

大学英语选修课系列教材

陈仲利 总主编

# A Comparison Between Chinese & English Cultures

李养龙◎主审 张乐兴◎主编

## 中英文化对比



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# 总 序

教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》对我国大学生英语的听、说、读、写、译等能力均提出了三个层次的要求，并在全中国兴起了实用性大学英语教学改革与实践的浪潮。为进一步完善大学英语教学改革的成果，努力提高学生的英语实用能力，南开大学、天津大学、北京化工大学、北京航空航天大学、北京科技大学、北京邮电大学、对外经济贸易大学、广东工业大学、哈尔滨商业大学等国内重点高校的英语教师通力合作，编写了“大学英语选修课系列教材”。本套教材包括《高级英语口语教程》、《科技英语阅读教程》、《高级英语阅读教程》、《实用翻译技能集成》、《英美报刊深度阅读》、《高级英语写作教程》、《实用商务英语综合教程》、《英语视听说教程》、《当代英美社会文化新编》和《中英文化对比》等十本教材。本系列教材应用了最新的英语教学理念，吸收了最新的英语教学成果，符合我国大学英语教学改革的最新要求，并体现了四、六级考试改革后的新精神，所有编写内容均为各参编院校多年使用过的优秀素材，具有良好的教学效果和广泛的使用基础。

“大学英语选修课系列教材”主要特点如下：

1. 选材广泛，内容丰富。本系列教材所选材料均来自国内外原版报纸、杂志、教材、论著、会议论文、实用文件和一些权威网站，语言真实准确、地道优美；内容涉及视听说、口语、阅读、翻译、写作、文化、商务和科技英语等多个领域，适合不同专业学生对英语学习的需求。本系列教材选材注重原汁原味，力图使学生在浩瀚的知识海洋中多方汲取营养，以满足实用性英语教学的需求。如《高级英语阅读教程》的文章大多是近年来有关社会热点问题，并且大都是学生所关心和感兴趣的新闻报道，趣味性、实效性较强；另外，文章内容涉及生活的方方面面，集知识性、科普性、娱乐性于一体，有利于培养学生的学习兴趣。

2. 注重语言综合技能的训练，实用性较强。通过精心选编的课文和悉心设计的多种实践和交际活动，从多渠道、多层面、多角度向学生输入大量有效语言信息，吸引学生参加多种多样、生动活泼的语言实践和交际活动，进行大量的“交互式”的语言输入（input）和输出（output）。如《英语视听说教程》、《高级英语口语教程》强调各种微技能的培养和训练，结合具体生活环境和主题，突出听说实践能力的培养；《实用翻译技能集成》围绕实例，阐明方法和技巧，强调翻译实践，培养动手能力。每一章围绕各种翻译技巧，梳理分析，深入浅出，将翻译理论技能和实践训练有机地结合起来。

3. 编写严谨，精细实用。本系列教材均按照由浅入深、循序渐进的原则系统而连贯



地编写完成。《实用商务英语综合教程》、《科技英语阅读教程》各自在内容上互相渗透,融会贯通,有机地成为一体。同时,每册又各具特色,风格迥异。

4. 知识全面,题型多样。为适应改革后的四、六级考试新模式,《高级英语写作教程》一方面向学生们介绍了各类议论、说明、记叙文体;另一方面,又详细阐明了各类应用文体,从而有效地提高了学生的英语写作实践能力。另外,《高级英语阅读教程》中增加了选词填空题、快速阅读、补全句子、简答等新题型。

5. 本系列教材在传播语言知识的同时,更注重英美语言文化知识的学习。《英美报刊深度阅读》、《当代英美社会文化新编》和《中英文化对比》系统介绍了英美报刊文学的特点和社会文化概况,使学生更加深入地了解英美社会面貌,激发英语学习兴趣,并大幅度提高自身跨文化交际能力。

6. 本系列教材综合了国内外同类教材的优点,兼顾了不同层次学生的需求,既体现了教育部有关大学英语教学改革的新精神,又满足了实用性英语教学的客观需要。同时,这些编者都是富有教学经验的一线教师,本系列教材是他们多年教学成果的结晶。

7. 本系列教材适用范围广泛。不仅是大学本科生高级英语选修教材,亦可作为广大同学备考英语六级和报考研究生的参考用书,同时,也是英语专业学生或广大英语爱好者提高英语水平的良师益友。

总主编 陈仲利

2010年9月

# 前言

世界进入21世纪以来,经济全球化趋势日益加强,国际文化交流日益频繁,我国与西方国家之间的跨文化交流也进入了前所未有的繁荣时期。

全球化经济的发展是以经济合作为前提的,经济合作成功的前提是跨文化交流中的相互理解,跨文化交流成功的前提则是交流者双方对彼方文化的了解(不仅是语言层面),涉及两种文化的交汇:交流者的目标语文化和本族文化。

2007年外研社出版的教育部高等教育司《大学英语课程教学要求》将“提高综合文化素养,以适应我国社会发展和国际交流的需要”纳入了大学英语教学的“课程目标”,确定大学英语课程在性质上“不仅是一门语言基础课程,也是拓宽知识、了解世界文化的素质教育课程,兼有工具性和人文性”,并要求课程设计“充分考虑对学生的文化素质培养和国际文化知识的传授”。对大学英语课程这一定位,可以在新世纪背景下从跨文化交流角度进行以下解读。

一是语言基础问题。我国的大学英语课程和教学改革已进行了几十年,成果不菲。大学生英语听说读写的语言技能普遍得以大幅提高,基本上摆脱了“哑巴英语”、“聋子英语”的尴尬状态,为文化教学和跨文化交流水平的进一步提高奠定了良好的基础。

二是语言与文化的关系。语言是文化的载体,文化是语言的内涵,这是学界多年的共识。但过去的教改重在提高英语语言技能,对文化教学似乎无暇顾及,虽然学生较好掌握了英语语言知识和一定的语言技能,但对英美国家文化一般性知识的匮乏在很大程度上制约了其语言能力的进一步提高,在许多场合下还不能圆满完成跨文化交流。这一点可从外籍教师所常说的corner questions(中国学生在英语角常向外教提出的问题)中反映出来。因此,大学英语教学急需合理融入适量的文化因素(词汇的、句子的、社会背景的、世界观的等),进一步提高学生与英美人士交流时的跨文化意识和文化敏感性。

三是本族文化问题。传统的跨文化交流研究多强调对外域文化的了解,这无可厚非,但对本族文化的了解和表述同等重要。中国学生与英美人士交流时希望能了解英美文化,同理,英美人士与中国学生交流时也希望了解中国文化。事实上,当被问及中国文化的一些普遍性问题时,中国学生大多因不会用英语表述本族文化而无言以对或简单敷衍了事,在英语角活动和外教主持的口语课堂上,大多只能扮演listener的角色。因此,大学英语的教改还应进一步考虑中国本族文化在跨文化交流中的作用。

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根据上述解读和跨文化交际学对“小写的文化”中直接影响交流和理解因素的研究,我们广泛征集了中国同仁、外籍教师和广大英语学习者的意见,将中国和英美国家的地理、社会、习俗、传统节日、饮食、颜色含义、文化标志、哲学传统、价值观列为本教材的主题内容,旨在通过“中英文化对比”这一课程的开设,帮助学生系统了解英美国家文化习俗及传统,从而更好地理解英美影视和文学作品中不易理解的文化现象。同时,通过英语语言这一载体,采用文化对比的视角使学生更加深刻理解中国本族文化的博大精深,提高其对本族文化的表述能力,从而摆脱与英美人士交流时的被动局面。

本教材共设8个单元,为保证学生学习时对两种文化了解的整体性和系统性,培养学生探索式学习和发现式学习的能力及学习的自主性,使授课教师能够灵活地安排教学内容,每单元均对“中”、“英”相应内容进行分述。

各单元均包括三个部分:术语、正文、信息巩固。“术语”指文中所出现的不便于学生自己查找的术语,“正文”即课文正文,“信息巩固”即课后练习,包括“正误判断”、“英汉互译”、“思考讨论”和“随笔写作”四个模块。其中,“正误判断”适合于学生即时检查学习效果;“英汉互译”则训练学生从文中查找重点信息、深刻理解并对该信息用英汉两种语言进行准确表述的能力;“思考讨论”强调对两种文化现象进行思辨式对比以探寻异同及根源,深化理解,提高学生对文化异同的洞察力;“随笔写作”旨在加深学生对某一文化异同现象的了解,通过思考和文献查找的方式培养学生研究式学习能力,并将自己的发现形诸于文字,以求融会贯通。

本书由张乐兴任主编(Unit 2中之Etiquettes中、英两节;Unit 7、Unit 8中之Friendship中、英两节和Hierarchy),李英梅(Unit 2中之Birthday celebration for seniors; Wedding中、英两节;Unit 3中之Lantern Festival, Qingming Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, Chongyang Festival, Christmas, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Halloween; Unit 4中之Part I, Part II中之coffee, tea, BBQ, TexMex, Friday Night Fish Fry, East Coast Dishes, Deep South Cooking, Sandwich, Potatoes, Corn)和吴维中(Unit 1、Unit 8中之Part II中除Friendship之外所有内容)任副主编;韩文芳(Unit 3中之Chinese Double-Seventh Day, Valentine's Day、Unit 6)、陈祖平(Unit 2中之The practice of “Senior first”, Giving Gifts in China, Gift Giving in English Cultures, “Lady First” Practice, Western Views about Old Age; Unit 8中之Part I中除Friendship和Hierarchy之外所有内容)、赵培(Unit 5)、曹巧珍(Unit 3中之Spring Festival; Unit 4中之Meals, Fast Food, Staple Food: Bread)参加编写。全书由张乐兴进行设计、统筹、篇章修正和统稿工作。



在本书编写过程中，李养龙教授提出了许多中肯的修改意见，并在百忙之中主持本书的审定工作；美籍专家C. A. Rogan先生也在百忙之中审读全稿，修正了书中所存在的一些不适当之处以及文化偏颇问题。我们对以上两位专家的工作和努力表示诚挚的感谢。

由于编者水平所限，本书难免存在遗漏、错误和不当之处，敬请广大读者和专家不吝赐教。

编者

2010年7月

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# ***Unit One***

## **Special Terms**

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The territory stretches around 5,500 km from the middle of the *Heilongjiang* River (north of Mohe, Heilongjiang Province) in the north ( $53^{\circ}34'N$ ) to *Zengmu Ansha* (of the Nansha Islands) in the south ( $3^{\circ}58'N$ ), and about 5,000 km from the confluence of the *Heilongjiang* and *Wusulijiang* rivers in the east to the Pamirs Plateau in the west. The land boundary extends for 22,800 km.

China is adjacent to 14 countries: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Viet Nam, sharing common land borders with them. China also has six neighbors across the sea: the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia.

According to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the country is divided into provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government. Currently, there are 34 provincial-level administrative areas in China—4 municipalities directly under the Central Government (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Chongqing), 23 provinces, five autonomous regions (Inner Mongolia, Guangxi Zhuang, Tibet, Xinjiang, Ningxia) and two special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macao).

## 2. Topography

The topography varies greatly in China, a vast land of lofty plateau, large plains, rolling land and big and small basins surrounded by lofty mountains. The mountainous land and rough terrains make up two-thirds of Chinese territory, creating some problems in transport but are conducive to the development of forestry, minerals, hydropower resources and tourism.

Taking a bird's-eye view of China, the terrain gradually descends from west to east like a staircase. The first step is "the roof of the world", Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, averaging more than 4,000 meters above sea level. The second step includes the gently sloping Inner Mongolian Plateau, the Loess Plateau, the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, the Tarim Basin, the Junggar Basin and the Sichuan Basin, with an average elevation of 1,000–2,000 meters above sea level. The third step, dropping to 500–1,000 meters in elevation, begins at a line drawn around the Greater Hinggan, Taihang, Wushan and Xuefeng mountain ranges and extends eastward to the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Then to the east, the land extends out into the ocean to form the continental shelf, the fourth step of the staircase.

## 3. Major Mountain Ranges and Mountainous Resorts

The numerous mountain systems serve as the framework of China's topography. The well-known mountain ranges include the Himalayas, Kunlunshan, Tianshan, Qinling and Taihangshan, etc.

### 3.1 The Himalayas

Himalaya, extending more than 2,400 km in a crescent-shape along the Chinese-Indian and

Chinese-Nepalese borders, has an average elevation of 6,000 meters. It is the world's highest and largest mountain range.

The main peak, located on the border between Sagarmatha Zone, Nepal, and Tibet of China, Mount Everest, is the highest point on the Earth's continental crust at 8,848 meters. The mount is named after Colonel Sir George Everest (1790–1866) who was a Welsh surveyor, geographer and Surveyor-General of India from 1830 to 1843. But in China, the mount is often referred to by its Tibetan name as *Qomolangma*, meaning “Goddess mother of the snows”. Being the highest in the world, the mount attracts climbers of all levels, both professionals and amateurs, who are willing to try a successful climb.

### 3.2 The Kunlunshan

The Kunlunshan, extending over 2,500 km from the Pamirs Plateau in the west to the northwest of Sichuan Province in the east, has an average elevation of 5,000–7,000 meters above sea level, with the Kunlun Goddess being the highest mount, 7,167 meters above sea level.

The Kunlun Mountains are legendarily associated with a number of different traditional martial arts, and are considered by some as an alternate source for the Taoist martial arts.

The legendary Hsi Wang Mu (Xi Wang Mu), usually called the “Queen Mother of the Western Heaven”, had her mythical abode in the Kunlun mountains and was the object of an ancient religious cult which reached its peak in the Han Dynasty (206BC–220AD).

### 3.3 The Tianshan

The Tianshan traverses Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and has an average elevation of 3,000–5,000 meters, its highest peak being Tomur, 7,455.3 meters above sea level. The important medical herb, *Snow Lotus*, had been found growing in the mountain and has long been used in traditional Chinese medicine. Besides, the mountain is also famous as the home to a fictional martial arts sect known as the Mount Heaven Sect.

### 3.4 The Qinling

The Qinling, stretching from east Gansu Province in the west to the west of Henan Province in the east, has an average elevation of 2,000–3,000 meters with its main peak, Mount Taibai, at 3,767 meters above sea level. It is an important geographic line of demarcation between north and south China.

Qinling got its name owing to its height—it topped the list of all the mountain ranges within Qin State in the Spring-Autumn and Warring Period. Now there are two state-level nature reserves—Taibaishan Nature Reserve and Foping Nature Reserve.

### 3.5 The Taihangshan

The Taihangshan, extending over 400 km along the eastern fringe of the Loess Plateau from north to south, has an average elevation of 1,500–2,000 meters with its main peak, Xiaowutaishan, at 2,882

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meters above sea level. Xiaowutaishan was a resort to Buddhists in as early as the Tang Dynasty (618–907AD) and the monks have gathered there ever since.

### 3.6 The Five Sacred Mountainss or *Wu Yue*

The Five Sacred Mountains, known as *Wu Yue* in Chinese, include Tai in Shandong Province, Heng (衡) in Hunan Province, Hua in Shaanxi Province, Heng (恒) in Shanxi Province and Song in Henan Province. They were named so in accordance with the ancient Theory of Five Elements, thus the emperors would pay their respect to these mountains once they ascended the throne. Later in history, they became associated with Buddhism and Taosim.

Mountain Tai is located north of the city of Tai'an in Shandong Province. It is the most famed among the Five Sacred Mountains. The Chinese character *tai* means stability and peace, thus giving rise to the saying “If Mount Tai is stable, so is the entire country”, this may explain why feudal emperors used to pay respect to this mountain from the Shang Dynasty (1766BC–1122BC) to the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911). They usually paid homage to Heaven on the summit and Earth at the foot, which has created many historic relics for tourism today. Since 1987, the mountain has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Mountain Heng (衡山) in Hengyang city, Hunan Province, is known as the “Longevity Mountain in China”. It is regarded as the best of the Five Sacred Mountains due to its eminent peaks and its abundant temples of Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. Of all the temples, the Grand Temple is the most noticeable due to its grand size and the most complete palace-style. The temple was originally built in the Tang Dynasty (618–907) and renovated imitating the design of the Forbidden City in Beijing in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911), thus it was also called “Little Palace in South China”. Today, the temple enjoys great popularity among devotees by holding large Buddhist festivals each year.

Mountain Hua, located in southern Shaanxi Province of the Qinling Mountain, is famous as “The Number 1 Precipitous Mountain under the Heaven”. From a distance, its five peaks seem to be in the shape of a “flower” (*hua* in *pinyin*), hence the name “Huashan.” Of the five peaks, the South Peak is the highest at 2160 meters. Mountain Hua is home to several influential Taoist temples where emperors of past dynasties made pilgrimages, rendering it the holy land of Taoism.

Mountain Heng (恒山) is located south to Datong City of Shanxi Province (sharing the same pronunciation in *pinyin* with the one in Hunan Province). However, this mountain has been considered sacred in ancient China due to the integral worship to Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, which is reflected in the Hanging Monastery (*Xuankong Si*). Standing at the foot of Mount Heng and defying gravity with only a few wooden posts as support since its construction in 491AD, the monastery has survived more than 1,400 years.

Mountain Song is located in Dengfeng County of Henan Province on the south bank of the Yellow River. Its summit is 1,500 meters above sea level. Being one of the sacred Taoist mountains in China, it also features Buddhist presence. Shaolin Temple built in the 5th century



is the birthplace of Zen Buddhism and has been closely associated with Chinese martial arts or Shaolin *Kung Fu*.

#### 4. Major Rivers and Lakes

China abounds in rivers, lakes and water resources.

Due to its topographical features, most rivers flow east or south into the ocean, thus forming vast outflow river valleys that constitute nearly two-thirds of the national total area. Of all the rivers, only the Eriq River in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region flows westwards out of China.

Besides, there are more than 2,800 natural fresh water lakes with a surface area over 1 km<sup>2</sup>, of which about 130 are over 100 km<sup>2</sup> (besides a large number of reservoirs).

##### 4.1 The Yangtze River

The Yangtze River or Chang Jiang is the longest river (6,300 km) in China and Asia, and the third-longest in the world after the Nile in Africa and the Amazon in South America.

The river originates in a glacier on the eastern part of the Tibetan plateau and runs eastwards through Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Chongqing, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Jiangsu, and Shanghai and empties into the East China Sea at Shanghai.

Flowing easterly from Fengjie County, Chongqing Municipality, to Yichang City, Hubei Province, the river cuts across Wushan Mountain and forms the Three Gorges. The famous Three Gorges Water Project, completed in 2008, is expected to be able to control catastrophic flooding in nearby drainage areas that occurs once in a century, while annually generating 84.7 billion kwh of electricity and ensuring water supply in urban areas and irrigation of farmland in the middle and lower reaches of the River.

As the largest river in China, the Yangtze River is historically, culturally, and economically important to the country. Serving as a transportation artery between west and east, the river has been as the “Golden Waterway”.

##### 4.2 The Yellow River

The Yellow River or Huang He is the second-longest river in China and the 5th-longest in the world. Its estimated length is 5,464 km.

Originating in the Bayan Har Mountains in Qinghai Province, the river runs through Qinghai, Sichun, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Henan, and Shandong provinces, and empties into the Bohai Sea.

The Yellow River is called “the cradle of Chinese civilization” as its basin is the birthplace of the northern Chinese civilizations and was the most prosperous region in early Chinese history. Relics about Neolithic (7000BC–3,700BC), Bronze (3700BC–2700BC), Iron Age (770BC) and the like have already been discovered in the drainage basin of the river.

The Yellow River is notable for the large amount of silt it carries—1.6 billion tons annually

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at the point where it descends from the Loess Plateau. As a result, the silt deposits had elevated the riverbed and brought about many devastating floods in history. To control the floods, the government has made considerable effort to strengthen the levees and has several dams built, among which The *Xiaolangdi* Hydraulic Project completed in 2001 in Henan Province is the largest, serving the purposes of controlling floods, curbing ice, reducing mud, irrigating farmland, supplying water and generating electricity.

### 4.3 The Heilongjiang River

Nicknamed “Mysterious Scenic Horizon”, Heilongjiang is an international river, which originates in Mongolia and meanders its way across Russia, Mongolia and China. The middle section of the 4,370-km-long river marks the boundary between China and Russia. It is ranked as the 11th largest river in the world with its mainstream flowing 3,420 km within the boundaries of China, accounting for 48% of the total drainage area.

The river, abounding in humus with a color of black, looks like a swimming dragon as it flows through a picturesque landscape teeming with local folklore, hence the name “Heilongjiang River (river in the shape of a black dragon)”.

### 4.4 The Pearl River

The Pearl River is the largest in South China.

Originating in the eastern part of Yunnan, the Pearl River flows through the majority of Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, and Guizhou Provinces, and parts of Hunan and Jiangxi into the South China Sea between Hong Kong and Macau, forming the 409,480 km<sup>2</sup> Pearl River Basin.

The Pearl River was named after a sandy or stony island in the middle of the river called “Sea Pearl”. However, this island is now in the bank due to the river’s change of course.

Of the vast area of this river including that of the Xi Jiang (the West River), the Bei Jiang (the North River), and the Dong Jiang (the East River), about 95% are mountainous regions and hills. As a result, the long time erosion by water has formed the karst topography with different appearances, making the natural sights of the areas along the Pearl River attractive, of which Guilin is a famous example.

### 4.5 Lake Poyang

Situated in Jiangxi Province and tied on the lower part of the Yangtze River, Lake Poyang is China’s largest fresh-water lake with an area of 3,583 km<sup>2</sup>, regulating the water level of the Yangtze River.

Endowed with the vastness of water, exquisite mountains and some historic relics, Lake Poyang is also a famous scenic spot. To the northwest is Mt. Lushan known for a fantastic blend of mountains, sky, water and cragged cliffs; *Luoxingshi* Rock (the Fallen-Star Boulder) and *Zhouyu Dianjiang Platform* are both located on the northwestern bank of the lake. *Luoxingshi* Rock used to be a gathering place for scholars or men of letters during the many feudal dynasties;

*Zhouyu Dianjiang Platform* used to be the place where Zhouyu (175–210AD), a famous senior official in the Three Kingdoms Period (220–280AD), assigned his generals to particular strategic fortresses.

#### 4.6 Lake Dongting

Situated in northeastern Hunan Province, Lake Dongting is a flood-basin of the Yangtze River, its size depending on the seasonal flood. The lake's area, normally 2,820 km<sup>2</sup>, may increase to 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> in flood season when vast amounts of water and sediment from the Yangze River flow into the lake.

Dragon boat racing is said to have begun on the eastern shores of Lake Dongting as a search for the body of Qu Yuan (340BC–278BC), a famous patriotic poet of State Chu of the Spring and Autumn Period, who committed suicide in Miluo River.

#### 4.7 Lake Qinghai

Lake Qinghai is the largest saline lake situated in the province of Qinghai, measuring 4,400 km<sup>2</sup>, like a blue mirror nestled between snowy mountains and grasslands.

The lake is located at the crossroads of several bird migration routes across Asia, thus many species choose Qinghai as an intermediate stop during their migration. The “Bird Islands” at the tip of the peninsula on the western side of the lake is indeed a grand scene, and have been bird sanctuaries of the Qinghai Lake Natural Protection Zone since 1997.

The island with a temple and a few hermitages in the western part of the lake is called “the Heart of the Lake”, historically home to a Buddhist monastery. But it can only be reached in winter when the lake is frozen since no boat is used during other seasons.

### ❄ 5. Ethnic Groups

As a large united multi-national state, China is composed of 56 ethnic groups. Among them Han Chinese account for about 90% of the overall Chinese population and the other 55 make up the remaining percentage.

#### 5.1 Han Chinese

Han Chinese are an ethnic group native to China and, by most modern definitions, the largest single ethnic group in the world. Han Chinese constitute about 90% of the population of the People's Republic of China (mainland China), 78% of the population of Singapore, and about 20% of the entire global human population.

Han Chinese mainly live in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, the Yangtze River and the Pearl River, and also in the Northeast Plain Region (Songliao Plain).

The formation and development of Han Chinese was a continuous process of integration of the earliest Huaxia tribe with other related tribes and ethnic groups. They lived along the Yellow