



展望(Prospect)全国高等院校英语专业系列精品教材

# 美国历史文化概况

董晓波 主编

*Introduction to American  
History and Cultures*



对外经济贸易大学出版社

University of International Business and Economics Press

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中国·北京

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**Introduction to American**  
**History and Cultures (English Edition)**

董晓波 主编

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“展望 (Prospect) 全国高等院校英语专业系列精品教材”由对外经济贸易大学出版社联合多所我国重点本科大学推出。教材根据针对全国本科院校英语专业设计,内容涵盖英语专业必修和选修课教学,包括基础技能、语言学、文学、文化、商务等方面,囊括当前我国高校英语专业所开设的大部分课程,并充分考虑到我国英语教育的地区差异和不同院校英语专业的特点,为英语教学提供更多的选择。

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本系列教材的作者为中的学科带头人和一线优秀教师,教材充分体现了当今大学英语专业教育的发展方向和水平。具体书目包括《基础英语教程 1-4》、《基础英语教程辅导用书 1-4》《英语听力 1-2》、《英语口语 1-2》、《英语视听说》、《英语阅读 1-2》、《英汉/汉英口译基础教程》、《大学英汉翻译教程(第三版)》、《大学汉英翻译教程》、《英语写作》、《学术类论文写作手册(第三版)》、《经贸英语文章选读》、《经贸英语翻译》、《经贸英语口译》、《商务英语写作》、《跨文化交际》、《国际商务礼仪》、《英美国家概况》、《英国文学简史》、《美国文学简史》、《英美文学作品选读》、《实用英语文体学教程》、《英语语言学教程》、《英美报刊高级阅读教程》等。

教材选配 PPT 课件(网站下载),并根据教材自身特点选配教学参考书或者 MP3 光盘,建设立体化教学资源。本系列教辅资料请登录 <http://www.uibep.com/> 下载。

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# Preface

## 前 言

随着全球化时代的到来和改革开放的深入,国际间跨文化合作日益增多,同时,各行各业对具有扎实的外语知识技能和广博的全球文化知识的人才的需求也日益迫切。2004年,国家教育部高等教育司公布的《大学英语课程教学要求》明确地把学生“文化意识”的培养列入到英语教学中,认为在英语教学中培养学生的文化意识与培养学生的语言意识、语言技能同等重要。语言教学不仅包括语言知识的教学,而且包括文化知识的教学。只有充分了解目标语言国的历史文化,学习者才能真正有效地掌握语言知识,提高语言能力,更加有效地将这门语言运用于实践。《美国历史文化概况(英文版)》将了解美国历史文化知识与学习英语语言技能结合在一起,是为高等学校英语专业学生和非英语专业本科学生、研究生编选的融文化与历史知识为一体的新型英语教材。

本书遵循“以人为本”的理念,从中国学生实际出发,从不同方面向中国学生介绍美国的历史与文化现象。全书共分15个单元,既涵盖了美国历史上的重大事件,如:殖民与独立、西进运动、内战、世界大战、经济大萧条等,又涉及美国文化的方方面面,宏观方面涵盖了领土与环境、法律、节庆日、黑人奴隶、宗教与信仰等,微观方面则包含了文学、艺术、建筑、运动、音乐、电影、科技、城市等大量内容,可谓是美国历史文化的一部缩影。全书采用真实地道的语言材料,主要取材于国外报刊杂志以及相关历史文献资料,穿插图表、照片等真实的视觉材料,表现手段活泼,效果生动直观。无论对广大学生还是对美国历史文化感兴趣的其他学习者来说,本书都是一本了解美国、积累历史文化知识、开阔视野、启发思路的良好读物。通过本书的学习可以进一步增进中国学生对美国历史文化的了解,并透过历史的表象了解美国文化核心,拓宽文化视野,从而进一步提高跨文化交际的能力。

本书可以作为英语专业知识基础课——美国文化、美国历史方向的专业课教材,也可以作为高等院校非英语专业本科学生和研究生公选课教材或课外泛读教材,也可供历史学专业美国史方向和对美国问题饶有兴趣的学生及希望通过对美国历史与文化的学习来提高英语技能的读者使用。本书课后练习答案请登陆 [www.uibep.com](http://www.uibep.com) 下载。

本教程由董晓波任主编,季璇、邹美珍任副主编,殷文婷、徐东青、汤呈懿、陈钟梅参编。

## 2 美国历史文化概况（英文版）

在整个编写过程中，我们力求臻于完美，但是限于水平及一些不可避免的因素，定不乏偏颇和疏漏，恳请广大读者朋友和同行不吝指正，以臻完善。

董晓波

2010年9月

于南京东方城紫金山麓

电子邮箱: [dongxiaobo@163.com](mailto:dongxiaobo@163.com)

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## Unit

## 1

## Colonization and Independence



## Text A British Colonization (1607-1776)

## 导 读

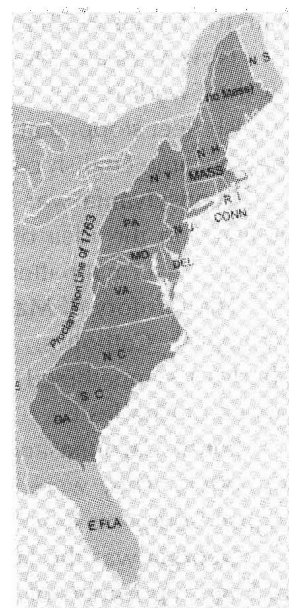
十七世纪初，移民大潮开始从欧洲流到北美。在三个多世纪里，从最初仅几百名的英格兰移民迁徙，逐渐变为千百万人势如潮水的大迁移。他们在各种强大的动机的推动下，终于在这片一度荒芜的大陆上，建立了新的文明。

## The Thirteen English-American Colonies

## The founding of the thirteen colonies

Christopher Columbus is believed to be the discoverer of America. He was an Italian. In 1492, financed by the Spanish queen, he sailed west from Spain in search of a sea route to India. He failed to reach India but found America instead. He believed he had reached India and called the natives on the island he had discovered the Indians. Following his steps, America Vespucci, another sailor flying the Spanish flag, proved that the land discovered by Columbus was not India, but a new continent. As a result, the new continent was named after him and became known as America. It was also called the New World while Europe became known as the Old World.

The first successful English colony **Virginia** in North America was planted in 1607. The area was named Virginia in honor of Elizabeth, known as Virginia Queen because she had never married. When Elizabeth I died in 1603, James I succeeded her. Like the queen, the new king encouraged foreign expansion as a way of easing religious disputes and economic distress in England. In 1606, he granted a



group of merchants the charter to form the Virginia Company. In 1607, the Virginia Company sent 105 men (no women) to America. The tiny band finally landed on the banks of the James River in present-day Virginia, which later became known as the mother state. The colonists established the Jamestown Settlement on the James River, both named after King James I.

Thirteen years after the founding of the settlement at Jamestown in Virginia, the second English colony **Massachusetts** was established. Unlike the first colonists at Jamestown, these newcomers came to America to seek freedom of religion. They had been known as Puritans because of their strong desire to “purify” the Church of England—to simplify its ritual and reform its structure by stopping appointing bishops. Their belief brought them much trouble in England, so they decided to immigrate into the territory of the Virginia Company in America. In September, 1620, a group of 102 puritans known as Pilgrim Fathers left Plymouth, England, and sailed for America in the ship named Mayflower.

They never got to Virginia. They landed at Plymouth on Cape Code on November 21, 1620. It was in present-day Massachusetts. The Pilgrim Fathers suffered terrible hardships during the first winter and half of them died. With the help of the native Indians, they started to cultivate crops and the next summer they reaped a good harvest. On the last Thursday in November of 1621, they celebrated their first Thanksgiving Day with a feast to thank God for His protection.

Beginning in 1630, large numbers of Puritans left England to settle in the Massachusetts. By 1643, about 20,000 immigrants had settled in this region, chiefly around the town of Boston. Gradually, religious disputes and struggles in Massachusetts intensified. Those who refused to obey the Puritanical rules or demanded freedom of beliefs were persecuted or driven out of the colony. Those who were banished from Massachusetts or could no longer endure the life there moved to other places to found new colonies. Before long, three other colonies were founded with the names of **Rhode Island**, **Connecticut**, and **New Hampshire**.

**New York** and **New Jersey** were first colonized by the Dutch while **Delaware** was founded by the Swedish. But the English would never tolerate any intruder at their door. In 1664, an English fleet stopped at Manhattan and commanded the three colonies to surrender. As a result, they became English colonies.

**Pennsylvania** was founded by another group of English Protestants called Quakers. They believed in the idea of peace through brotherly love. They refused to fight in any wars and wanted no formal pattern of worship.

The territory of **Maryland** was granted by Charles I to his friend Lord Baltimore as a refuge for English Catholics. The Catholics in England were persecuted after the Reformation and Charles I sympathized with them. The new colony was named in honor of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I.

**South Carolina** and **North Carolina** were originally given by Charles II to his eight close supporters. They were so faithful to him that they followed him to France in exile during the English Bourgeois Revolution.

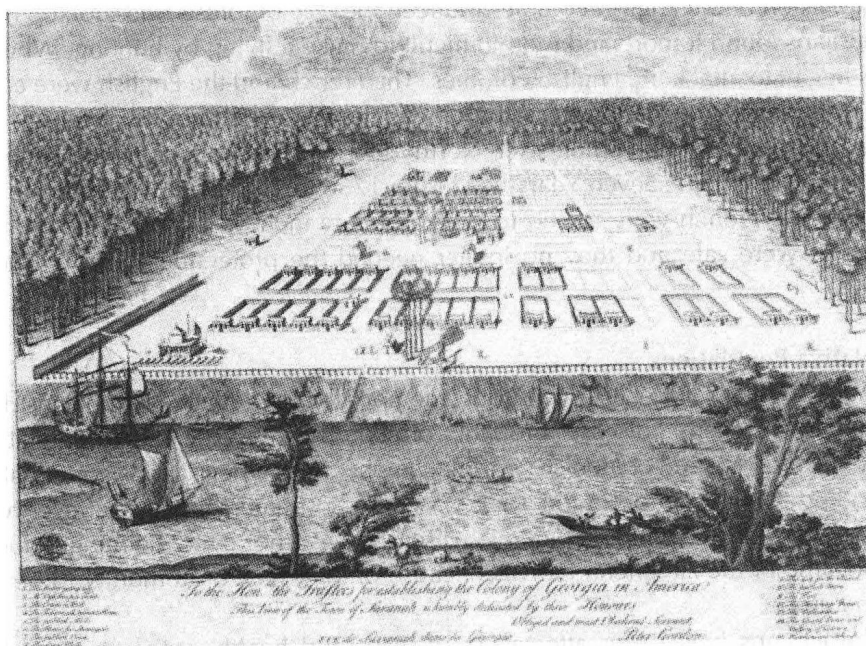
**Georgia** was the last of the thirteen English-American colonies. It was founded as a haven for English prisoners of debt who could not discharge their debts.

## Life in the Colonies

The thirteen colonies were divided into the three regional groupings—New England, the Middle Colonies and the Southern Colonies.

New England, composed of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, has generally thin, stony soil, relatively little level land, and long winters, making it difficult to make a living from farming. The early settlers made use of the deep-water harbors to develop fishing, trade and the ship-building industry. They usually lived near the shore around harbors and this promoted the development of cities. Some New England merchants engaged in the notorious slave trade. Wealth was rapidly accumulated in New England and the successful merchants and ship-builders became the forefathers of the American upper-middle class.

The Middle Colonies, consisting of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, were characterized by a large degree of diversity. The Middle Colonies had rich soil, allowing the area to become a major exporter of wheat and other grains. The lumber and shipbuilding industries enjoyed success in the Middle Colonies, and Pennsylvania saw moderate success in the textile and pig iron industry. The Middle Colonies were the most ethnically diverse British colonies in North America, with settlers coming from all parts of Europe. Civil unrest in Europe and other colonies saw an influx of immigrants to the Middle Colonies in the Eighteenth Century. With the new arrivals came various religions which were protected in the Middle Colonies by written freedom of religion laws. This tolerance was unusual and distinct from other British colonies.



Georgia Colony, early 1700's

In the Southern Colonies, made up of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, the climate was warm and there was enough level land for the early settlers to reclaim. As a result, people in the South were mainly devoted to agriculture and they lived apart along rivers and streams. Abundance of arable land also caused the appearance of large farms known as plantations. The plantation owners not only produced grain but also grew cotton and tobacco. The plantations were so large that the plantation owners had to buy Negro slavers from slave traders and employ indentured servants. The indentured servants could become free men after the term was over, but the black slaves had to stay on the plantation generation after generation.

### **Relations between England and Colonies**

England's main concern with the colonies was economic during most of the colonial time. The guiding principle was based on the mercantilist view. It demanded the colonies to supply the mother country with raw materials while importing goods manufactured in England. So long as England could obtain raw materials from and sell manufactured goods in her American colonies, she would tolerate some inconvenience. Besides, English merchants and adventurers reaped a lot of money by transporting black slaves to America. Meanwhile, other European countries, especially France, were trying to enlarge their control in North America and this certainly endangered the existence of the English colonies and limited their territorial expansion. The colonies had to depend on England for security. Besides, there were the Indians to deal with. Since the expansion of the English colonies reduced the size of forests and took up much fertile soil, many Indians found it more and more difficult to make a living by hunting. Whole tribes of Indians thus began to attack the English colonies. The French and the English were each tried to make use of the angry Indians to attack the other. This further strained the tense relationship between the French and English colonists in North America. The French and the English became rivals. Finally they fought the Seven Years' War from 1756 to 1763. The war ended in victory for the English and the French were forced to give up every inch of land in North America. The English colonies were safe and they no longer needed the protection given by their mother country.

### **Impact on Native Populations**

From the 16th through the 19th centuries, the population of Native Americans declined in the following ways: epidemic diseases brought from Europe; genocide and warfare at the hands of European explorers and colonists; displacement from their lands; internal warfare, enslavement; and a high rate of intermarriage. Most mainstream scholars believe that, among the various contributing factors, epidemic disease was the overwhelming cause of the population decline of the American natives because of their lack of immunity to new diseases brought from Europe.

Native Americans have been affected by disease and health concerns throughout their history, but a major turning point in Native American disease presence was with the arrival of



**Some indigenous peoples of the Americas were historically hunter-gatherers.**

Europeans. This ushered in what is termed the Columbian Exchange. During this period European settlers brought many different technologies and lifestyles with them, but one of the most harmful effects of this exchange was the arrival and spread of disease. Native Americans, due to the lack of prior contact with Europeans, had not previously been exposed to the diseases that were prevalent on the distant continent. Therefore they had not built up internal immunities to the diseases or formed any medicines to combat them. Europeans came into the New World bearing various diseases. Those infected with diseases either possessed them in a dormant state or were not quarantined in such a way that distanced them enough from Native Americans to not spread the diseases, allowing diseases to spread into epidemics.

The most notable disease brought by Europeans was the destructive smallpox disease. Numerous other diseases were brought to Native American tribes, including “measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, typhus, influenza, whooping cough, tuberculosis, cholera, diphtheria, chicken pox, and venereal diseases.” Each of these diseases brought destruction through sweeping epidemics, involving illness and extensive death. Many Native American tribes experienced extensive depopulation, averaging 25-50 percent of tribal life lost due to disease. Additionally, singular tribes also neared extinction after facing severely destructive spread of disease.

### **Words & Expressions**

1. colonization [kə'lənai'zeɪʃən] *n.* 殖民地化
2. colony ['kɒləni] *n.* 殖民地
3. finance [faɪ'næns] *vt.* 供资金给; 筹措资金
4. succeed [sək'si:d] *vi.* 继任; 继承
5. religious [ri'lɪdʒəs] *a.* 宗教性的, 宗教上的, 虔诚的
6. dispute [dis'pjut] *n.* 争论, 争执

7. distress [dis'tres] *n.* 悲痛, 悲伤, 痛苦; 不幸, 危难
8. merchant ['mætʃənt] *n.* 商人, 店主
9. charter ['tʃɑ:tə] *n.* 特许状, 执照, 宪章
10. establish [is'tæbliʃ] *vt.* 建立, 设立
11. settlement ['setlmənt] *n.* 殖民, 定居, 殖民地
12. immigrate ['imigreit] *vt.* 使移居入境
13. intensify [in'tensifai] *vt.* 加强
14. persecute ['pə:sikju:t] *vt.* 迫害, 虐待, 困扰
15. surrender [sə'rendə] *vi.* 投降, 自首
16. refuge ['refju:dʒ] *n.* 避难所, 安全地带, 避难, 庇护
17. exile ['eksail] *n.* 放逐, 流放, 被放逐者
18. notorious [nəu'tɔ:riəs] *a.* 声名狼藉的, 恶名昭著的, 众人皆知的
19. characterize ['kæriktəraiz] *vt.* 表示……的特性, 使具有……特点
20. lumber ['lʌmbə] *n.* 木材, 木料
21. unrest [ʌn'rest] *n.* 不安的状态, 动荡的局面
22. distinct [dis'tɪŋkt] *a.* 清楚的, 明显的; 截然不同的, 独特的
23. reclaim [ri'kleim] *vt.* 开垦, 改造, 感化, 纠正, 回收
24. arable ['ærəbl] *a.* 适于耕种的, 可耕的
25. plantation [plæn'teɪʃən] *n.* 种植园, 种植场
26. indentured [in'dentʃəd] *a.* 受契约束缚 (必须为人干活) 的
27. fertile ['fə:tail] *a.* 肥沃的, 富饶的; 丰富的; 能繁殖的, 可生育的
28. strain [strein] *vt.* 拉紧, 绷紧; 损伤, 扭伤; 紧张, 勉强
29. epidemic [epi'demik] *n.* 传染病, 流行病 *a.* 流行的, 传染性的
30. genocide ['dʒenəusaɪd] *n.* 种族灭绝; 集体屠杀
31. displacement [dis'pleismənt] *n.* 移位; 置换; 取代
32. warfare ['wɔ:fə] *n.* 战斗, 交战, 战争, 斗争, 竞争
33. overwhelming ['əʊvə'hwelmin] *a.* 势不可挡的, 占压倒优势的
34. immunity ['ɪmjʊniti] *n.* 免疫, 免疫性, 免除
35. prevalent ['prevələnt] *a.* 普遍的, 流行的
36. combat ['kɒmbət] *vt.* 与……战斗, 反对
37. destructive [di'straktiv] *a.* 毁灭性的, 破坏的, 有害的

## Notes

1. **Puritans:** The Puritans were a group of people who grew discontent in the Church of England and worked towards religious, moral and societal reforms. They contended that the Church of England had become a product of political struggles and man-made doctrines. The Puritans believed that the *Bible* was God's true law, and that it provided a plan for living. The established church of the day described access to God as monastic and possible only within the confines of "church authority". Puritans stripped away the traditional trappings and formalities of Christianity which had been slowly building throughout the previous 1500 years. Theirs was an attempt to "purify" the church and their own lives.
2. **Pilgrim Fathers:** Pilgrim Fathers is a name commonly applied to early settlers of the Plymouth Colony in present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States. Their leadership came from a

religious congregation of Puritans who had fled a volatile political environment in the England for the relative calm and tolerance of Holland in the Netherlands. Concerned with losing their cultural identity, the group later arranged with English investors to establish a new colony in North America.

3. **Manhattan:** Manhattan is one of the five boroughs of New York City. The word “Manhattan” has been translated as “island of many hills” from the Lenape language. Manhattan consists of Manhattan Island and several small adjacent islands. It is the smallest, yet most urbanized of the five boroughs. Manhattan is a major commercial, financial, and cultural center of both the United States and the world. Many major radio, television, and telecommunications companies in the United States are based here, as well as many news, magazine, book, and other media publishers. Manhattan has many famous landmarks, tourist attractions, museums, and universities. It is also home to the headquarters of the United Nations. Manhattan has the largest central business district in the United States, is the site of both the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ, and is the home to the largest number of corporate headquarters in the country. It is the center of New York City and the New York metropolitan region, hosting the seat of city government and a large portion of the area’s employment, business, and entertainment activities. As a result, residents of New York City’s other boroughs such as Brooklyn and Queens often refer to a trip to Manhattan as “going to the city”.
4. **Catholics:** The three primary divisions of Christianity are Roman Catholicism, the Orthodox church, and Protestantism. The Catholic Church, also known as the Roman Catholic Church, is the world’s largest Christian church, with more than a billion members. The Church’s leader is the Pope who holds supreme authority in concert with the College of Bishops of which he is the head. The Church defines its mission as spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, administering the sacraments and exercising charity. It operates social programs and institutions throughout the world including schools, universities, hospitals, missions, shelters and charities.
5. **Reformation:** The English Reformation was the series of events in 16th century England by which the Church of England first broke away from the authority of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Based on Henry VIII’s desire for an annulment of his marriage, the English Reformation was at the outset more of a political than a theological dispute. The reality of political differences between Rome and England allowed growing theological disputes to come to the fore. Before the break with Rome, it was the Pope and general councils of the church that decided doctrine. Church taxes were paid straight to Rome and it was the Pope who had the final say over the appointment of bishops. The split from Rome made the English monarch the Supreme Governor of the English church by “Royal Supremacy”, thereby making the Church of England the established church of the nation.
6. **The English Bourgeois Revolution:** The death of Queen Elizabeth ends the collaboration between the monarchy and the bourgeoisie. With the accession of Charles I to the throne in 1625, the conflict became more acute between the monarchy and the Parliament composed of solid middle-class country gentry and merchants, nearly all puritans. The clash led to a civil war in 1642 between the Royalists troops and the Parliamentary forces under the command of Oliver Cromwell. The parliamentary forces, though suffered some setbacks at first, decisively defeated the Royalists in 1645. The civil war ends up with the capture and execution of Charles I in 1645 and a republic under the name of the Commonwealth of England was founded with Cromwell as Lord Protector.
7. **Columbian Exchange:** The Columbian Exchange was a dramatically widespread exchange of

animal, plants, culture (including slaves), communicable diseases, and ideas between the Eastern and Western hemispheres. It was one of the most significant events concerning ecology, agriculture, and culture in all of human history. Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas in 1492 launched the era of large-scale contact between the Old and the New Worlds that resulted in this ecological revolution, hence the name "Columbian Exchange".

## Exercises

### I. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks with the most suitable words. Change the form when necessary.

persecute	intensify	overwhelming	destructive	establish
dispute	finance	immigrate	combat	refuge

1. It was the most \_\_\_\_\_ storm in 30 years.
2. Throughout history, people \_\_\_\_\_ for their religious beliefs.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ her fame as an actress.
4. His rudeness \_\_\_\_\_ her dislike for her.
5. About 6.6 million people \_\_\_\_\_ to the United States in the 1970s.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ majority of those present were in favor of the plan.
7. The suffering of the \_\_\_\_\_ makes her heart sore.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ between good and evil will continue forever.
9. Find a way to settle, not to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. New York is a great \_\_\_\_\_ center.

### II. Comprehension of the text

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

1. Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer, discovered America, which is called the New World while England became known as the Old World. ( )
2. The first successful English colony Virginia was planted in 1607 by the Virginia Company. ( )
3. In September, 1620, a group of 102 puritans known as Pilgrim Fathers left England, sailed for America in the ship named Mayflower and landed on the banks of the James River in present-day Virginia. ( )
4. The early settlers of New England made use of the deep-water harbors to develop farming, fishing, trade and the ship-building industry. ( )
5. There is abundant arable land in the Southern Colonies which caused the appearance of plantations. ( )
6. During most of the colonial time, England's main concern with the colonies was economic while the colonies had to depend on England for security. ( )
7. Genocide and warfare at the hands of European explorers and colonists were the overwhelming causes of the population decline of the American natives. ( )



### III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. Like the queen, the new king encouraged foreign expansion as a way of easing religious disputes and economic distress in England.
2. They had been known as Puritans because of their strong desire to “purify” the Church of England—to simplify its ritual and reform its structure by stopping appointing bishops.
3. The indentured servants could become free men after the term was over, but the black slaves had to stay on the plantation generation after generation.
4. From the 16th through the 19th centuries, the population of Native Americans declined in the following ways: epidemic diseases brought from Europe; genocide and warfare at the hands of European explorers and colonists; displacement from their lands; internal warfare, enslavement; and a high rate of intermarriage.
5. Those infected with diseases either possessed them in a dormant state or were not quarantined in such a way that distanced them enough from Native Americans to not spread the diseases, allowing diseases to spread into epidemics.



## Text B The Road to Independence (1763-1783)

### 导读

英法为争夺海上霸权和掠夺殖民地而进行的七年战争，以英国胜利告终。英国在北美接管了加拿大和佛罗里达，控制了密西西比河以东的新法兰西，对北美殖民地全面加强控制，宣告阿巴拉契亚山脉以西为王室产业，禁止殖民地人民染指；并征收税款，严厉缉私，限制经济活动，严重损害了殖民地各阶层人民的经济利益。从1619年弗吉尼亚建立议会开始，各殖民地相继成立议会，与英国相抗衡。1765年九个殖民地举行抗议印花税大会，掀起反抗怒潮，走向独立的道路。

### The Seven Years' War

By the middle of the 18th century, differences in life, thoughts and interests had developed in the mother country and the growing colonies. Local political institutions and practice diverged significantly from English ways, while social customs, religious beliefs, and economic interests added to the potential sources of conflict. The British government, like other imperial powers in the 18th century, favored a policy of mercantilism, which stipulates that in order to build economic strength, a nation must export than it imports. To achieve this favorable balance of trade, the English passed regulatory laws exclusively benefiting the British economy. These laws created a trade system whereby Americans provided raw goods to Britain, and Britain used raw goods to produce manufactured goods that were sold in European markets and back to the colonies. As suppliers of raw goods only, the colonies could not compete with Britain in manufacturing. English ships and merchants were always favored, excluding other countries from sharing in the British Empire's wealth. Between 1651 and 1673, the English Parliament passed four Navigation Acts intended to regulate commerce in the British interest. These were