



英美概况

编著 来安方

校订 张克定

AN OUTLINE
INTRODUCTION
TO BRITAIN
AND AMERICA

(新增订本)



河南人民出版社

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这是一本用英文介绍英美两国各方面情况的书,原为河南大学外语系英美概况课教材。在1984年10月召开的审稿会上,来自复旦大学、南京大学、武汉大学、华中师范学院、西南师范学院、洛阳解放军外国语学院等20所大专院校的代表对原稿进行了审议。自1985年出版以来,已三次增订多次印刷,作者本着与时俱进的精神,经广泛征求修改意见,完成了第四版增订,现予以再版,以供需要。

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Foreword

This book is an improvement on the teaching materials which have been used in Henan University for several years. It is an attempt to present a picture of Great Britain and America by conveying necessary information about the various features, both traditional and modern, of these two countries. The selected description of their respective geography and history in a systematic way is to enrich the readers' knowledge and enable them to approach the two countries from the materialist viewpoint so that they can view the many phenomena in their historical perspective. This, it is hoped, can help avoid the defect of disorder as might be caused by separate introduction.

This book is written for the Chinese readers who know English and need information about Great Britain and America but cannot read big volumes for various reasons. All the materials are carefully selected and arranged for them to understand and memorize easily. In view of the different levels of proficiency in the English language among the readers, the book makes a point of using common words and simple sentences so that more readers can appreciate it.

Each part is preceded by a list of leading facts and ended with some questions for discussion. It is hoped they can help the readers to grasp the main contents in the text and form their own train of thought. When the book is used as a kind of teaching material, the teacher can have his own choice of emphasis in dealing with the text just by referring his students to the leading facts and the questions. Whether or how far I have succeeded in carrying out my subjective plan for this book awaits judgment from my readers whose criticism will be highly appreciated.

I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to all the books and materials I have read in the process. They are listed in the bibliography at the end of the book. I also wish to express my gratitude here to all the participants at the conference held before the completion of this book. My indebtedness is due particularly to Professor Suo Tianzhang 索天章 (Fudan University), Associate and Assistant Professors Liu Yulin 刘玉麟 (Shanghai Institute of Foreign Languages), Wang Hongpei 王鸿裴 and Chen Guogang 陈国纲 (both from Zhengzhou University), Ruan Yizhi 阮逸之 (Qufu Normal College), Zhao Fansheng 赵帆声, Liu Bingshan 刘炳善, Wang Zengxuan 王曾选, Qin Jianbin 秦建宾 (all from Henan University), and Qin Shoufu 秦守福 (Henan University). They have all given me valuable suggestions and indispensable help in the process.

Lai Anfang
May 5, 1985

再版前言

《英美概况》这本书出版后,我先后收到很多读者和将本书用作教材者的来信。有的谈对全书的看法,有的谈对某些章节的看法,有的要我帮助解答某些具体问题,由于时间关系,未能一一回信,我向他们致歉并表示谢意。这些来信,还有本书这几年在使用中反映出来的情况,都是我这次修改增订本书时的重要参考。

这次增订,变动较大,新内容增加较多,时间一直写到20世纪80年代后期,材料处理更重视客观性和完整性。由于目前还不能根据不同水平和不同的需要马上编写出几种不同版本的《英美概况》,这本书修改时还是尽量兼容并蓄,在尽量控制篇幅的前提下,加大内容含量,提高其可教性、可读性和参考性,以满足多层次、多方位的不同需要。

这次修改增订,进一步完善了副标题的体系,使用本书时只要查到目录副标题就能很容易地找到所需内容。用作教材时,也可把副标题视作讲课大纲参考,可以组织学生进行讨论,不需要过多受限于原文字句。

这次增订准备时间较长,但具体实施是在两次印刷之间进行的,时间仓促,难免有错,欢迎读者及有关专家学者批评指正。

来安方

1988年3月23日

第三版前言

作为一门课程,《英美概况》应有自己相对稳定的基本知识结构,但也要不断更新。只有这样,才能适应社会发展的需要和由此引起的英语教学革新。以往的客观事实是不能变更的,但不同的时代往往有不同的观察和领悟。人们常说的更新知识,也包含这层意思。这本书于1988年修订过一次,现在根据情况的变化,感到有必要再次修订。

《英美概况》和单科教材的不同点是其跨度大,涉及面广,有横断面,也有纵深轴线。如何把这些貌似分属不同领域的内容组合成统一的有机体,并揭示出它们之间的关系和相互影响,是值得商榷的。对事物的静止观察和强行分割,必然产生片面性,而被动地去记忆这些分割开的内容,又使人感到乏味而收效不大。为了增强整体感和动态效应,这次修订仍沿用第一、二版的基本框架,以时空概念为坐标,内容以树状结构组合,横向展开英美社会的方方面面,纵向追溯其运动轨迹。纵横结合,互相补充。恰如影像中使用的变焦距和摇镜头技巧,既可以沿纵向轴线远近移动,又可根据需要横向展开,这样一纵一横,需要讲述的内容也就各入其位了。本书的这种安排是否合适,还有待于实践验证。

这次修订仍采用先英后美的顺序。美国的前身是英国人建立的殖民地,时间长达150年之久,美国的价值观、政体、法律和主流文化都受英国很大影响,因此,讲述英国就是直接或间接地为讲述美国社会做准备。

这次修订涉及面很大,内容调整也不少,很多内容是重写的。时间仓促,水平有限,谬误不当之处,诚望专家同行和读者批评指正。

来安方
1995年7月

第四版前言

这是我第四次为拙著《英美概况》写前言,第一、第二、第三版是由原河南教育出版社(后改称大象出版社)出版,他们为出好本书做了很大努力,我向他们表示感谢。这次重新增订后实为第四版,由河南人民出版社出版,甚感荣幸。为使读者更好地了解本书的编写和增订过程,兹将前三版的前言和出版说明附于本版前言之后,以供参考。

一般说来,好的教材用书都有较大的普适性和较长的延续性,并在延续中进一步完善。其之所以有这种特点,一方面是因为相同专业学生的知识需求有很大的共性,这种共性不会因为学生所在院校的地域或类属差别而消失,中国的研究生入学统考和美国的 GRE 试题都说明了这一点;另一方面也是因为教材用书重在讲授有延续价值的基本知识、基本理论和基本技能,对于学生今后的发展,这些都是不可或缺的。许国璋先生“文革”前主编的基础英语教材,“文革”后又延续数年并广受欢迎,原因就在于此。这本《英美概况》自 1985 年出版以来已 19 年了,其间两次增订。到今年春季,印刷发行量已超过 30 万册。这表明本书的普适性已被读者认可,并因而保持了延续性。这与广大读者、同行和专家学者的帮助是分不开的,正是由于他们宝贵的批评建议和指教,使这本书才得以逐步改进和完善。

好的教材用书还应有前沿性,因为一切学习的最终目的都是为了使用,包括古为今用和洋为中用,这就要求教材用书与时俱进。讲什么,不讲什么,怎样讲,都需依据教学大纲的要求,进行有目的的选择和理性裁判。这本书自出版以来之所以先后三次增订,目的就是保持了其前沿性,更好地满足在校大学生和其他读者的各种实用需要。

为什么要学英美概况?其答案可能因人因地因时而异。我曾数年从事专业英语本科的阅读课教学,经常碰到学生因缺乏英美文化知识而不理解英语句子含义和文章要旨的事,不得不撇开课文去补文化知识课。这也是促使我编写英美概况这本书的原因之一。当时的主要目的,是要帮助学生克服英语学习中的文化障碍。为了说明我当时的想法,不妨引用中山大学英语语言文学专业 2003 年研究生入学考试中的一道问答题:

Do you agree with such a saying as “to learn a foreign language without learning its culture is a very good way to make self a language fluent fool”? If yes, why? If not, why not?

随着中国改革开放的深入和国际交流的扩大,对英美文化的认识与研究也日益重要。近几年来,不少院校的英语语言文学专业硕士研究生的入学考试卷也表现出了对英美文化的更多重视,我认为这是时代的要求,也是与时俱进的反映。这次增订也正是要体现这种新的形势需要。

这本书虽被称为《英美概况》,但在一定程度上也可称为“英美文化概况”。按

照《现代汉语词典》的说法,文化是指“人类在社会历史发展过程中所创造的物质财富和精神财富的总和,特指精神财富,如文学、艺术、教育、科学等。”简而言之,就是英文中的 way of life(生活方式):既包括社会生活(social life),如政府和社会组织、生产和分配方式、就业与福利、教育、科研、宗教与卫生等;也包括私人生活(private life),如家庭。所有这都可以视为属于文化范畴,而且又都是本书的重要构成部分,因此说,本书的重点是英美文化概况。不同的民族语言产生于不同的民族文化土壤,随着该民族的文化发展而发展,因此,不懂一个民族的文化,就学不懂这个民族的语言,更不懂这个民族的人,因为文化说到底就是人。没有对英美文化的深刻了解,就没有真正意义上的英语语言和英美文学研究。

为了尽可能把本书修订好,我于2001年赴美国亚利桑那大学作访问学者,与该校的英美文化专家 Richard Cosgrove 和 Michael Schaller 教授就书的内容广泛交换了意见,他们为我提供了很多最新的有用资料, Richard Cosgrove 教授(历史系主任)还仔细审校了书的前半部,我在此向他们表示真诚的感谢。

复旦大学研究英美文化的著名学者索天章教授,生前对本书给予了很大的帮助,并对前几个版次进行了认真审校,在此致以衷心的感谢。

我衷心感谢河南大学教务处对本书的支持与帮助,使我能够按计划完成本书的增订工作。

我还要感谢河南大学外语学院院长张克定教授和郑州大学外语学院院长申娜娜教授,他们对英语语言和英美文化都有很深的造诣,在我写这本书时都给了非常重要的帮助。

正在美国攻读学位的来霞,在繁忙的学习和实践中帮我收集了很多宝贵的资料和信息,并对有些内容的陈述及观察角度提出了意见;来可也通过 E-mail 给我发来很多最新资料和统计数字,并校对修改了部分章节,提出了一些很好的建议。在此也向他们表示感谢,并希望今后在我的英美研究中能得到他们更多的帮助。

河南人民出版社的刘玉军和张雨晗同志,对英美文化都有很深的研究,他们在编辑这本书的过程中,对原稿进行了仔细审阅,提出了很多宝贵的修改建议,在此向他们表示感谢。

同时也向所有关心此书的读者和同行致以谢忱,希望今后仍能不断地听到他们的批评指正和意见,为帮助学生了解、认识和研究英美文化做出更多努力。

来安方

Lai Anfang

2004. 6. 18

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Volume One

**The United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

