

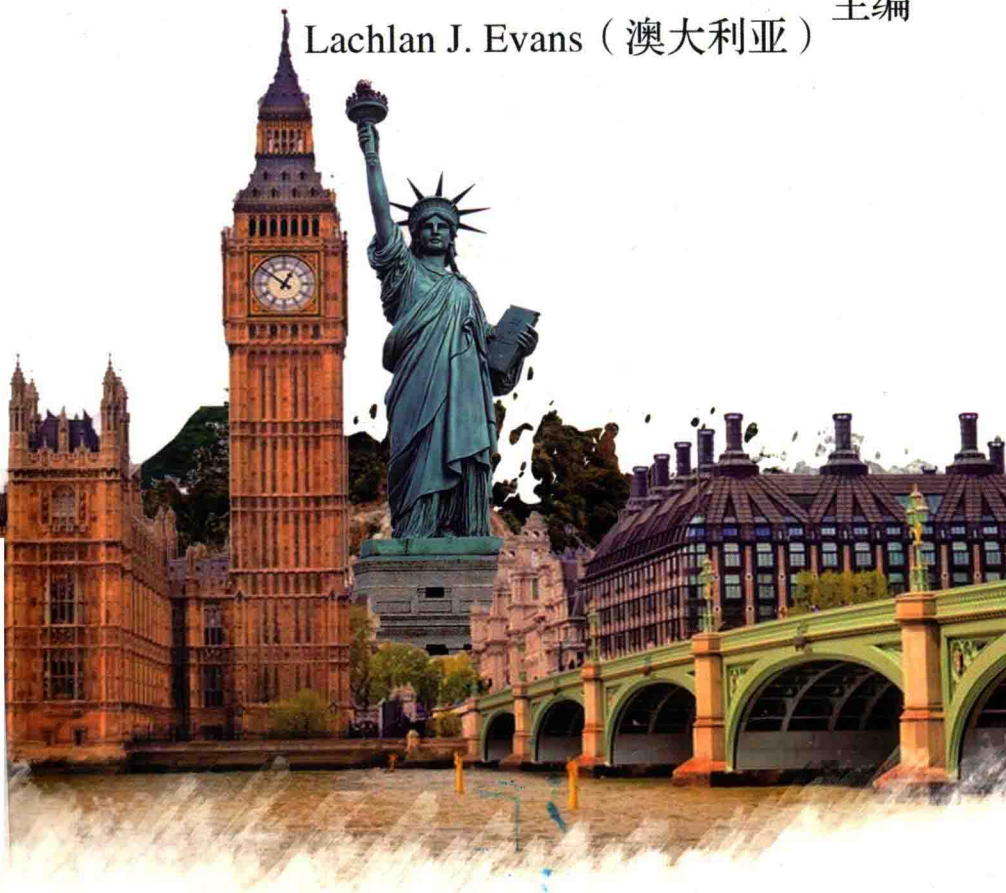
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIETY AND CULTURE  
OF BRITAIN AND AMERICA

# 英美社会与文化概论

唐晓菲

主编

Lachlan J. Evans (澳大利亚)



武汉理工大学出版社

WUTP Wuhan University of Technology Press

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# 前 言

《英美社会与文化概论》是一本针对高等院校英语专业“英美社会与文化”“英语国家概况”等同类型专业基础课的全英文教材,也可作为非英语专业本、专科学生及研究生通识教育选修课和公选课教材或课外读物。本书基于真实的英语科技文献及报刊史料,通过系统介绍英国与美国的地理、语言、历史、政治、法律、经济、教育、科技、流行文化、旅游名胜、运动休闲、社会风俗和传统节日等文化知识,使中国学生透过社会表征充分了解英美两国文化核心,从而扩大知识面,提升对不同文化差异的敏感度,培养其跨文化交际能力,同时帮助中国学生提高英语理解与表达能力。

本书分七章、共 23 节课,每章开头介绍教学目标及相应的学习指南与建议,结尾设置了该章讨论主题(Discussion Hub)以供学生交流与检验所学内容。其中每节课依次呈现学习重点与难点、课文,部分课提供对应的练习思考题。本书结尾附有课后练习样题,涉及单选题、多选题以及判断题。课文穿插图表、照片等真实的视觉材料,表现手段活泼,效果直观生动;所涉及英美内容均为经典或最新文化知识,以期学生更为全面地体验欧美国家的真实社会文化。

本书同时为中国大学 MOOC 平台武汉理工大学 SPOC 专有在线课程“英美社会与文化”的配套教材。其基于“以学习者为中心”与“任务型教学”相结合的教学理念,采用“线上 + 线下”混合式教学模式,理论教学与案例实践相结合,大班授课与工作坊并行,文化知识与语言教学相辅相成,增加了任课教师与学生之间、学生与学生之间的互动交流,从而促进对学生自主学习、团队协作以及跨文化交际能力的培养。

本书由武汉理工大学外国语学院唐晓菲博士、澳大利亚国立大学外交学系学者 Lachlan John Evans 先生共同主编。教材编写力求完美,但难免存在疏漏与偏颇之处,恳请广大读者朋友与学界同行不吝指正,以期不断完善。

编者

2018.5

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# 第一章 英美国家地理与语言

## (1) 教学目标

- 能正确理解和表述英国与美国的全称及缩写；
- 能基本掌握和区分英国与美国的地理行政区域划分；
- 能基本掌握英国与美国的官方语言与主要方言种类。

## (2) 学习指南和学习建议

- 本章的学习重点是：英国与美国的全称与缩写、主要地理区域（Country/State）划分、官方语言与主要方言种类及其特点。
- 本章的学习目标是：理解与正确表述英国和美国的称谓，基本掌握和区分其国家主要组成部分，了解英语作为实际意义上的官方语言地位与其他主要方言划分。
- 对本章的学习，学生应在初步感知英美两国国家概况的基础上，结合本章基本资源中的“教学课件”和“教学视频”，加深对两国国家名称、地理区域划分以及主流语言种类的理解，初步建立起英美国家概况和背景的系统思维方式，理解两国文化属性在宏观背景上的异同。
- 通过本章学习，学生应明确“Great Britain”与“Britain”，“America”与“The Americas”之间的区别，并理解英语在两国社会交流中并非严格意义的官方语言，而是*de facto national language*。

## Lesson 1.1: Geography and Major Cities of UK

### 学习重点

- 英国的缩写、昵称、全称；
- 英国的几个组成部分，以及它们各自的首府城市；
- 英国最高的山、最长的河与最大的湖；
- 英国主要城市及其重要性。

### 学习难点

- 区分Great Britain和Britain；
- Northern Ireland is included in the UK not Ireland；
- 英国最长的河是River Severn而非River Thames；
- Edinburgh is Scotland's capital and the seat of its parliament.

### **Text: Geography and Major Cities of UK**

#### **Section One: What is UK?**

UK is the abbreviation of the United Kingdom. The full name of the United Kingdom is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is also known as Britain.

There are several terminologies to be addressed here:

First, “Great Britain” . Great Britain contains England, Wales and Scotland together with all the

offshore islands, including the Isle of Wight, the Isles of Scilly, the Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetlands.

Second, “United Kingdom”. The United Kingdom comprises Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, and the Channel Islands, in the English Channel, between Great Britain and France, are largely self-governing. They are known as Crown Dependencies; but they are not part of the United Kingdom.

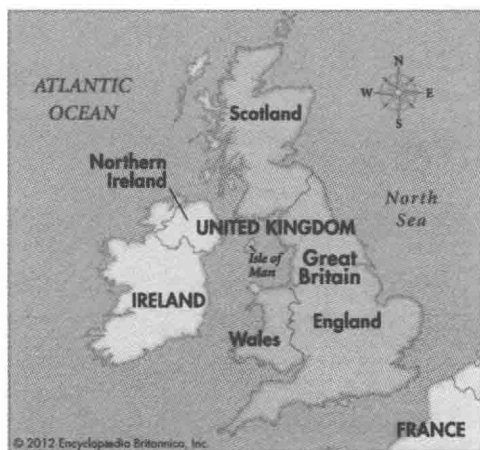


Figure 1.1 The map of the UK

The name “British Isles” is a geographical term. It describes all of the abovementioned parts, plus the whole of the island of Ireland, as well as the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

### Section Two: Where is UK?

The United Kingdom is a sovereign country in western Europe. Lying off the coast of France, the United Kingdom sits between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea.

The United Kingdom is bordered by four seas. First, to the south by the English Channel, which separates the UK from continental Europe. Second, to the east by the North Sea. Third, to the west by the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

### Section Three: The Landscape

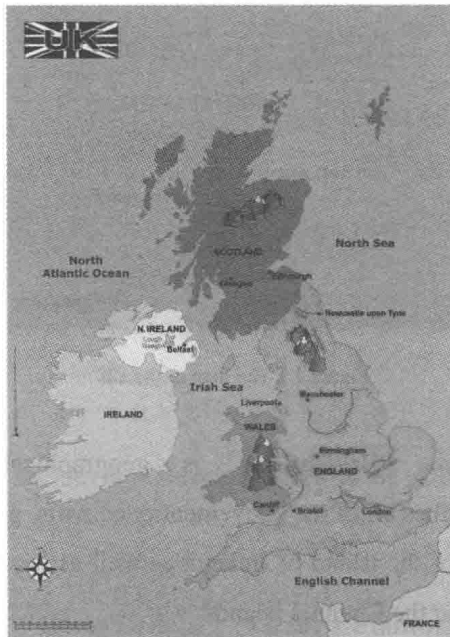


Figure 1.2 The location of the UK

The United Kingdom landscape is very varied. Scotland and Wales are the most mountainous parts of the United Kingdom. Most of the United Kingdom is made up of gently rolling hills with isolated areas of high ground. The major rivers include the Thames in the south, the Severn in the west, and the Spey in Scotland.

#### Section Four: The Climate

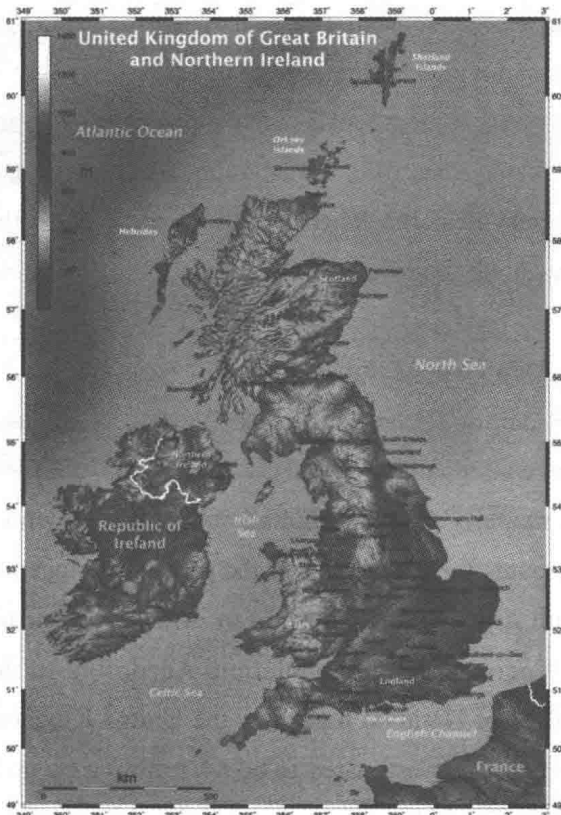


Figure 1.3 The landscape of the UK

With regards to Britain's climate, it is often considered as cool, wet, cloudy and windswept. In fact, the United Kingdom has a temperate climate, with plentiful rainfall all year round. The temperature varies with the seasons seldom dropping below minus eleven degree or rising above thirty-five degree. It is also a fact that, for the United Kingdom, the worldwide phenomenon of climate change appears to have more and more impacts on blurring the distinctions of the seasons, especially the autumn-winter-spring period. Overall speaking, the United Kingdom weather is controlled by a series of depressions from the Atlantic that move across or pass near the British Isles on account of the prevailing southwesterly wind.

#### **Section Five: Multiculturalism**

In addition to the indigenous cultures, Britain also has what could be called its "Empire" cultures—principally from the Indian subcontinent, which accounts for 5.5 percent of the population, together with Africa and the Caribbean, which account for 2.9 percent of the population. According to the Office of National Statistics, the United Kingdom population is estimated to be 64.7 million by mid-2015. The 2011 census revealed that 14 percent of the population, or 8 million people, came from other

ethnic backgrounds. Nowadays, one in four children under ten are from mothers who were not born in the United Kingdom. 12 percent of them are from Poland. Therefore, Britain has the fastest-growing population in Europe, gaining a further 5 million since the 2001 census. These new communities are not evenly spread across the country, which creates a very mixed pattern of integration and cohesion.



Figure 1.4 Multiculturalism in the UK

### Section Six: Four Countries of the UK

The United Kingdom contains four countries. First, England. It is in the north-west Europe and is in the southern part of Great Britain. England is an island country and also part of the United Kingdom. Its capital city is London. England is the largest

country in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Approximately 84% of the population of the United Kingdom lives in England, mainly in the major cities such as London, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, and Great Manchester.

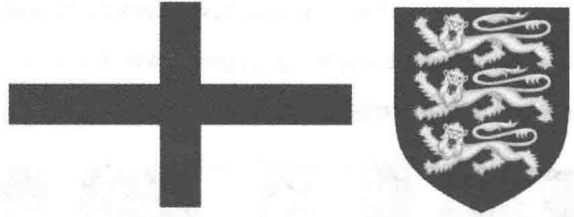


Figure 1.5 The official symbols of England

Second, Scotland. Scotland is in north-west Europe and is part of Great Britain. It is also an island of Great Britain and has a land border to the south with England. It is bounded by the North Sea on the east and Atlantic Ocean on the west. Its capital city is Edinburgh. Until 1603, Scotland had its own Monarch. In 1603, the King of Scotland became also the King of England ruling both countries.

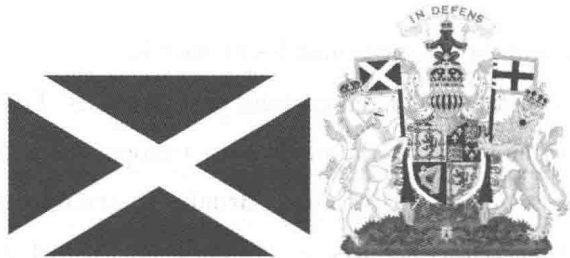


Figure 1.6 The official symbols of Scotland

Third, Wales. Wales is in the north-west Europe and is part of Great Britain. It is also an island country. The English meaning of the name “Wales” is “Homeland”. Its capital city is Cardiff. Wales is a mountainous country on the western side of Great Britain. Wales is a principality. This means that it is ruled by a prince. Traditionally, the Prince of Wales is the eldest son of the English or British monarch. The current and longest-serving Prince of Wales is Prince Charles, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II.

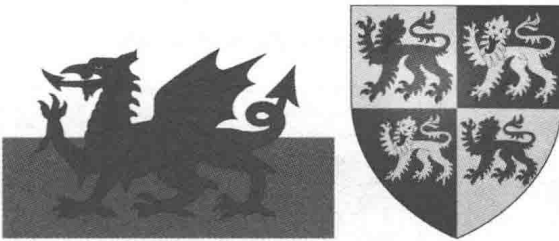


Figure 1.7 The official symbols of Wales

Fourth, Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland lies in the northeast of the island of Ireland, covering about a sixth of the island’s total area. Northern Ireland is the second most populated part of the United Kingdom after Scotland. Its capital is Belfast. In 1801, the whole of Ireland became part of the United Kingdom. After years of civil war, the United Kingdom negotiated with most paramilitary organizations based in Northern Ireland such as the



Figure 1.8 The current Prince of Wales, Prince Charles

Provisional IRA, the UDA, UVF and the Red Hand Commando, and finally brought a peace ending by confirming their loyalty to the British Government.



Figure 1.9 The official symbols of Northern Ireland

### Section Seven: Interesting Facts about the UK

First, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom is called Ben Nevis. It is located in Scotland.



Figure 1.10 Ben Nevis

Next, the longest river in the United Kingdom is the River Severn through Wales and England. However, it often floods.

The biggest lake in the United Kingdom is Lough Neagh in Northern Ireland. Another famous lake is Loch Ness in Scotland. Some people believe that a monster called Nessie lives there.



Figure 1.11 River Sever



Figure 1.12 Lough Neagh



Figure 1.13 Loch Ness and Nessie (Sculpture)