

<<英国社会与文化>>

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内容概要

本书用理性的思辨追寻英国社会与文化的脉络，坦诚而透彻地审视西方现代文明的精神实质。全书分为十三章，汇聚英国的湖泊山川、人文景观、政治制度、国民经济、教育体制、文学艺术、新闻传媒、历史事件、城市风情、多元文化、体育娱乐等方面的知识，逐本溯源，透视英国社会与文化的精神和物质成果，认识文化奉献给英国社会的知识和智慧。

本书采用英汉双语写作，使读者能够潜心品味精美的英语语言，通过轻松愉悦、节奏舒缓的阅读来开阔视野、提高语言修养，以成熟与自信的步伐抵达英语语言的殿堂。

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during the Crusades the saint's apparition rescued the English from the fury of their Moslem foes. His sudden appearance on the battlefield threw the Mohammedans into confusion and flight. Thus the English recognized and acknowledged him as their patron. King Edward III adopted his name as a battle cry, and his emblem became the English flag. St. Andrew was one of the 12 apostles. A simple fisherman, he, too, suffered martyrdom. The story is told that because he had converted a Roman Consul's wife to Christianity, her husband had him flogged and afterwards crucified. The cross-used for the execution was shaped like the letter X, which explains how this became the saint's symbol and is still called St Andrew's cross. His association with Scotland dates back to the tradition that in 368 A. D. a monk transferred some of his relics from Constantinople to Scotland, to be buried there on the east coast, on the very spot where the city and cathedral of St. Andrew's now stand. The story is further told that when the Saxons attacked the Picts and Scots, they called on St. Andrew for help. Looking upward, they noticed a strange formation of clouds. It seemed as if their white vapor had formed itself into the shape of a cross, backed by the blue sky. This appeared to the anxious watchers as an assurance of victory and a manifestation of the saint. Spurred on, they joined in battle and defeated the foe. After their victory, they adopted St. Andrew's cross as their emblem, with the specific colors of cloud and sky. It was the birth of the Scottish flag. When James Stuart came from Scotland in 1603 to ascend the English throne as James I, the two kingdoms were united. The immediate problem was which flag to hoist on the king's ships. English sailors resented the Scottish colors and the Scots scorned the cross of St. George. A compromise was the answer and it led to the creation of the first Union Flag. In 1606, a royal decree declared that the ships of the Kingdom of Great Britain "shall bear on their maintops the red cross, commonly called St. George's cross, and the white cross, commonly called St. Andrew's cross". In 1707, after the Act of Union of England and Scotland, Queen Anne sanctioned this combination.....

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