands. Britain — the largest island is the location for the separate countries of England, Scotland and Wales. England lies on the southern eastern part of the island of Great Britain. Scotland lies to the north of England, and Wales joins it on the west. Northern Ireland lies across the Irish Sea to the west, sharing the island of Ireland with the Republic of Ireland.

This distinction between the four **constituent** countries is only one, and perhaps the simplest, of the differences which divide the United Kingdom. It has been already pointed out that the UK is now a **multiracial** society, and these quite recent groups of immigrants have brought aspects of their own cultures with them which sit side by side with more traditionally Britain ways of life. In this chapter, we are going to offer more details on the four countries of the UK, namely England,



Notes

Scotland: 苏格兰，是大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国的政治实体之一，位于欧洲西部、不列颠岛北部，南接英格兰，东濒北海，东北与西北分别与挪威、丹麦、冰岛隔海相望，西临大西洋。

Wales: 威尔士，是大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国的政治实体之一，东邻英格兰，西临圣乔治海峡，南面布里斯托尔海峡，北靠爱尔兰海，首府和第一大城是加的夫。

Northern Ireland: 北爱尔兰，是大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国的政治实体之一，位于爱尔兰岛东北部，首府是贝尔法斯特。地形中间低平，周围多山。主要河流有班恩河。上游的内伊湖，面积 396 平方千米，是英国最大的湖泊，属冰蚀湖。属温带海洋性气候。

Republic of Ireland: 爱尔兰共和国，简称“爱尔兰”，是一个西欧的议会共和制国家，西临大西洋，东靠爱尔兰海，与英国隔海相望，是北美通向欧洲的通道。

1.1 England

Population(2015) 53,499,000 (UK total 64,456,631)

Area 130,423 km² (UK total 241,752 km²)

England is a country that is part of the United Kingdom. It shares land borders with Scotland to the north and Wales to the west. The Irish Sea lies northwest of England and the Celtic Sea lies to the southwest. England is separated from continental Europe by the North Sea to the east and the English Channel to the south. The country covers much of the central and southern part of the island of Great Britain, which lies in the North Atlantic and includes over 100 smaller islands such as the Isles of Scilly, and the Isle of Wight.

England is physically the largest one in the four nations, and it shows **dominance** over the other three nations in terms of area, population, economy and culture, which has the result that people in foreign countries sometimes make the mistake to talk about England when they mean the UK. And people in England sometimes make that mistake too, but people in the other three nations would always prefer to be called British, Scottish, Irish or Welsh rather than English. Therefore, the English feel most British of the four nations, and have the weakest sense of themselves as a separate “English” culture as compared with the other three nations.



In terms of the history of England, the earliest known evidence of human presence in the area now known as England was that of Homo **antecessor**, dating to approximately 780,000 years ago. The oldest primitive human bones discovered in England date from 500,000 years ago. With the long development history, Britain history has been a history of invasions. Before the first century AD Britain was made up of many tribal kingdoms of Celtic people: a powerful culture originating in central Europe. The in 43AD Britain was

invaded by the Roman empire, and England and Wales became a part of the Roman empire for nearly 400 years. As the Roman empire came under threat from the east, the Roman armies and Roman protection were withdrawn from Britain, and Britain was again divided into small kingdoms, and again it came under threat from outside, this time from Germanic peoples: the Angles, and the Saxons. Those Anglo-Saxons invaders were the forefather



of the English, the founders of “Angle-land” or “England” as it has become known. Then some other groups of **invaders** were to come after the English such as the Normans, from northern France. All of these invasions history made up the England.

With regard to geographic view, England consists mostly of lowland **terrain** which mostly comprises low hills and plains, especially in the central and southern part. However, there are uplands in the north and in the southwest. The upland in the moors of the Pennine Chain in the north region, known as the “backbone England”, the oldest range of mountains in the country divides northern England into western and eastern sectors.

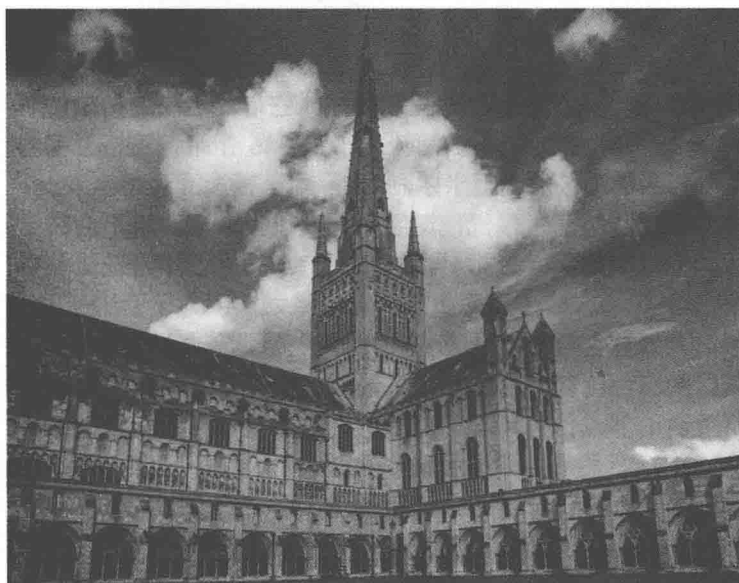


The ports of London, Liverpool, and Newcastle lie on the tidal rivers Thames, Mersey and Tyne respectively. At 354 km, the Severn is the longest river flowing through England. It empties into the Bristol Channel and is notable for its Severn Bore tidal waves, which can reach 2 meters in height. However, the longest river entirely in England is the Thames, which is 346 km in length. There are many lakes in England; the largest is Windermere, within the Lake District in the North West.

England has a temperate **maritime** climate: it is mild with temperatures not much lower than 0 °C in winter and not much higher than 32 °C in summer. The coldest months are

January and February, the latter particularly on the English coast, while July is normally the warmest month. The weather is damp relatively frequently and is changeable. Important influences on the climate of England are its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean.

It is a highly **urbanized** country, with 80% of its population living in cities, and only 2% of the population working in agriculture. Its largest city is the capital, London, which is dominant in the UK in all fields such as government, finance, and culture. London is located at the southeast of England. It is also the largest **metropolitan** area in the United Kingdom and even in the European Union by most measures. With a long history, London is also one of the most bustling financial cities in the world famous for its commercial and manufacturing industries. Birmingham is the second largest city in England which located



the southern of the Pennine Chain. And the hub of transportation in England — Manchester. Other major cities in England also include Liverpool and Newcastle.

Different from other three parts in the UK which have their own devolved government, England is governed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. In today's England, it exists four levels of administrative division

that ranged from Region, County, District and Parish. And including London, the whole England is decided into nine regions at the highest level. The regions are each made up of a number of countries and districts. Then the parish is the lowest level of division which exercised in parts of England. However, these divisions plays only a limited role in public policy.

英格兰是英国的一部分。它的北部与苏格兰接壤，西部与威尔士相连，西北紧靠爱尔兰海，西南为凯尔特海。以东，英格兰与欧洲大陆隔北海相望，以南，与英吉利海峡相隔。它占据了大不列颠岛——位于北大西洋，由锡利群岛、怀特岛等一百多个小岛组成——的中心及南部地区。

英格兰是英国四个主要地区中面积最大的，同时，也是人口最多，经济最发达，文化影响力最大的地区。因此，导致很多外国人误把英格兰用来代指整个联合王国。有时竟连英格兰人们也会犯这样的错误。不过，其他三个地区的人们，却宁愿被称为不列颠人、苏格兰人、爱尔兰人或者威尔士人，而不是英国人。所以与其他三个地区不同，英格兰文化几乎与英国文化融为一体。

关于英格兰的历史，根据已知最早的证据，关于英格兰祖先要追溯到大约七十八万年以前。已发现的最古老的原始人骨也要追溯到五十万年以前。在悠久的发展历程中，大不列颠的历史是一段侵略的历史。在公元前一世纪前，英国由凯尔特人的许多

Notes

The Celtic Sea: 凯尔特海，是大西洋的一个海域，位于爱尔兰的南方。

The North Sea: 北海是大西洋的边缘海，位于欧洲大陆的西北，由大不列颠岛、设得兰群岛、斯堪的纳维亚半岛、日德兰半岛和西欧大陆围成，面积 $57 \times 104 \text{ km}^2$ ，大部分为浅海大陆架，平均水深只有 96m。

English Channel: 英吉利海峡，又名拉芒什海峡，是分隔英国与欧洲大陆的法国、并连接大西洋与北海的海峡。海峡长 560 公里（350 英里），宽 240 公里（150 英里），最狭窄处又称多佛尔海峡，仅宽 34 公里（21 英里）。英国的多佛尔与法国的加莱隔海峡相望。

Roman empire: 罗马帝国（公元前 27 年—公元 395 年；西罗马帝国，公元 395 年—公元 476 年；东罗马帝国，公元 395 年—公元 1204 年，公元 1261 年—公元 1453 年），正式名称为元老院与罗马人民，中国史书称为大秦、拂菻，是古罗马文明的一个阶段。

Anglo-Saxons: 盎格鲁-撒克逊的本意就是盎格鲁（Anglos）和撒克逊（Saxons）两个民族结合的民族，是一个集合用语，通常用来形容五世纪初到 1066 年诺曼征服之间，生活于大不列颠东部和南部地区，在语言、种族上相近的民族。盎格鲁是德国丹麦交界的石勒苏益格州的地名（Angel），同时也是英吉利人的谐音，萨克逊人是德国北部的民族，是一千年前从丹麦移居德国的日耳曼民族，德国有三个州叫撒克逊。

Liverpool 利物浦，是英格兰西北部的一个港口城市，英国第四大城市，位于伦敦西北 325 公里，乘火车到伦敦需 2 小时 40 分钟。英国著名商业中心，也是第二大商港，利物浦腹地宽广。利物浦也是著名的 Waterfront 是 Albert Dock、披头士、Tate 美术馆和航海博物馆的故乡，市内建筑独具风格，有著名的大教堂、市政厅、圣乔治大厅、大剧院和 Philharmonic 音乐厅，并拥有一所英国久负盛名的老牌名校利物浦大学。

Newcastle: 纽卡斯尔市是英格兰 20 世纪最受欢迎的城市之一，著名的纽卡斯尔大学坐落在市中心，该市也是泰恩河畔拥有卫星城市的集合城市中最大的一个。纽卡斯尔是英格兰核心城市（English Core Cities Group）之一。纽卡斯尔和其周边地区的人通常被叫做“高地人”（Geordies）。

the Pennine Chain: 奔宁山脉旧译“佩奈恩山脉”。英国英格兰北部的的主要山脉和分水岭，从南部的南泰恩河谷地到南部的特伦特河谷地，南北延伸 241 公里，东西平均宽度为 48 公里。

1.2 Scotland

Population(2015) 5,300,000 (UK total 64,456,631)

Area 77,080 km² (UK total 241,752 km²)

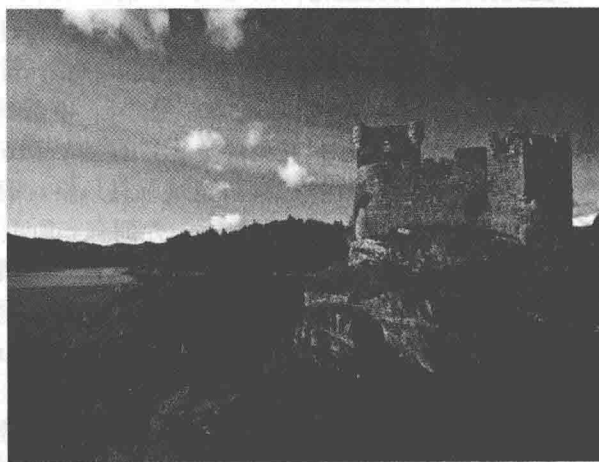
Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom and covers the northern third of the island of Great Britain. It shares a border with England to the south, and is otherwise



surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the North Sea to the east and the North Channel and Irish Sea to the south-west. In addition to the mainland, the country is made up of more than 790 islands, including the Northern Isles and the Hebrides. It is the second largest one in the four nations, both in population and in geographical area.

In terms of the geographical characters, Scotland is the most **rugged** part of the UK, with areas

of **sparsely** populated mountains and lakes in the north (The Highlands), and in the south (The Southern Uplands). The highest peak of the UK locates in the northern highlands. The central Lowlands are the location of the Firth of Clyde in the west and the Firth of Forth in the east. Three-quarters of the population lives in the lowland zone which spans the country between these two highland areas. The central region is also main farming district in Scotland and boasts several large cities, including Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the ninety percent of Scottish population.



The climate of Scotland is temperate and **oceanic**, and tends to be very changeable. As it is warmed by the Gulf Stream from the



Atlantic, it has much milder winters (but cooler, wetter summers) than areas on similar latitudes, such as Labrador, southern Scandinavia and the Moscow region in Russia on the opposite side of Eurasia. The west of Scotland is usually warmer than the east, owing to the influence of Atlantic ocean currents and the colder surface temperatures of the North Sea. The western highlands of Scotland are the wettest, with annual