

外国社会与文化丛书

加拿大社会与文化

吴 斐 编著



WUHAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

武汉大学出版社



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人类迈入 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。《加拿大社会与文化》编著的宗旨就是为中国广大的英语学习者开辟一条通向英语信息的高速公路:其一,用理性的思辨探索加拿大社会与文化的脉络,坦诚而透彻地审视西方现代文明的本质;其二,逐本溯源,透视加拿大社会与文化的精神和物质成果,从湖泊山川、人文景观、政治制度、国民经济、教育体制、文学艺术、新闻传媒、历史事件、城市风情、多元文化、体育娱乐等方面认识文化奉献给加拿大社会的知识和智慧;其三,潜心品味精美的英语语言,通过轻松愉悦、节奏舒缓的阅读开阔视野、提高语言修养,以成熟与自信的步伐抵达英语语言的殿堂。

加拿大文化在丰富多彩的世界文化中不是一尊封闭在玻璃罩中的古董,它以开放的胸怀海纳百川,创造了独特的马赛克文化。杜鲁门总统曾经感叹:“加拿大是个博大的国家——博大的胸襟,博大的情怀,博大的疆土。”加拿大地域辽阔,面积位居世界第二;加拿大资源广袤,林业位居世界第三;加拿大湖泊众多,淡水湖位居世界第一;加拿大矿藏丰富,铀、钾产量位居世界之首。加拿大被联合国评为“全世界最适合人类居住的国家”,它是英联邦的成员,却一直顽强地探索适合本国国情的发展道路;它与美国为邻,却在强势中找到了自己的生存空间。正如著名公共知识分子诺姆·乔姆斯基指出的:“美国人有着伟大崇高的原则,他们为维护这些原则而进入地狱。加拿大人也有伟大崇高的原则,他们设法绕过这些原则而升入天堂。”

本书分为九章。第一章“加拿大概览”,描述了这片伟大的土地和国家的诞生。第二章“加拿大各省与领地”,从地理特征、历史、人民和经济的角度介绍了加拿大各省和领地的鲜明形象。第三章“加拿大政治体制”,探讨了君主立宪制的联邦国家实行议会民主的基准。第四章“加拿大国民经济”,论述了以知识为主导的产业和国民经济的命脉。第五章“加拿大教育”,解析了加拿大教育体系对所有人的综合性、多样性和可用性。第六章“加拿大体育与传媒”,客观评价了加拿大人参加体育运动,特别是冬季运动的传统,以及传媒在构筑国家意识形态领域中的关键作用。第七章“加拿大主要城市”,探讨了

世界上最具多元文化的城市。第八章“加拿大风景名胜”，论述了独树一帜的国家历史公园，以及其规模、文化、自然和休闲资源的一体化在整个世界历史公园中所起的作用。第九章“多民族家园”，论述了多元文化对加拿大社会的渗透。全书各章自成一体又相互呼应，始终沿着文化的脉络前行。

余秋雨先生曰，“英语文化的强大在于它在全球各地有一个既沟通又各异的庞大结构。”本书力图融知识性、趣味性与学术性为一体，展示加拿大社会与文化的深邃、复杂与斑斓，细致、全面地俯瞰枫叶之国——加拿大。愿这本《加拿大社会与文化》能引起读者的同感，并以此为起点踏上探索与追求的旅途。

作者

2011年3月



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Chapter One



Panoramic View of Canada

1. A Geographical Survey

Occupying the northern half of the North American continent, Canada's land mass is 9,984,670 km², making it the second-largest country in the world after Russia. From east to west, Canada encompasses six time zones.

In addition to its coastlines on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, Canada has a third sea coast on the Arctic Ocean, giving it the longest coastline of any country. To the south, Canada shares an 8,891 kilometer boundary with the United States. To the north, the Arctic islands come within 800 kilometers of the North Pole. Canada's neighbor across the Arctic Ocean is Russia.

Because of the harsh northern climate, only 12 percent of the land is suitable for agriculture. Thus, most of the populations of 30 million live within a few hundred kilometers of the southern border, where the climate is milder, in a long thin band stretching between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

If you fly over Manitoba or northern Ontario in summer, you will see more water than land: lakes, big and small, so many that they could not possibly be counted. It has been estimated that Canada has one-seventh of the world's fresh water. In addition to the Great Lakes, which it shares with the United States, Canada has many large rivers and lakes.

Canada is divided into seven regions, each with a very different landscape and climate.

The Pacific Coast

Bathed by warm, moist Pacific air currents, the British Columbia coast, indented by deep fiords and shielded from Pacific storms by Vancouver Island, has the most moderate climate of Canada's regions.

Vancouver Island's west coast receives an exceptional amount of rain, giving it a temperate rain forest climate. Although it does not contain the diversity of species of a tropical rain forest, the island's west coast does have the oldest and tallest trees in Canada: Western Red Cedars 1,300 years old and Douglas firs 90 meters high.

The Cordillera

From British Columbia to just east of the Alberta border the land is young, with rugged mountains and high plateaus. Signs of geologically-recent volcanic activity can be seen in Garibaldi Provincial Park in southern British Columbia and at Mount Edziza in the north.

The Rocky Mountains, the Coastal Mountains and other ranges, running north to south, posed major engineering problems for the builders of the transcontinental railways and highways. Canada's highest peaks, however, are not in the Rockies, but in the St. Elias Mountains, an extension of the Cordillera stretching north into the Yukon and Alaska. The highest point in Canada, Mount Logan (5,959 meters), rises amid a huge ice field in the southwest corner of the Yukon, the largest icecap south of the Arctic Circle.

The British Columbia interior varies from alpine snowfields to deep valleys where desert-like conditions prevail. On the leeward side of the mountains, for example, a rain-shadow effect is created, forcing Okanogan Valley farmers to irrigate their orchards and vineyards.

The Prairies

Across the Prairies is the endless fields of wheat ripening under a sky that seems to go on forever. The plains of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are among the richest grain-producing regions in the world.

Yet, even here there are surprises. From the road at Brooks and Alberta to the north, descends into the Red Deer River Valley. Here, in desert-like conditions, water and wind have created strange shapes in the sandstone called "hoodoos". The same forces of erosion have uncovered some of the largest concentrations of dinosaur fossils in the world.

The Canadian Shield

A huge inland sea called Hudson Bay extends into the heart of Canada, and wrapped around this bay is a rocky region called the Canadian Shield. Canada's largest geographical feature, it stretches east to Labrador, south to Kingston on Lake Ontario and northwest as far as the Arctic Ocean.

The Shield is considered to be the nucleus of the North American continent. Its gneiss and granite rocks are 3.5 billion years old, three-quarters the age of the Earth. Scraped by the advance and retreat of glaciers, the Shield has only a thin layer of soil that supports a boreal forest of spruce, fir, tamarack and pine.

The region is a storehouse of minerals, including gold, silver, zinc, copper and uranium.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands

Southern Quebec and Ontario, the industrial heartland of Canada, contain Canada's two largest cities, Toronto and Montreal. Fifty percent of Canadians live in this small region where 70 percent of Canada's manufactured goods are produced.

The region also has prime agricultural land, for example, the Niagara Peninsula. The large expanses of lakes Erie and Ontario extend the number of frost-free days, permitting the cultivation of grapes, peaches, pears and other fruits.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region is sugar maple country. In the autumn, the sugar maple leaves, Canada's national symbol, are ablaze in red, orange and gold. The sap is collected in spring and evaporated to make maple syrup and sugar, a culinary delicacy first prepared and used by the North American Aboriginal peoples.

The Atlantic Provinces-Appalachian Region

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are the smallest Canadian provinces, and were the first to be settled by Europeans.

The Grand Banks have been called the "wheat fields" of Newfoundland. This shallow continental shelf extends 400 kilometers off the east coast, where the mixing of ocean currents has created one of the richest fishing grounds in the world. Once thought to contain a virtually inexhaustible supply of fish, the Banks are now considered a vulnerable resource that must be managed wisely.

The Atlantic Provinces are an extension of the Appalachians, an ancient mountain range. Much of the region has low, rugged hills and plateaus and a deeply indented coastline. Agriculture flourishes in the fertile valleys, such as the Saint John River Valley in New Brunswick, and the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia.

Prince Edward Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has a gently rolling landscape with a rich, red soil. This fertile island is Canada's smallest province, making up a mere 0.1 percent of Canada's land mass.

The Arctic

North of the tree-line is a land of harsh beauty. During the short summer, when daylight is nearly continuous and a profusion of flowers blooms on the tundra, the temperature can reach 30°C. Yet the winters are long, bitterly cold and dark.

The Arctic is no longer an inaccessible frontier. Inuvik, in the Mackenzie Delta, can be reached by road, and every community is served by air. Most have electricity, stores and health services.

North of the mainland is a maze of islands separated by convoluted straits and sounds, the most famous of which link together to form the fabled Northwest Passage, the route to the Orient sought by so many early explorers.

2. The Making of a Nation

Aboriginal peoples are thought to have arrived from Asia thousands of years

ago by way of a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Some of them settled in Canada, while others chose to continue to the south. When the European explorers arrived, Canada was populated by a diverse range of Aboriginal peoples who, depending on the environment, lived nomadic or settled lifestyles, were hunters, fishermen or farmers. First contacts between the native peoples and Europeans probably occurred about 1,000 years ago when Icelandic Norsemen settled for a brief time on the island of Newfoundland. However, it would be another 600 years before European exploration began in earnest.

First Colonial Outposts

Seeking a new route to the rich markets of the Orient, French and British explorers plied the waters of North America. They constructed a number of posts—the French mostly along the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River; the British around Hudson Bay and along the Atlantic coast. Although explorers such as Cabot, Cartier and Champlain never found a route to China and India, they found something just as valuable—rich fishing grounds and teeming populations of beaver, fox and bear, all of which were valued for their fur.

Permanent French settlement began in the early 1600s and increased throughout the century. With settlement came economic activity, but the colonies of New France remained economically dependent on the fur trade and politically and militarily dependent on their mother countries. Inevitably, North America became the focal point for the bitter rivalry between England and France. After the fall of Quebec City in 1759, the *Treaty of Paris* assigned all French territory east of the Mississippi River to Britain, except for the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the island of Newfoundland. Under British rule, the 65,000 French-speaking inhabitants of Quebec had a single aim—to retain their traditions, language and culture. In 1774, Britain passed the *Quebec Act*, which granted official recognition to French civil laws and guaranteed religious and linguistic freedoms.

Large numbers of English-speaking colonists, called Loyalists because they wished to remain faithful to the British Empire, sought refuge in Canada after the United States of America declared its independence in 1776. They settled mainly in the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and along the Great Lakes. The increase in population led to the creation in 1791 of Upper Canada (now

Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec). Both were granted their own representative governing institutions. After the Rebellions for political reforms in Upper and Lower Canada in 1837 and 1838, Lord Durham recommended to the British Parliament that the Canadas be joined, leading to the *Act of Union*. In 1848, the joint colony was granted responsible government except in matters of foreign affairs. Canada gained a further measure of autonomy but remained part of the British Empire.

A Country Is Born

Britain's North American colonies—Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland—grew and prospered independently. However, with the emergence of a more powerful United States after the American Civil War, some politicians felt a union of the British colonies was the only way to fend off eventual annexation. On July 1, 1867, Canada East, Canada West, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined together under the terms of the *British North America Act* to become the Dominion of Canada. The government of the new country was based on the British parliamentary system, with a Governor General (the Crown's representative) and a Parliament consisting of an elected House of Commons and an appointed Senate. Parliament received the power to legislate over certain matters of national interest, while the provinces were given legislative powers over matters of “particular” interest (such as property and education).

Westward Expansion

Soon after Confederation, Canada expanded into the northwest. Rupert's Land—an area extending south and west from Hudson Bay for thousands of kilometers—was purchased by Canada from the Hudson's Bay Company, which had been granted the vast territory by King Charles of England in 1670. Westward expansion did not happen without stress. In 1869, Louis Riel led a political battle over the Hudson's Bay Company land, in an attempt to defend Métis ancestral rights to the land. A compromise was reached in 1870 and a new province, Manitoba, was carved from Rupert's Land.

British Columbia, already a Crown colony since 1858, decided to join the