

<<英语国家概况>>

图书基本信息

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前言

本书介绍了美国、英国、爱尔兰、加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰、印度、南非等主要英语国家的地理概貌、历史变迁、政治制度、经济概况、教育体系、宗教信仰、风俗习惯、国防建设、对外关系等方面的基本知识，旨在扩大学习者知识面，拓展国际视野，加深对主要英语国家思维方式、价值观念、生活方式、军政文化的理解和把握，增强跨文化意识，巩固英语能力，提高人文素养。

本书具有以下特点：第一，内容全面丰富。

“全面”体现在两方面，其一，它摆脱以往类似教材以英、美两国概况为核心的传统做法，将五大洲八个主要英语国家概况囊括其中，通过对它们的介绍可进一步了解它们所在地区的基本概貌；其二，教材除介绍英语国家地理、历史、政治、经济、教育、宗教等内容外，还介绍了这些国家的军事和外交，几近涵盖了一个国家的各个方面。

第二，内容新颖、趣味性强、语言通俗易懂。

“新颖”在于引用了权威机构发布的大量最新数据和信息。

同时，本书还介绍了各国在相关领域最近发生的事件，特别是军事和外交领域的事件，既新颖，又增强了趣味性。

第三，教材各单元正文之后均附有讨论题、术语解释和思考题。

讨论题旨在加深对正文的理解，进一步厘清单元内容脉络；术语解释涉及主要事件、历史人物、重要组织或机构、特色城市和地理概念等，旨在加深对所学知识点的理解；思考题要求学习者基于已知信息，对相关问题进行一定的研判，旨在提高分析和评价能力。

同时，通过这些练习，对进一步巩固英语应用能力又能够起到积极作用。

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内容概要

本书介绍了美国、英国、爱尔兰、加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰、印度、南非等主要英语国家的地理概貌、历史变迁、政治制度、经济概况、教育体系、宗教信仰、风俗习惯、国防建设、对外关系等方面的基本知识。

本书既可供英语专业本科生使用，也可作为非英语专业本科生高年级英语的拓展教材，还可用作非英语专业研究生的英语课程教材。

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章节摘录

At the start of Hitler's arrogant expansion in Europe, the British government followed a foreign policy of nonintervention or appeasement. Together with France, it signed the notorious Munich Agreement with Hitler. But Hitler soon went back on his word and attacked Poland which Britain and France were bound by treaty to defend. Britain was thus forced to declare war on Germany and the Second World War broke out in September, 1939. Because of its appeasement policy, Britain was ill prepared for war. Its army suffered repeated defeats on the European Continent. To deal with the serious situation, the British reshuffled their Cabinet and Churchill was soon after appointed Prime Minister of the War Cabinet. The whole nation was mobilized and industries were centered on war production. Externally, Britain entered into alliance with America, France, Russia and other anti-fascist countries to form a united international front. After six years of fierce fighting with much bloodshed and heavy loss of wealth, the Second World War came to an end in 1945. The Second World War ushered in the last stage of the disintegration of the British Empire. During World War II, Britain suffered heavy losses with her financial position greatly weakened. On the other hand, most of her colonies had joined in the war and contributed a great deal to the final victory. They had been awakened and tempered by war and a large scale independence movement was on after the war. India, "the brightest jewel in the British Crown" took the lead and won independence in 1947. Pakistan followed suit and then Burma, Egypt and all the other colonies in a quick succession. By the year 1970 Britain had lost all her former colonies except Hong Kong.

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