

<<主要英语国家概况>>

图书基本信息

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前言

进入21世纪,我国高等教育呈现快速扩展的趋势。

为适应社会、经济的快速发展,人才的培养问题已经比我国任何一个历史时期都显得更为重要。

当今,人才的能力和素质的衡量越来越多地采用国际标准,人才的外语水平自然地也越来越受到培养单位和用人单位的重视,由此引发了对大学外语教学模式、教材和检测机制的新一轮讨论,掀起了新一轮的大学英语教学改革。

作为外语师资队伍和外语专业人才培养的高等学校英语专业,相比之下,在教学改革思路、新教材开发和新教学模式探讨等诸方面均显得滞后。

尽管高等学校外语专业教学指导委员会英语组针对当前高校发展的新形式和外语专业人才培养的新规格、新模式和新要求,修订出了新的《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》,并结合21世纪外语人才培养和需求的新形势,制定了由教育部高等教育司转发的《关于外语专业面向21世纪本科教育改革的若干意见》,就英语专业的建设提出了指导性的意见,但在实际工作中这两个文件的精神尚未落实。

为此,重庆大学出版社和外语教学界的专家们就国内高等学校英语专业建设所面临的新形势作了专题讨论。

专家们认为,把“大纲”的设计和“若干意见”的思想和理念变为现实的一个最直接的体现方式,就是编写一套全新理念的英语专业系列教材;随着我国教育体制的改革,特别是基础教育课程标准的实施,适合高等学校英语专业教学需要的教材也应作相应的调整,以应对中小学英语教学改革的新要求;高等学校学生入学时英语水平的逐年提高和就业市场对外语人才需求呈多元化趋势的实际,对高等学校英语专业的人才培养、教学模式、课程设置、教材建设等方面也提出了严峻挑战,应对这些挑战,同样可以通过一套新的教材体系来实现。

迄今为止,国内尚无一套完整的、系统的英语专业系列教材;目前已有的教材出自不同的出版社,编写的思路和体例不尽相同;现有的教材因出版时间较早,内容、知识结构、教学方法和手段已经不能适应新的发展要求;传统的教材设计多数基于学科的内在逻辑和系统性,较少考虑学习者的全面发展和社会对人才需求的多元化。

自2001年开始,在重庆大学出版社的大力支持下,我们成立了由华中、华南、西南和西北地区的知名专家、学者和教学一线教师组成的《求知高等学校英语专业系列教材》编写组,确定了系列教材编写的指导思想和总体目标,即以《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》为依据,将社会的需求与培养外语人才的全面发展紧密结合,注重英语作为一个专业的学科系统性和科学性,注重英语教学和习得的方法与规律,突出特色和系列教材的内在逻辑关系,反映当前教学改革的新理念并具有前瞻性;锤炼精品,建立与英语专业课程配套的新教材体系,推动英语专业的教学改革,培养高素质人才和创新人才。

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内容概要

《主要英语国家概况》为《求知高等学校英语专业系列教材》之一。

本书以英美两国的历史、文化为主，并简单介绍加拿大、澳大利亚和新西兰的历史及现状。

全书共31章，每章开头列出了关键词，提纲挈领，章节末设有思考题，让学生在练习中进一步掌握全书脉络，温故而知新。

每章最后还安排有补充阅读材料，并提供了进一步检索资料的网址，以培养学生的自学能力，同时激发学生深入学习的兴趣。

本书的独到之处在于，采用了最新资料编写，层次分明，详略得当，重点突出，并附有相关图片，让学生更好地理解各国的文化渊源和发展现状。

既可供英语专业学生使用，又可作为英语中高级读物，供具有一定基础的英语自学者和英语爱好者使用。

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书籍目录

Chapter 1 Land and People Chapter 2 Economy Chapter 3 Politics and Society Chapter 4 Government Chapter 5 Education Chapter 6 Culture and Religion Chapter 7 Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxons Chapter 8 England in the Middle Ages (1066 - 1485) Chapter 9 England under the Tudors (1485 - 1603) Chapter 10 The Stuarts and the Bourgeois Revolution Chapter 11 The Industrial Revolution Chapter 12 The Victorian Age and the Rising of the Second Empire Chapter 13 Britain in the 20th Century Canada Chapter 14 Canada Today Chapter 15 Canada History The United States of America Chapter 16 Land and People Chapter 17 Economy Chapter 18 Family and Society Chapter 19 Government Chapter 20 Education Chapter 21 Culture and Religion Chapter 22 Colonial America Chapter 23 The American Revolution Chapter 24 Expansion and the Civil War Chapter 25 The Gilded Age Chapter 26 The Two World Wars and the Great Depression Chapter 27 The United States after World War II Australia Chapter 28 Australia Today Chapter 29 Australian History New Zealand Chapter 30 New Zealand Today Chapter 31 New Zealand History

<<主要英语国家概况>>

章节摘录

The religious Reformation in Europe was a great revolution in the Christian Church . It started in 1517 and ended in 1646 with the Treaty of Westphalia which allowed the political rulers of each state to choose the form of religious practice . It permanently ended the supreme power of the Pope over the Christian Church in Western Europe , and split Europe into two religious camps : Catholic and Protestant .

A . Background of the Reformation

During the high Middle Ages , the Catholic Church reached the peak of its power and wealth . The word “ Catholic ” means universal and the Catholic Church was the only Christian Church in West Europe . Almost everybody belonged to the Catholic Church . Those who did not were regarded as heretics . They were persecuted , sometimes even burnt . Politically , the Catholic Church was almost a super state organization . Spiritually , the Pope was the highest authority in West Europe . The Pope appointed archbishops in all countries . Without the Pope ' s blessing , a king could lose his throne . Economically , the Catholic Church was extremely wealthy . It collected a tax from Church members , known as tithe . Every family paid one tenth of its income to the Church . Most of the fund raised from the tithe went to Rome . In addition , rich people gave gifts to the Church during their lifetime and some left their property to the Church upon their death , hoping this would help their souls to go to heaven faster .

Power and wealth often brought corruption . The Roman Catholic Church was no exception . By the end of the 15th Century and early 16th Century , the Church was full of problems . Simony was rampant and absenteeism was serious . Some bishops did not visit their bishoprics for years . Many clerics violated the Church principle of celibacy and kept concubines or prostitutes . In addition , the clergy was beyond the control of lay rulers .

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