

<<英语国家概况>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<英语国家概况>>

13位ISBN编号：9787215064188

10位ISBN编号：7215064182

出版时间：2008-6

出版单位：河南人民出版社

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页数：408

字数：528000

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内容概要

本书共分五部分26章，以英国和美国为主，兼顾加拿大、澳大利亚和新西兰等英语国家的社会和文化知识，内容包括主要英语国家的地理、历史、政治、经济、文学、科技、教育、宗教、大众传媒、社会生活和传统文化等，突出历史、政治和经济。

本书内容力求客观、翔实、全面、实用，具有可教性和可比性，以利于教学组织和比较教学。

本教材是关于主要英语国家社会和文化概况的教科书，旨在帮助英语专业学生和其他英语学习者了解、学习和掌握这些国家的社会和文化知识，提高英语水平，提升跨文化交际意识和能力。

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章节摘录

In March 1982, a war between Britain and Argentina broke out, when the national flag of Argentina was raised on the Islands. After a fierce fighting of over one month, backed by world opinion, Britain finally won. Argentina surrendered. It has been the largest battle in the Atlantic since the Second World War. Both suffered and were damaged heavily. But victory satisfied the national pride of the British as if it were still a Great Power. After the Opium War of 1840, China was forced to sign the Treaty of Nanking in which Hong Kong was ceded to Britain. In 1984 an agreement was signed between Britain and the People's Republic of China on the future of Hong Kong. Under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which was ratified by the two governments in 1985, Britain is responsible for the administration of Hong Kong until June 30, 1997. Hong Kong would then become a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, but its capitalist system and lifestyle can remain unchanged for at least 50 years. With the exception of foreign affairs and defense, the Hong Kong SAR can enjoy a high degree of autonomy, and its government and legislature should be composed of Hong Kong people. In November 1990, John Major succeeded the Prime Minister. Like the former Conservative one, the Major government believed that only a firm basis for lasting economic growth and secure employment was sustainable for low inflation. For the next few years, it set itself the objective of keeping underling inflation. The government's economic policy was set in the context of a medium-term financial strategy. Firm monetary and fiscal policies were designed to defeat inflation. With lower inflation and interest rates and an increase in export as the world economy recovers, the government expected to see a resumption of economic growth, although the timing was uncertain. In 1990, when Iraq committed aggression on Kuwait, the Gulf War broke out, Britain contributed personnel to the UN observer mission established to monitor a demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait, following the expulsion of Iraqi forces from Kuwait early in 1991, and sent observers to Western Sahara to participate in the referendum monitoring operation established there by the UN. With the Soviet Union dissolving at the end of 1991 and the radical changes in Eastern and Central Europe, the Cold War ended. Britain and its allies acknowledged that the threat of a full-scale attack on all NATO's European fronts has been removed. However, Britain believed that its security could be best protected by the continuing maintenance of collective defense with its NATO.

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