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READ THE HISTORY OF
THE UNITED STATES QUICKLY

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一口气读完 美国史



李清如◎编著

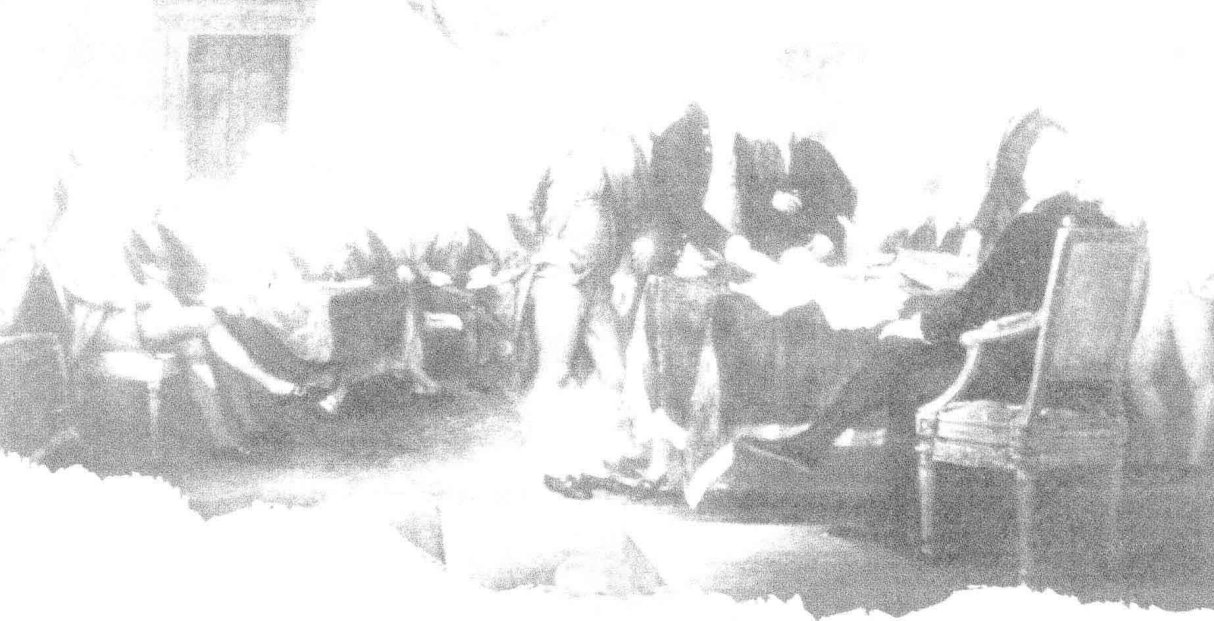
全景式展现美国历史



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武汉出版社
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前言



美国人——他们是什么人？他们是你在任何其他国家都找不到的混血人。美国这个在20世纪独步全球的世界第一强国，并且在可预见的未来仍将是世界舞台的重要角色的国家，究竟是一个怎样的国家？

在整个20世纪，美国一直是世界第一强国，冷战结束以来更是独步全球的唯一超级大国。夸张一点说，了解了美国，就了解了一小半的世界。

美国究竟是一个什么样的国家呢？伟大的革命导师恩格斯在1888年9月的《美国旅行印象》中写道：“美国是一个新世界，新不仅是就发现她的时间而言，而且是就她的一切制度而言……这个前进最快的民族对于每一个新的改进方案，会纯粹从其实际利益出发马上进行试验。这个方案一旦被认为是好的，差不多在第二天就会付诸实行。在美国，一切都应该是新的，一切都应该是合理的，一切都应该是实际的。”

然而，人们似乎又发现：美国的经济十分发达，但是社会上贫富差距也很悬殊；美国法制很健全，但是犯罪率却居高不下，监狱里人满为患；美国倡导思想自由、科技领先，却又是一个宗教色彩浓郁的国度；美国种族非常复杂，但是社会凝聚力和文化包容力却依然强劲；美国对内标榜民主、平等，对外却耀武扬威、横行霸道……真是矛盾重重、扑朔迷离。

那么，怎样才能真正看清这样一个让人眼花缭乱的国家呢？最好的办法莫过于——刨根问底。而本书正是一本为您揭示美国根底的著作。

翻开本书，美国历史的画卷将在您的面前徐徐展开。三百多年的沧海桑田、旖旎风光将在您的脑海中重现往日的激情澎湃。

当然，如果只是作为一本介绍美国历史的纯粹的历史著作或许并不能满足您的需求。在当今这样一个全球化的时代，英语已经成为社会竞争中的重要工具和武器。但是，纯粹的英语读物往往内容繁杂，没有太多的内涵，也很难让人提起阅读的兴趣。因此，正是为了满足众多爱好历史、渴望了解美国的读者们的英语学习的需求，我们才编辑和出版了本书。

本书将美国历史分为十个阶段，每个阶段都以那段美国历史中的代表事件和重要史实为出发点，将美国各个历史阶段的风貌和概况展现在读者面前。本书对美国历史的介绍采用中英文结合的方式，通过中文的阶段介绍和背景讲述来帮助你阅读，从而让你的英语学习更加通畅和顺利。同时，每篇介绍后面都有生词注解，能够让你不用词典，同样能够轻松地阅读本书。

开场的锣鼓已经为您敲响，抛开一切纷扰，在历史的波澜和英语文化的海洋中尽情地享受吧！

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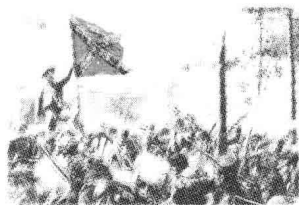
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第一章

Colonial Era 殖民时期



前哥伦布时代

从哥伦布“发现”新大陆那一刻开始，美洲文明翻开了崭新的一页，欧洲史也为之改写。那么，在哥伦布到来之前的美洲大陆，也即前哥伦布时期是怎样的呢？那里是否居住着土著居民？原住民的文明程度如何？他们过着怎样的生活？现在，就让我们来一探究竟。



Reading in a single sitting 一口气读完这段历史

The specifics of Paleo-Indian migration to and throughout the Americas, including the exact dates and routes traveled, are subject to ongoing research and discussion. The traditional theory has been that these early migrants moved into the Beringia (白令) land bridge between eastern Siberia (西伯利亚) and present-day Alaska (阿拉斯加) around 40,000–17,000 years ago, when sea levels were significantly lowered due to the Quaternary **glaciation**. These people are believed to have followed herds of now-extinct **pleistocene megafauna** along ice-free corridors that stretched between the Laurentide (劳伦太德冰盖) and Cordilleran (科迪勒拉) ice sheets. Another route proposed is that, either on foot or using primitive boats, they migrated down the Pacific Northwest coast to South America. Evidence of the latter would since have been covered by a sea level rise of hundreds of meters following the last ice age.

Archaeologists contend that Paleo-Indians migration out of Beringia (eastern Alaska), ranges somewhere between 40,000 and 16,500 years ago. The few agreements achieved to date are the origin from Central Asia, with widespread habitation of the Americas during the end of the last glacial period, or more specifically what is known as the late **glacial** maximum, around 16,000–13,000

years before present.

The Inuit migrated into the Arctic section of North America in another wave of migration, arriving around 1000 CE. Around the same time as the Inuit migrated into North America, Viking(维京) settlers began arriving in Greenland (格陵兰) in 982 and Vinland (文兰) shortly thereafter, establishing a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows (安斯梅多), near the northernmost tip of Newfoundland. The Viking settlers quickly **abandoned** Vinland, and disappeared from Greenland by 1500.

The pre-Columbian era incorporates all period **subdivisions** in the history and prehistory of the Americas before the appearance of significant European influences on the American continents, spanning the time of the original settlement in the Upper Paleolithic (旧石器时代晚期) to European colonization during the Early Modern period.

Pre-Columbian is used especially often in the context of the great indigenous





civilizations of the Americas, such as those of Mesoamerica [the Olmec (奥尔梅克人), the Toltec (托尔特克人), the Mixtec (米斯特克人), the Aztec (阿兹特克人), and the Maya (玛雅人)] and the Andes (安第斯山脉) (Inca (印加人), Moche (莫克人)].

Many pre-Columbian civilizations established characteristics and **hallmarks** which included **permanent** or urban settlements, agriculture, civic and monumental architecture, and complex societal hierarchies. Some of these civilizations had long faded by the time of the first permanent European arrivals (late 15th–early 16th centuries), and are known only through archaeological investigations. Others were contemporary with this period, and are also known from historical accounts of the time. A few, such as the Maya, had their own written records. However, most Europeans of the time viewed such texts as **heretical**, and much was destroyed in Christian pyres. Only a few hidden documents remain today, leaving modern historians with glimpses of ancient culture and knowledge.

According to both indigenous American and European accounts and documents, American civilizations at the time of European encounter possessed many **impressive accomplishments**. For instance, the Aztecs built one of the most impressive cities in the world, Tenochtitlan (特诺奇蒂特兰地区), the ancient site of Mexico City, with an estimated population of 200,000. American civilizations also displayed impressive accomplishments in astronomy and mathematics.

总之，在前哥伦布时代，在广袤的美洲大陆上，美洲印第安人创造了三大文明，它们是位于今天的尤卡坦、危地马拉和伯利兹地区的玛雅文明，位于今天墨西哥地区的阿兹特克文明以及囊括从厄瓜多尔中部至智利中部3000英里地区的印加文明。

他们培育出包括玉米、倭瓜、土豆、胡椒、烟草、棉花和豆类等作物，今天世界上近一半的食物发源于此；发达的天体知识；以太阳金字塔为代表的建

筑技术；发达的水利灌溉系统等等。但是，当自给自足、和平宁静的印第安文明遭遇正在野心勃勃四处扩张的欧洲文明时，将是一场灭顶之灾。这一切，就从哥伦布的地理大发现开始。

Vocabulary 生词全知道

glaciation 冰川作用

pleistocene 更新世、更新岩世

megafauna 巨型生物

archaeologist 考古学家

glacial 冰的、冰川的、冰河时代的

abandon 抛弃

subdivision 细分

hallmark 印记、标志

heretical 异端的

permanent 永久的

impressive 令人印象深刻的

accomplishment 技艺、成就

Key Words in History 历史关键词

1. Pueblo 普韦布洛社会

“Pueblo” is a term used to describe modern (and ancient) communities of Native Americans in the Southwestern United States of America. The first Spanish explorers of the Southwest used this term to describe communities that consisted of apartment-like structures made from stone, adobe mud, and other local material. These structures were usually multi-storied buildings surrounding an open plaza and were occupied by hundreds to thousands of Pueblo People.

2. Maya Civilization 玛雅文明

The Maya is a Mesoamerican civilization, noted for the only known fully developed written language of the pre-Columbian Americas, as well as for its art, architecture, and mathematical and astronomical systems. Initially



established during the Pre-Classic period (2000 BC to 250 AD), according to the Mesoamerican chronology, many Maya cities reached their highest state of development during the Classic period (250 AD to 900 AD), and continued throughout the Post-Classic period until the arrival of the Spanish.

The Maya civilization shares many features with other Mesoamerican civilizations due to the high degree of interaction and cultural diffusion that characterized the region. Advances such as writing, epigraphy, and the calendar did not originate with the Maya; however, their civilization fully developed them. Maya influence can be detected from Honduras, Guatemala, Northern El Salvador and to as far as central Mexico, more than 1000 km (625 miles) from the Maya area. Many outside influences are found in Maya art and architecture, which are thought to result from trade and cultural exchange rather than direct external conquest.

3. Inca Empire 印加帝国

The Inca Empire, or Inka Empire, was the largest empire in pre-Columbian America. The administrative, political and military center of the empire was



located in Cusco in modern-day Peru. The Inca civilization arose from the highlands of Peru sometime in the early 13th century. From 1438 to 1533, the Incas used a variety of methods, from conquest to peaceful assimilation, to incorporate a large portion

of western South America, centered on the Andean mountain ranges, including large parts of modern Ecuador, Peru, western and south central Bolivia, northwest Argentina, north and north-central Chile, and southern Colombia into a state.

comparable to the historical empires of the Old World.

The official language of the empire was Quechua, although hundreds of local languages and dialects of Quechua were spoken. The Inca referred to their empire as Tawantinsuyu which can be translated as The Four Regions or The Four United Provinces. There were many local forms of worship, most of them concerning local sacred “Huacas”, but the Inca leadership encouraged the worship of Inti—the sun god—and imposed its sovereignty above other cults such as that of Pachamama. The Incas considered their King, the Sapa Inca, to be the “child of the sun.”

4. Machu Picchu, the “Lost city of the Incas” 马丘比丘, “印加文明失落的城市”

Cuzco the capital city, was said by the Spanish to be “as fine as any city in Spain”. Perhaps the most impressive city of the Incan was not its capital, Cuzco, but the city Machu Picchu. This mountain retreat is built high in the Andes and is sometimes called the “Lost city of the Incas.” It was intended as a mountain retreat for the leaders of Incan empire and shows great artistry- the abundant dry stone walls entirely built without mortar and the blocks cut so carefully that one can’t insert a knife-blade between the massive blocks.



Background Knowledge 背景知识补充

美洲大陆的历史当然不是从1492年哥伦布抵达美洲开始的。事实上，美洲文明或许起源于上个冰河世纪，大约15000年到40000年以前。历史学家认为，印第安人的祖先可能在大约2万年前从亚洲渡过白令海峡到达美洲的，或者是通过冰封的海峡陆桥过去的。他们来到美洲并且陆续分散到各地，形成了有自己特色的部落文化。

当意大利航海家哥伦布航行至美洲时，误以为所到之处为印度，因此将此



地的土著居民称作“Indians”。后来，虽然发现他错了，但习惯称法已经普及了，所以英语和其他欧洲语言中称印第安人为“西”印度人。在必要时，为了区别，称真正的印度人为“东”印度人。汉语翻译时直接把“西印度人”这个单词翻译成“印第安人”或“印地安人”。

当时的印第安原住民没有自己的文字，却有着丰富的口头文学，但随着原住民人口的锐减，这些口头文学也就难觅踪影了。从总体上讲，印第安文明相对于其他大陆上的文明来说，数千年的孤立隔绝使其演进的速度非常缓慢。虽然他们在培育植物方面成就辉煌，但除了仅能最低限度地保证人们的食物需求外，没有发展出耕作技术。他们仅有石制、木制、骨制的工具，不能熔炼矿石，更没有刀剑和火器。而在制度方面，美洲印第安人还停留在氏族部落阶段。各种各样的部落彼此间存在着巨大的差别，从语言一直到崇拜对象。比如，目前仍然存在的美洲原住民语言约有350种，分属十几个语系，至今没有公认的语言分类。

由于美洲原住民没有统一的语言，没有文字，再加上原住民人口在新大陆被发现之后锐减90%，因此，目前残存的古代文明材料已经不多。想要更深入地了解这段历史，我们只好寄希望于古代印第安文化遗址的大力发掘。