

知己知彼 纵览全球 跋鳌千里 学贯东西

A New Guide to English-Speaking Countries

新编 英语 国家 概况

主编 陈德 编者 马晓宇 刘思远 艾绍亮

(第2版)

英国 澳大利亚篇
Britain & Australia



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XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY PRESS



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前言

英美概况是我国高校英语专业必修课程。在许多高校,该课程总学时为72学时,1学年完成。教学目的为“使学生熟悉英语国家的地理、历史、发展状况、文化传统、风俗习惯;具有较多的人文知识”(高等学校英语专业教学大纲)。据市场调查,惯见的教材普遍显得大而全,难以在有限的课时里完成这些堆积在一起的宽泛知识。另外,编写模式也过于单一,使得课堂上教师没有发挥的余地,只能照本宣科,迫使学生囫圇吞枣、死记硬背相关知识。其结果往往是学生在学习一年之后,仍然对英美国家的概念模糊不清,理解粗浅,当然无法有效地培养他们对文化差异的敏感性、宽容性和处理文化差异的灵活性。

2008年,我们开始编著《新编英语国家概况》时已经注意到了这个教学瓶颈。为摆脱这个困境,本次在编写该教材第二版时,我们在对每个章节的编写上做了部分修改,力求使其符合我国学生的实际语言水平和接受能力,语言鲜活易懂,避免平铺直叙;内容选取更加得当,重点突出;在长度的编排上,充分考虑各个学校的课时安排,使老师和同学们在使用过程中,做到有张有弛。各章的主文部分后,推出了词汇注释、难点解释、补充亮点、作业练习和中文要义等5个板块,建立了一个全方位、多角度的立体式学习平台,使同学们有一个学习、吸收、理解的过程,引导他们深入分析、思考问题,以培养学生的批判性思维能力,实现学有所思和学有所用的目的。

转眼5年过去了,这套教材得到了广泛欢迎和认可,印数过万,这些数字充分说明了一个道理:教材的编写不能脱离实际而孤芳自赏,一定要从教学实际情况出发,时刻考虑符合老师和同学的需求。

众所周知,在过去的几年里,世界发生了很大变化,英美国家更是如此。显然,原书中的部分内容和数据已成为历史,非常有必要及时补充和更新。同时,经过这几年的使用,我们也得到许多学校反馈回来的建议,如,重新划分部分章节,使得每个章节的比重更加均衡,增强内容的连贯性,便于课时的安排;增加视频材料介绍,以提高学生学习兴趣。这些有益的建议在本次的修订中,都得以采用,使新修订的版本更加有助于教学。具体修订要点如下所述:

1. 更新所有过时的数据,如人口数据、经济指数、人物变动和重大事件。尤其是部分国家政要的更换,如新连任的美国总统奥巴马和新当选的英国首相卡梅隆等。

2. 简写了部分难解的语句,对晦涩长句进行了改写,尽量扫除因语言而产生的理解上的障碍,重点突出知识要点的掌握和理解,把教师 and 学生的注意引导到知识层面和对其分析与理解上。

3. 将原第2章的历史部分,单独划分出来,使各个章节更加平衡,并且更加有助于教学的开展。具体说,将美国概况分为两部分,如第1部分包括地理、政治、经济、文化、教育、城市、交通运输、体育与娱乐等8个章节,作为前半学期的学习内容。第2部分为历史,根据其历史时期的重要时代划分为4个章节,供后半学期学习。这样的调整使教学安排更加清晰合理。

4. 增加了 Video Reference 栏目,目的是为了每个章节的内容更加生动,栏目内推荐的影视资料,可以增加学生的学习兴趣,开阔他们的视野。

5. 为了方便老师授课和有效开展多媒体教学,每个章节都附加了课件(PPT),使本章节的学习要点和学习思路以电子课件的形式展现在课堂上。

总之,希望修订后的教材,更适用于高等院校英语专业本科生开设的“英美概况”课程;同时,也适用于为非英语专业在校本科生、大专生开设的有关英语文化方面素质拓展课程。

本次参与编写成员基本都是具有留学英美国家经历的老师。本书的分工如下:陈德负责全书的修订大纲、统稿、修改和审改。本书第一部分的第1章、第2章、第4章、第7章、第8章由侯静执笔;第3章、第5章、第6章和第二部分历史中的4章由王晓燕执笔;加拿大部分由张萍执笔。

现任教于西安邮电大学的美籍教师 Steve Riner 先生,对第二版美国、加拿大篇进行了全面的审阅和修改,确保了内容的准确和完整,在此诚挚谢意。书中参照和引用了大量国内外文献、资料,在此一并表示谢意。

由于编著者水平有限,错误之处在所难免,我们真诚地欢迎广大学习者和教师对本书提出批评和建议,以使我们在今后的修订中得到进一步提高和完善。

陈 德

2013年6月

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Section I Britain

Part One Major Aspects

Chapter 1 Geography



► **FOCUS:** • Introduction • The Highland Zone • The Lowland Zone • Rivers and Lakes • Forests and Woodlands • Mineral Resources

● Introduction



The British Isles are situated in the northwest of Europe. They are separated from the continent by the English Channel. On the north and the east the Isles face the North Sea and they face the Atlantic Ocean on the west. The United Kingdom is ruled over by the Queen. It consists of Scotland, Wales and England, and also about one-sixth of Ireland, the Northern part. The rest of Ireland is self-governing. Therefore the full title of the United Kingdom is “The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland”. Its total area is 244,820 square kilometers (2012). It runs over 1,000 kilometers from north to south and extends, at the widest part, about 500 kilometers, making it one of the countries with the longest coastline.

The United Kingdom contains a number of small islands and is associated with several dependent territories. Britain's dependent territories are scattered throughout the world and are the remains of the former British Empire. Once considered colonies, they have opted to remain under British control for a



variety of reasons. Most are locally self-governing, although the Queen appoints a governor for each territory who is responsible for external affairs and internal security.



The island of Great Britain can be divided into two major natural regions—the highland zone and the lowland zone. The highland zone is an area of high hills and mountains in the north and west. The lowland zone consists mostly of rolling plains in the south and east. The zones are divided by an imaginary line running through England from the River Exe on the southwest coast to the mouth of the River Tees on the northeast coast. The lowland zone has a milder climate and better soils for farming. Historically, most people in Britain have lived in the lowland zone rather than in the harsher highland zone.

● The Highland Zone

The highland zone contains what is often called rough country, consisting

to a large extent of rugged hills, mountains, and eroded areas frequently broken by valleys and plains. The highest elevations in the British Isles are in the highland zone; the highest point is Ben Nevis at 1,344 m, located in the Highlands of Scotland.



The highland zone is cooler than the lowland zone, and receives more rainfall and less sunlight. Therefore in many places farming is impossible. Even where it is feasible, the soil is often thin and stony, with a hard rock formation below. Rainwater often cannot be drained quickly. So many areas tend to be **waterlogged**.

Wales, Scotland, and parts of England are located in the highland zone. The parts of England in the highland zone include the Pennine Chain of mountains, extending down into northern England and into the southwestern peninsula. The Pennine Chain is sometimes called the **backbone** of England. It is a massive upland area extending 260 km north to south, starting at the Cheviot Hills on England's border with Scotland and ending in the Midlands of central England. It is made up of several broad, rolling, windswept **moorlands** separated by deep river valleys. Many of England's major industrial areas lie on the flanks of the Pennine Chain, where there are many coalfields. To the west of the northern Pennines are the Cumbrian Mountains, a mountainous dome of ancient rocks deeply eroded by **glaciers**. This region contains the Lake District, famous for its lakes and scenic beauty.

The part of the highland zone in England's southwest peninsula is often referred to as the West Country. This peninsula, which extends into the Atlantic Ocean, contains the counties of Devon and Cornwall. It includes hilly, rough



areas, the moorland plateaus of Dartmoor and Exmoor, and many picturesque valleys. Its sheltered areas are noted for their mild climate.

Farther north are the Scottish Highlands, a rugged area of mountain ranges, bleak moorlands, and deep, narrow valleys known as glens. These tracts of wasteland are mostly covered with wild, low, bushy plants, including **hardy** evergreen shrubs most often found in cooler climates. The Grampian Mountains are the chief range in the Highlands, reaching as high as 1,344 m above sea level. The western portion of the Highlands contains most of Scotland's famous **lochs**, or large lakes.

Northern Ireland consists of hilly highlands similar to those of Scotland. Most of Northern Ireland is situated in a large valley formed from an old **lava** plateau. In the center of the valley is Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles, which is 30 km long and 15 km wide. The highest part of Northern Ireland is the Mourne Mountains in the southeast, which reach a maximum elevation of 852 m above sea level.

The peninsula of Wales is almost entirely covered by mountains. The Cambrian Mountains extend roughly from northeast to southeast across the peninsula, forming an area of high, steep peaks and bleak moorlands. They contain the highest peak in Wales, the huge mountain called Snowdon, which rises to 1,085 m above sea level. In southern Wales lower and less rugged mountains, the Brecon Beacons extend in a roughly east-west direction. Sometimes the lowland region of southeastern Wales is considered an extension of the lowland zone of Britain. This region contains the largest cities and industrial establishments in Wales. Coal mines in the mountains just to the north of this southern lowland were of great importance to the Welsh economy for many years.

● The Lowland Zone



In general the lowland zone is a great plain with a gentle, **undulating** surface and extensive areas of almost-level ground. It receives less rain and more sunshine than the highland zone and much of the soil in the zone is fertile. Most of the lowland region is less than 150 m above sea level, and the hills rarely reach more than 300 m above sea level. It has been extensively