

*A Brief Introduction to
Britain and America*

英美概况

温洪瑞
李学珍
主编

第 3 版



山东大学出版社

*Brief Introduction to
Britain and America*

英美概况

温洪瑞 李学珍 主编

第3版



山东大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英美概况/温洪瑞,李学珍主编. —3 版. —济南:
山东大学出版社,2008.6
ISBN 978-7-5607-1833-0

- I. 英…
- II. ①温…②李…
- III. ①英语—高等学校—教材
②英国—概况—英文
③美国—概况—英文
- IV. H319.4:K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2006)第 165298 号

山东大学出版社出版发行
(山东省济南市山大南路 27 号 邮政编码:250100)
山东省新华书店经销
荣成三星印刷有限公司印刷
787×980 毫米 1/16 22 印张 407 千字
2008 年 6 月第 3 版 2008 年 6 月第 16 次印刷
定价:28.00 元

版权所有,盗印必究

凡购本书,如有缺页、倒页、脱页,由本社营销部负责调换

序

《英美概况》即将付梓，应邀为其作序，我欣然从命，缘起如下：

一、该书成稿已久，作为使用教材，历经十余春秋。作者孜孜不倦，默默耕耘，精益求精，几番更新，倾注无尽心血，使其终于问世，当是幸事，为此致贺。

二、两位作者先后赴沪参加美籍专家执教的中美文化研讨班，史料例证有根基；一道参与翻译《英汉对照实用中医文库》，语言文字有功底；同为硕士生导师，联袂开设“英美文化专题”学位课，学术理论有水平；联名申请出版基金，携手推出《英美概况》英文教材，合作共事创新绩，可谓佳话，借此介绍。

三、编写原则针对性强。具有自己的特色。选材难易得当，注重实用；内容充实、新颖、适合教学；语言通顺、地道，便于自学。《英美概况》实属应社会之需，补教学之缺，并带有创新性的一部好的教材，质量应属上乘，特此推荐。

是为序。

李延福

1997年4月于山东大学

三版前言

承蒙广大读者对《英美概况》教材的厚爱与关心,使其第三版有机会得以付梓。为了不辜负广大读者的期望,我们本着有错必纠、精益求精、与时俱进和方便读者的原则,在保持原教材基本框架结构不变的情况下,对教材进行了认真的修订,主要是更改、充实或补充某些新的内容,以便读者能够从中更多地了解近年来英美两国发展变化的最新情况。

此次修订正值 2008 年北京奥运会即将来临之际,我们衷心希望教材的修订本能够以新的面目,客观地、简明扼要地、更好地为读者提供有关这两个主要英语国家有用的文化背景知识,为使用英语进行中外交流奠定背景知识基础,清除因文化差异而造成的交流障碍,帮助读者打开对外交流的方便之门。若能如此,该教材的修订也算是我们语言文化工作者对北京奥运所尽的一点微薄之力吧!我们期待着以更高的质量、更新的品味,向北京奥运会献礼!

时间有限,错漏难免。在此,对广大读者、教材使用者和出版社领导以及所有关注和帮助过本教材发展的专家学者表示衷心的感谢!殷切希望听到更多关于进一步修订的宝贵建议。

编 者

2008 年 6 月于烟台南山学院

修订版前言

本教材自 1997 年出版以来受到许多专家读者的热情关注,通过各种方式肯定了其优点并不吝赐教,指出其错误、缺陷与不足。专家、读者的宝贵意见是此次修订的主要依据。

本着创新求实、与时俱进的精神,作者在多年使用和征求读者意见的基础上,决定对本教材进行修订。此次修订的原则是在保持原书内容、难易程度和篇幅基本不变的情况下,修改原书中的错误,更换过时的内容和数据;删去书后词汇附录,增补课后汉语注释,以便于读者查阅与自学、理解与翻译;文中需要加以注释的疑难或专有名词均使用黑体字,并在课后用汉语注出。根据概况课知识性强和难以记忆的特点,适当修改、补充课后练习,使其更加灵活多变、更好地覆盖教材的基本内容,以达到反复接触、强化理解与记忆的目的。

此次修订由温洪瑞负责执行并完成。在此过程中,得到山东大学出版社领导和外语学院的专家、学者的热情支持。没有他们的支持和无私的帮助,修订是不可能达到如期效果的。对于他们的支持与帮助,特此致以衷心的感谢。

书中不足之处,仍希望专家读者不吝赐教。

编者

2003 年 10 月于济南

前 言

本书应当前教学需要,在参阅大量国内外文献资料的基础上,以马列主义立场、观点为指导进行取舍、整理和编排而成,并经过多年课堂试用和反复修改。

本教材的宗旨是密切结合教学实际,为英语语言文学专业的专、本科学生简明扼要地提供学习英语必须掌握的英美两国的地理、政治、经济和历史知识,为学好本专业奠定坚实的文化背景知识基础,为培养外向型外语人才,为改革开放、建设有中国特色的社会主义服务。

本教材的编写原则如下:

一、密切联系时代与本专业其他课程教学的实际需求精选材料,力求做到繁简得当,学以致用。

二、充分考虑到本课程知识性强的特点,教材的编排力求内容丰富、新颖,编排合理,便于教学,易于记忆。

三、用英语编写,力求语言通顺、地道,便于学生在学习知识的同时提高英语的理解与应用水平。

本教材共 20 课,每一课都附有知识性练习、讨论与思考题,每一课开头部分有内容提要,便于学生自学、理解和记忆。书后附有英美历史大事记、英王朝历代国王名表及任期、美国 50 州、美国历任总统名表及任期等,以便查阅。

本教材可用作英语专业专、本科生教材,自学考试教材和英语爱好者的业余读物。经多年课堂试用,证明使用效果良好。

本书在编写过程中得到了山东大学教务处、外语学院和出版社领导的大力支持。山东大学外语学院的李延福教授、丁原骥教授在百忙之中审阅了本书的全部文稿,提出了许多宝贵的修改意见。在此,对上述各位的支持与帮助表示衷心的感谢,并向在本书编写过程中参考的有关文献的作者致谢。

由于作者水平有限,错漏之处在所难免,衷心希望专家读者批评指正。

编 者
1997 年 2 月

Contents

Part One An Introduction to Great Britain

Lesson 1	Geography: The Land	(1)
Lesson 2	Geography: The People	(13)
✓ Lesson 3	British Economy	(27)
Lesson 4	Political System: Parliament and Government	(40)
Lesson 5	Political System: Party Politics and Judiciary	(52)
Lesson 6	History: Early Man and the Feudal Society	(65)
Lesson 7	History: Decline of Feudalism and the Bourgeois Revolution	(78)
Lesson 8	History: The Industrial Revolution and the Chartist Movement ...	(95)
Lesson 9	History: The British Empire and Britain in Two World Wars and Post-War Periods	(106)
✓ Lesson 10	Education in Britain	(119)
	Key to Exercises	(140)

Part Two An Introduction to the United States

Lesson 11	Geography: The Land	(161)
Lesson 12	Geography: The People	(179)
✓ Lesson 13	American Economy	(191)
Lesson 14	Political System: Government	(205)
Lesson 15	Political System: State Government and Party Politics ...	(219)
Lesson 16	History: The Early Colonization	(231)
Lesson 17	History: American Revolution	(244)
Lesson 18	History: American Civil War	(260)
Lesson 19	History: US Imperialism	(272)
✓ Lesson 20	American Education	(287)
	Key to Exercises	(306)



APPENDIX I

I . Outstanding Events in English History	(329)
II . The List of Kings of England	(331)
III . Counties of Great Britain	(333)
IV . Territories of Great Britain	(334)
V . British Commonwealth of Nations	(334)

APPENDIX II

I . Fifty States of the United States	(337)
II . The Ten Great Interest Groups in the United States	(338)
III . Outstanding Events in American History	(339)
IV . The List of Presidents of the United States	(341)
Bibliography	(343)

Part One

An Introduction to Great Britain

Lesson 1 Geography: The Land

Major Points

Britain

is officially called the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

is situated in Western Europe, a country of islands off the northwestern coast of Europe.

is rather small, with a total area of some 244,019 square kilometers.

has played a major role in shaping the modern world.

is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

is divided into the lowland area and the highland area.

has large mountain ranges: the Pennine Chains, the Cumbrian Mountain Range, the Grampian Mountains, and the Cambrian Mountain range.

has such important rivers as the Thames, the Severn, the Mersey, the Humber, the Clyde and the Forth.

has a temperate, maritime climate.

is rich in coal, petroleum, natural gas deposits, but rather poor in other natural resources.



Main Contents

1. The Name of the Country

The full and official name of the Union formed by England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, usually abbreviated to the United Kingdom or UK, Great Britain, or simply Britain, or sometimes informally England.

People in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were once separate nations; England has controlled the other nations over a period of several centuries. The name "Britain" comes from the **Brythons (Britons)** who migrated from the European Continent before 300 B. C. The name "England" comes from the Anglo-Saxon conquerors; it means "Angla-land," the land of the Anglo-Saxons, collectively known as Angles who migrated from the northwest of the European Continent in the 5th century A. D. The name for the Union that once existed in the period between 1800 and the early 1920's was "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland," which changed to its present form in 1927 after the 26 Irish Free States achieved their independence in the early 1920's.

2. Location and Size

Britain is situated in Western Europe and is separated from the European continent by **the North Sea, the Strait of Dover** and **the English Channel**. It lies between 50° and 60° north latitude, and roughly between 2° east and 8° west longitude. The prime meridian of 0° just passes through the old observatory at **Greenwich**.

The neighboring countries of Britain include France, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Irish Republic, and Iceland.

Britain is a rather small country, with a total area of some 244,019 square kilometers, accounting for less than 2% of the land area of the world and ranking about the 75th in size among countries in the world. It is just under 966 kilometers in a straight line from the south coast to the extreme north of mainland Britain, and about 483 kilometers across the widest part. No point in the country is as far as 121 kilometers away from tidal waters.



Small as it is in both size and population, Britain has played an important role in shaping the modern world. It was once one of the oldest and strongest colonial powers in the world and ruled a vast empire, as boasted to be, “an empire on which the sun never sets.” Beginning with the Age of Exploration (about 1450—1600), English ships carried explorers, traders, and colonists to every corner of the globe. The English eventually ruled wherever they settled. Thus the British have spread their way of life around the globe through conquest and colonization. Many nations have laws and governments modeled on the British system. Millions of people speak English, probably the world’s most widely spoken language. The works of British greatest authors and thinkers—**Geoffrey Chaucer**, William Shakespeare, **Isaac Newton**, **John Locke**, **John Keats**, and **William Wordsworth**, to name only a few—are known and read in every corner of the world. The British inventions, such as the spinning Jenny, the steam engine and the railroads during the Industrial Revolution helped make modern life possible. In the 20th century, British scientists and engineers have helped develop the jet aircraft, radar and penicillin, the miracle drug that has saved millions of lives. As a member country in **the Security Council of the United Nations**, Britain plays an important part in international and European affairs.

3. Landforms

Of the four nations of Britain—England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, England is the largest and occupies most of **the British Isles**. Scotland occupies the northern part and Wales the western part of the British Isles. Northern Ireland occupies the northern part of Ireland.

The island of Great Britain can be roughly divided into the lowland area and the highland area in terms of landform. The former comprises Midland, southern and eastern England, and the latter the broad central upland known as **the Pennines**, **the Lake District**, most of Wales and Scotland. In the British Isles there are hundreds of smaller islands, including **the Channel Islands**, **the Scilly Isles**, **the Isles of Wight and Man**, **Anglesey**, **the Inner and Outer Hebrides**, **the Orkneys** and **Shetlands**.

England, with a total area of more than 130,000 square kilometers, may be divided into three landform regions; the east and the southeast are made up of rolling downs and low-lying plains; middle England is a region of mountains



formed by the Pennines, which, with the average altitude between 200 and 500 meters, form the “backbone” of England, extending south from the Scottish border to Derbyshire. Cross Fell, 893 meters high, is the highest peak of the Pennines. The north and west of England are hilly, partly formed by the **Cumbrian Mountain Range**, the highest mountain peak of which is **Scafell** (977 m), the highest in England but the third highest mountain throughout the country.

Scotland has an area of 78,760 square kilometers. About two thirds of Scotland is covered by the Highlands. The chief range in the Highlands is **the Grampian Mountains**, which contain **Ben Nevis** (1344 m), the highest mountain on the island of Great Britain. The central lowlands of Scotland include the valleys of the **Clyde**, **Tay** and **Forth** rivers. This is the most important area in Scotland, which contains most of the industry and population. **Edinburgh**, the capital of Scotland, and Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, are both located in this area. The Southern Uplands are a region of rolling moorlands cut by some small fertile river valleys. The Southern Uplands reach their highest point in **Merrick**.

Wales covers an area of about 20,700 square kilometers. It is geographically divided into the industrial south, the central plateaus and lakes and the mountainous north of the farmers and tourists. Most of Wales is mountainous, mainly formed by **the Cambrian Mountain Range**. Its highest peak **Snowdon** (1085 m) is the second highest mountain in Britain. In Wales, only 12% of the land is arable, 6% is covered with forest, and much of the land is pastureland for sheep and cattle. The most fertile land in Wales is found near the coast and in the interior valleys. Coal has been mined in the area between **Cardiff** and Swansea.

The central part of Northern Ireland is composed of plains surrounded by such highlands and mountains as **Antrim**, **Sperrin** and **Mourne**. On the central plain lies **Lough Neagh**, the largest lake in the whole country. Northern Ireland is mainly agricultural, with industry concentrated in the two ports of **Belfast** and Londonderry.

4. Rivers and Lakes

Being short and swift, few rivers in Britain are navigable.

The most important river in Britain is **the Thames River** (338 kilometers long), which rises in Cotswold Hills and flows through the capital city London



and empties into the English Channel. The river is navigable for large ships to London.

The longest river in Britain is **the Severn River** (354 kilometers in length), which rises in the mountains of Wales and empties into the Bristol Channel, where the ports of Cardiff and Bristol are located.

The Mersey River (110 kilometers in length) flows between Lancashire and Cheshire into the Irish Sea. Its estuary, navigable for ocean vessels, is linked to Manchester by a ship canal, with the port Liverpool on its mouth.

The Humber River in Humberside is also navigable for large ships to **Hull**.

The Clyde and the Forth are the most important rivers in Scotland. The former flows through Glasgow, and the latter passes by Edinburgh, with the port Leith on its mouth.

Since Britain was subjected to considerable glaciations, the highlands, especially in northern Scotland, the Cumbrian Mountains, and the North Wales, contain many deep valleys filled with long, ribbon-shaped lakes. These regions constitute great attractions for tourists. Lakes in Britain are chiefly found in the English Lake District, the Scottish Highlands, the Welsh mountains and Northern Ireland. The largest Lake in England is **Lake Windermere**. It covers an area of 16 square kilometers and is located in the Lake District, in the northwest of England. Lake District is one of the popular touring sports in England, where there are 15 lakes radiating like the spokes of a wheel from a central hub. It is commonly accounted the most beautiful part of England, where William Wordsworth and the other Lake Poets were born and lived, who were inspired by the perfection of water, trees and heather-covered slopes.

Lake Neagh in Northern Ireland is the largest of all throughout the country and covers an area of some 396 square kilometers.

5. The Coast

For a small country of islands Britain has a great length of coastline (about 11,450 kilometers). The coast is very varied, with perhaps the best parts in the southwest of England and in the west of Scotland. The coast of Devon and **Cornwall**, in the southwest, is much indented, with many sheltered bays and coves and fine rocky headlands. With so large a population on so small an island the best parts of the coast are inevitably rather crowded during the sum-



mer. In the parts nearest to great centers of population big seaside resort towns have grown up. Four of these—**Brighton**, **Bournemouth**, **Southend** in the south, and **Blackpool** in the northwest—have become important towns, remarkable for the great number of visitors they receive.

6. Climate

Britain has a **temperate maritime climate**, which is damp and warm all the year round and generally does not run to extremes. As the prevailing south-westerly winds are warmed by **the Gulf Stream** and made moist by the Atlantic Ocean, the climate in Britain is much milder than that of many places in the same latitude. During a normal summer, the temperature occasionally rises about 27°C in the south; winter temperatures below -7°C are rare. The annual air temperature is about 10°C , varying from around 5°C in the coldest month (January) to 17°C in the warmest month (July) on average. The British Isles as a whole have an annual average rainfall of over 1,020 millimeters, while England has about 860 millimeters. The mountainous areas of the west and the north have far more rain than the plains of the east and the south.

The climate in Britain has three features. The first one is that there are more fogs or smog in winter, for which London is famous. The second one is that there are more rainy days but less sunny days. The rainfall is not very heavy and there is not often any very violent storm or wind. In some places there are over 260 rainy days a year. The third one is its instability or changeability. All the seasons are very variable; there is no part of the year at which it is possible to expect, with any degree of assurance, that weather will be dry or wet, clear or dull, and a bad day in July can be as cold as a mild day in January.

7. Natural Resources

The main natural resources in Britain are coal, petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, limestone, clay, shale, chalk and tin. Coal and petroleum are the most important.

Coal. Many of the coalfields in the United Kingdom have been in continuous production since the beginning of the 17th century. The coal industry was brought under the national ownership by the Labor government in 1947, and since then many of the poor coalfields have been closed down and more profitable mines modernized.

The **Ayrshire** field in Scotland and the deposits of the Lowlands continue



to supply Scottish industry. South Wales has valuable coal deposits, which are used for industry and as fuel for heating homes. The leading anthracite fields in Britain are in Wales. The coal mining area of central England, including York, Birmingham and **Nottingham, Leicester and Derby**, is the largest one of the country, which constitutes about 40% of the total output. There are also coalmines in the northeast and southeast of England, in **Durham, Northumberland and Canterbury**. The annual coal production output in Britain is over 120 million tons.

Petroleum. Only small quantities of oil had been found in Britain before big oil fields were discovered under the North Sea, east of the British Isles in 1965. The oil deposit is estimated as 3,000—4,500 million tons. Britain began to put oil into production in the 1970's and by 1980 the annual output of oil had reached 100 million tons. Britain is now not only self-sufficient in oil supply, but has become the fifth largest oil exporter in the world.

Forestry. With its mild climate and varied soils, Britain has a diverse pattern of natural vegetation. Originally, one third of the country was covered with forests, but now woodlands only covers 8.6% of its surface and some 85% of the country's timber needs are supplied by import as a result of long years of denudation.

Fresh Water. With too much rain and many short and rapid rivers, Britain is rich in water resources. However, it still cannot meet the needs of the growing industry and agriculture irrigation. Water pollution affects on many English and Scottish rivers. The fresh water problems, including inland water pollution, are far from being solved.

Wild Life. There are no longer any really dangerous wild animals in Britain, except the wild cat, occasionally found in the depths of Scottish forests. The wolf died out several centuries ago and there are no bears or wild boars. The largest wild animal is the stag, for wild deer are found in Scotland and in Southwest England. Foxes are found all over Britain, though chiefly in England. The other animals found in Britain are rabbits, stoat, weasel and hedgehogs.

Birds are numerous and law protects many of them, especially the rare species, such as the eagle and the osprey. The chief songbirds are the nightingale and the blackbird. Of sea birds the most common are the various kinds of gulls.



There are various species of fresh-water fishes and angling is a nationwide pastime, whether in lakes and rivers or in the sea, where there are also many kinds of fishes.

Notes

1. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国
2. Brythons (Britons) 布立吞人
3. the North Sea 北海
4. the Strait of Dover 多佛尔海峡
5. the English Channel 英吉利海峡
6. Greenwich 格林尼治
7. Geoffrey Chaucer 杰奥弗里·乔叟(1340? ~1400),第一位伟大的英国诗人。
8. Isaac Newton 艾萨克·牛顿(1642~1727),英国科学家。
9. John Locke 约翰·洛克(1632~1704),英国哲学家。
10. John Keats 约翰·济慈(1795~1821),英国诗人。
11. William Wordsworth 华兹华斯(1770~1850),英国诗人,于1843年被封为桂冠诗人。
12. the Security Council of the United Nations 联合国安理会
13. the British Isles 大不列颠群岛
14. the Pennines 奔宁山脉,地处英格兰北部。
15. the Lake District 湖区,地处英格兰西北部。
16. the Channel Islands 海峡群岛,地处英吉利海峡。
17. the Scilly Isles 夕利群岛,位于英格兰西南端。
18. the Isle of Wight 怀特岛,位于英格兰南部海岸外。
19. the Isle of Man 马恩岛,位于爱尔兰海。
20. Anglesey 位于威尔士西北部岛屿。
21. the Inner Hebrides 内赫布里底群岛,位于苏格兰西北部。
22. the Outer Hebrides 外赫布里底群岛,位于苏格兰西北部。
23. the Orkneys 澳克尼群岛,位于苏格兰之北。
24. the Shetlands 设特兰群岛,位于苏格兰之北。
25. Cumbrian Mountain Range 康布里安山脉,地处英格兰西北部湖区。
26. Scafell 斯科费尔峰,英国第三高峰。
27. the Grampian Mountains 格兰扁山脉,地处苏格兰高地。