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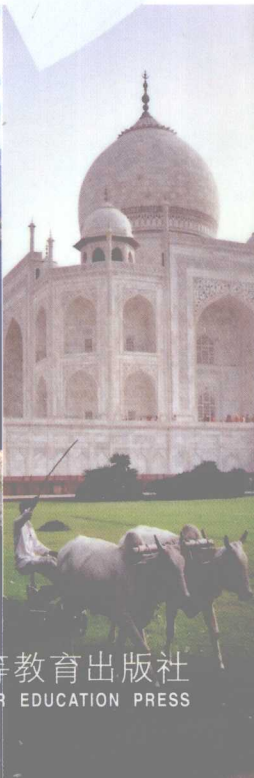
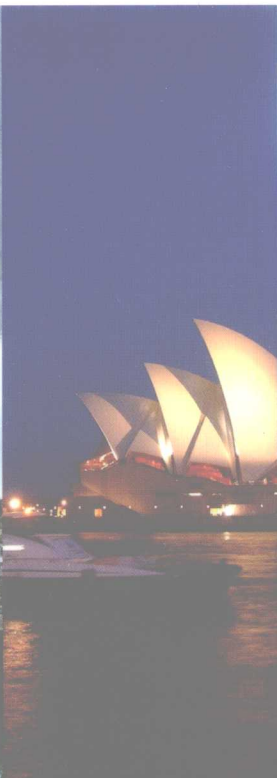
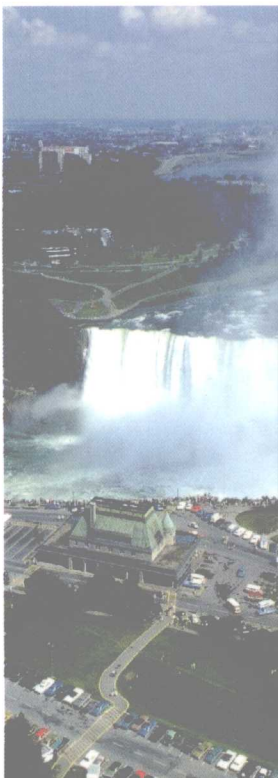
# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

## 英语国家概况 (下)

(加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰、印度概况)

□ 主 编 隋铭才

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高等教育出版社  
HIGHER EDUCATION PRESS



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## 前 言

《英语国家概况》AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES是一部全国师范院校英语专业教材，也适用于独立院校英语专业本科生。《英语国家概况》是在1999年受教育部师范司委托组织编写的全国英语教材基础上，根据全国师范院校及独立院校英语专业本科实际情况而编写的一部全国性教材。本书概括起来有以下三个特色：一是经过在北京市、上海市、吉林省、辽宁省和黑龙江省等地的教学调研，结合师范院校、独立院校学生特点，遵循由易至难的教学基本规律编写而成。本书不把生词较多的地理部分作为第一章，而是从大家熟悉的社会生活开始，循序渐进地进行阐述，以提高学生对该课程的兴趣。二是通过内容对照的方式编写本教材，这样可减少一些重复，还可以让学生进行对比、参照和评介。三是强调通俗易懂，设计了READ THE NOTES；强调英语的知识性和技能性，设计了HAVE A DICTATION这一传统但又实用的学习环节；强调分析和评介能力，设计了ANSWER THE QUESTIONS这一练习。我们还提供相关的网站地址，以便学生从网站获取较新的信息。

“英语国家概况”是教育部规定的一门英语专业必修课程，目的是帮助英语专业学生、非英语专业学生、自学考试学生和英语爱好者了解英语国家的基本情况。本教材主要介绍美国、英国、加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰和印度的社会生活、科学技术、经济概况、文化教育、地理概貌、历史背景、政治制度、外交关系、假日旅游等方面的基本知识，使学生了解一些主要的讲英语国家的生活方式、价值观念和思维方式，更好地掌握和使用英语语言，加深对语言、文化和文学的理解，增强对文化差异的敏感性，提高分析和评介能力，达到巩固英语水平、扩大知识面、训练英语技能、提高认知能力之目的。

本教材分为上、下两册，上册是美国和英国概况，下册是加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰和印度概况。每册十八章，英语专业学生每周平均学两学时，可供两个学期使用；也可以用作非英语专业或业余学习，每周平均用二至三学时学习一章。由于每章的内容多少不尽相同，教师可根据情况酌情处理。

本教材为隋铭才2004年度吉林省哲学社会科学规划研究项目[2004029]号研究成果，也受到了东北师范大学人文学院教改项目的支持，内容体现了教学改革的最新成果；本教材还得到高等教育出版社领导和编辑的大力支持，编写者表示诚挚的感谢。另外还要感谢东北师范大学英语系和东北师范大学人文学院分别自1987年和2002年使用该教材的各年级学生，他们的反馈意见是我们教材改进的依据。本教材肯定还存在一些错误和不足之处，恳请专家学者批评、斧正。

主编 隋铭才  
2008年12月

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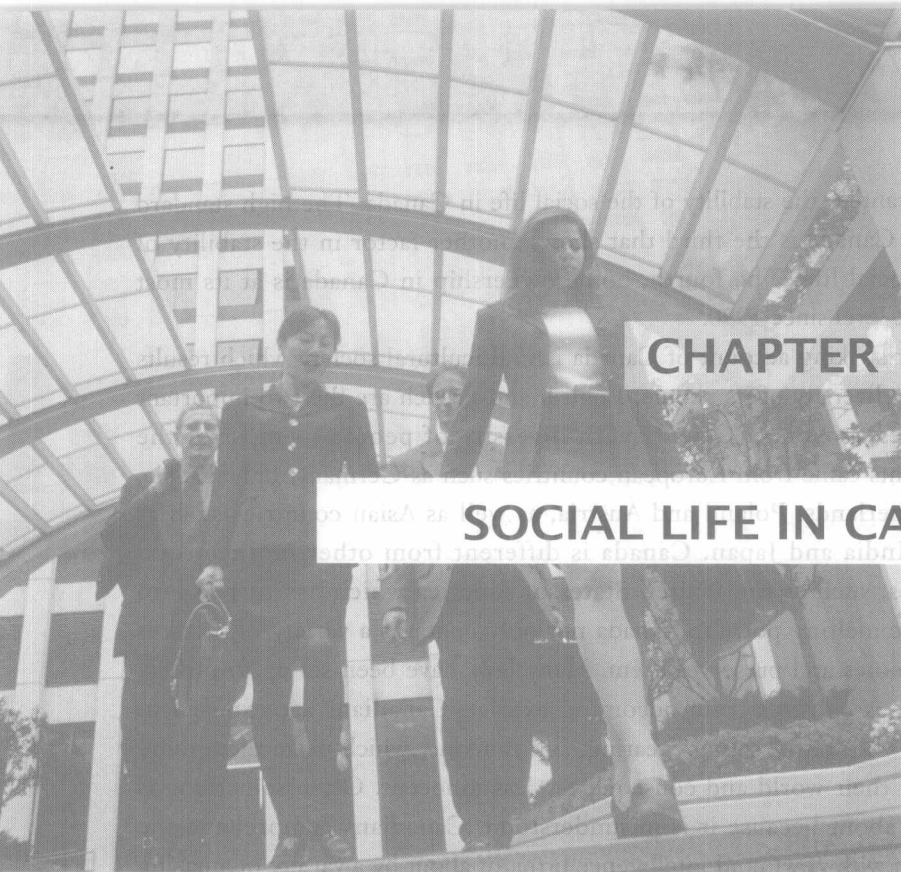
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# 1

## CHAPTER

# SOCIAL LIFE IN CANZI

CANZI is a new term or an abbreviation that consists of the initials of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India. Hereafter CANZI or Canzi will be used to denote the four countries above and each of them will be dealt with in the order mentioned in this textbook.

Social life in CANZI certainly varies because the four countries in question are scattered in the three continents: North America, Oceania and Asia. However, all of them are members of the Commonwealth of Nations and English has been their official language or one of the official languages since each experienced in history the colonisation of the British.



## 1.1 Canadian Social Life

This section will give a bird's eye description of the social life in Canada in four accounts, the first of which is the multicultural society. The welfare programme is the second that protects Canadians from financial hardship and

in turn guarantees the stability of the social life in Canada. The high standard of living in Canada is the third that shows another factor in the stability of Canadian social life. The fourth, home ownership in Canada is at its most unaffordable level since 1990.

- a. The first striking account of Canada is multicultural society which results from the diversity of its people. English and French are the two important languages spoken in Canada with diversity of people — most of the immigrants came from European countries such as Germany, Italy, Russia, the Netherlands, Poland and Austria, as well as Asian countries such as China, India and Japan. Canada is different from other multicultural countries, such as the United States of America which has turned into an ethnic melting pot, for Canada not only contains a variety of cultures but promotes and preserves them. Many laws have been set up to protect the various cultures from becoming extinct. Canadians are exposed to different cultures of eating, wearing, and thinking, which make them more aware of their world and consequently less innocent. Often something is worried about because it is misunderstood. Canadians comprehend the unknown with newfound intelligence brought about by a variety of amazing experiences; therefore, they come to be informed and can make better decisions for themselves, their country and their world. Canada has taken action to stop racism. The Canadian government was the first to manage a campaign commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination\*. Canada helps the rest of the world unite and experience a variety of different ethnic backgrounds trying to eliminate racism. Multiculturalism is bettered by both the federal and provincial governments in an attempt to maintain this unique “melting pot”.
- b. The Canadian welfare state has developed a wide range of health and social services intended to promote health and well-being. The range is concerning a few modes of intervention, services range from preventative, community-based programmes to primary health care, to acute care in the case of illness or accident. Social services include such things as settlement services, child protection, and social work intervention for individuals with difficulty living in the community (e.g. frail elders, people with minor disabilities and/or mental health problems) or residential centres for those unable to live independently.



c. The living standard in Canada is very high. Canada is a highly developed country because of their excellent working conditions, outstanding education system, high standard of living, and health care system ranked one of the best in the world. Canada provides a comfortable standard of living, quality health care and social security. There is also public education, low crime rates, a growing economy, and a clean environment. The Canadian constitution, named the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, gives everyone the right to equality, freedom of speech, assembly and association. The persons who have ever been to Canada consider Canada a generous, peaceful and compassionate nation. Canadians are regarded as honest, friendly and polite. A 1997 survey of people in twenty countries claimed that the majority placed Canada in the top group of countries where they would like to live. Canadians value their country's reputation in the world as a peace-loving nation with balanced policies on the international stages.

d. The ownership at home in Canada is in its most unaffordable state since the "housing recession" in 1990. Most low, moderate and many middle-income Canadians live in the one-third of homes that are in the rental markets. Rental markets have been got into trouble in recent years as average market rents charged by landlords have been beyond renter's affordability as a result of their stagnant or declining household incomes. On the contrary, the ownership market in recent years is a bit booming due to low mortgage rates and a strong supply of new homes. However, the rapidly rising house prices in most parts of the country make owner households' unaffordable ability growing.



## 1.2 Australian Social Life

The social life in Australia can also be depicted in four aspects, the first of which is that Australia is coming to be multicultural society due to the influx of other cultures to Australia. The second is welfare system in which all benefits are funded from current taxation. The high standard of living of the Australians is the third aspect. Finally, Australia is a card-carrying society.

a. The first striking account of Australia is also the multicultural society. The largest groups of immigrants to Australia are mainly from other Anglo-



Saxon cultures such as the cultures of Britain, Ireland and New Zealand; however, the influx of other cultures to Australia has made Australia a truly multicultural society. Australians are becoming more and more diverse as a people. More than forty percent of Australians were born overseas or had at least one parent who was born elsewhere. There are people from about two hundred countries who speak many different languages. Australians are now a people of many colors, accents and styles of dress and appearance. This diversity brings new communities to the country. For example, a decade ago it was unusual to see someone of black African heritage in Adelaide. These days, however, there is a growing Sudanese community. These various cultures are concerning diverse religions and customs. There are more and more Australians taking part in these religions and customs, particularly through cultural festivals. Some of these religions, particularly Buddhism and Islam, have been accepted by people in the broader Australian community. The mainstream of Australian society has got to be accustomed to new languages, religions and cultural practices; therefore, Australians have become more tolerant than they were before World War II. There is greater understanding of different cultures and more tolerance of different lifestyles. Australia now has many subcultures, particularly in the larger cities.

b. The Australian welfare state was officially established in 1943. Importantly, it is a pay-as-you-go form of welfare state, where all benefits are funded from current taxation. There are no vested funds for individual contributors. Over the past three decades, there have been a growing number of changes to Australia's welfare state. Uppermost among these changes is the increasingly strong state encouragement for and requirement of self-provision for post-compulsory education, health care, and superannuation. In the new situation the young and middle-aged are required to provide their own education, health care and superannuation, and pay tax for the old and would-be retirement. The changes are inducing a shift from an internally coherent, universal, tax-based, flat-rate system to a more mixed or segmented self-funded, multi-tiered system, which can be found in the U.S., and contains a serious challenge to the social contract, and the legitimacy of which depends on equity and continuity of access between generations.

c. Australia has enjoyed a high standard of living since the 19th century.

It has made a considerably large investment in social infrastructure, including education, training, health and transport. Australian families have many advantages to enjoy their country because they have both the wealth and the leisure time. Working hours and the number of public holidays are similar to those found in other Western countries. Australians are enthusiastic outdoor players and virtually they are interested in every activity. Many city dwellers have holiday homes along the coast or in the mountains. The houses in these neighbourhoods are of a high standard and relatively cheap compared with most other nations. Wherever they choose to live, Australian families can find the proper kind of community for their lifestyle, hospital, transport and other community services. The educational institutions in Australia can offer world-class standards of instruction and feature among the list of top educational institutions across the world.

d. Australia is well and truly a card-carrying society. It is becoming rare to line up at a supermarket checkout, petrol station or department store in cities and see someone virtually paying with cash these days. Credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted for everything from a hostel bed or a restaurant meal to an adventure tour, and a credit card is pretty much essential (in lieu of a large deposit) if you want to hire a car. They can be used to get cash advances over the counter at banks and from many ATMs. Australians love convenience, so debit cards are widely used there. You can draw money directly from your home bank account using ATMs, banks or Eftpos\* around the country. Any card connected to the international banking network — Cirrus, Maestro, Plus and Eurocard — should work, provided you know your PIN. Fees for using your card at a foreign bank or ATM are different depending on your home bank.



### 1.3 New Zealand's Social Life

This section will summarise the social life in New Zealand from four points. The first three points are the same as the previous two countries: Canada and Australia. The last point is the concentration of population in the North Island which attracts the bulk of external immigrants.

- a. New Zealand is now a multicultural society. Today, immigration plays an

an important role in New Zealand's development. Whilst national birth rates are broadly at replacement level, New Zealanders are very mobile and New Zealand has a large expatriate community for some fifteen percent of those born in New Zealand are outside New Zealand, the majority of those living in Australia. That context makes immigration particularly important for New Zealand. Diversity is helpful for the New Zealanders to develop new local and international markets, to bring innovation, and to improve creativity and productivity in the workplace. Simultaneously New Zealanders accumulate their experience to solve problems from multiple perspectives, enriching cultural and social expression, and heightening awareness and competence in navigating the world in the era of globalisation. It is apparent that New Zealanders draw out the potential of diversity and make diversity's benefits a reality. New Zealand is an environmentally conscious, non nuclear, multicultural nation which is founded on the basis of different cultures.

b. The second is the fact that New Zealand is a welfare state which has been established in 1937. The welfare system offers support to the disadvantaged and creates a safety net for those who are out of work, in need or without homes or income. This "cradle to grave" concept as it is known helps to eliminate poverty. New Zealanders are proud of themselves for having an absence of the homeless on the streets, squatter settlements and shanty towns. However there are social problems. New Zealand, once the world's most highly developed welfare state, is now characterised by a widening gap between the rich and the poor. The economy is improving at the cost of increasing poverty, affecting the weakest members of society and threatening the health of children.

c. The living standard in New Zealand is among the highest in the world, considering education and employment, health and personal safety, housing and the physical environment, leisure satisfaction, quality of working life and social welfare provisions. This high position is derived in large part from New Zealand's strong relationship with the United Kingdom, and the resulting stable market for its commodity exports. New Zealand's economy used to depend on a narrow range of primary products, such as wool, meat and dairy products. The current government's economic objectives are centred on pursuing free-trade agreements and building a "knowledge

“economy”. On 7 April 2008, New Zealand and China signed the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement, the first such agreement China has signed with a developed country. A low population density, coupled with favorable soils and climatic conditions, has made it possible for New Zealanders enjoy their life. Finally, the striking account of New Zealand is the concentration of population in the North Island. The population of the North Island continues to grow at a faster rate than that of the South Island. The North Island is more urbanized, has the country's major commercial and industrial centres, and though smaller in area contains over seventy percent of the country's population. Throughout the 20th century the North Island supported a much higher rate of population growth than the South Island. Reasons for the uneven distribution are the milder climate in the north, the expansion of North Island industries and the availability of land suitable for specialised farming.



## 1.4 Indian Social Life

Indian social life is inevitably linked to four perspectives: diversity, welfare system, living standard and Indian caste system.

- a. India is a very diverse country. The diversity of India has been shaped by the long history of India, its unique geography and the absorption of customs, traditions and ideas from both immigrants and invaders, while preserving its ancient heritage from the Indus Valley Civilisation\*. India's great diversity of cultural practices, languages, customs, and traditions are examples of this unique co-mingling over the past five millennia. India is also the birth place of several religions such as Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism, which have had a great influence not only over India but also over the rest of the world. There are two main languages, Hindi and English. There are fifteen other main languages but in all there are upwards of one thousand and five hundred languages and dialects spoken. There is no official state religion, but eighty percent of the population is Hindu, the predominant religion. Other main religions include eleven percent of Muslim, Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists. From the twelfth century onwards, following the Islamic conquests and the subsequent European occupation, the culture of India was influenced