

THE MENTALITY OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE COUNTRIES

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Since my childhood I've been interesting in English language. When I was child I wondered, why English-language countries speak in one language, but live separately.

Now I understand historical events that had made this division, but I want to know into what differences has it resulted. This is the goal of my topic.

In this work I have considered four English-language countries: the USA, Great Britain, Australia and Canada. I have added information about Australia and Canada from the interview with my Australian and Canadian friends.

The USA

As a national symbol the bald eagle was chosen because it symbolized strength, courage, freedom, and immortality.

The flag of the United States is one of the nation's most widely recognized symbols. Within the U.S. it is frequently displayed, not only on public buildings, but on private residences. It is also used as a motif on decals for car windows, and clothing ornaments such as badges and lapel pins. Throughout the world it is used in public discourse to refer to the U.S., not only as a nation, state, government, and set of policies, but also as a set of ideals.

The American character has some strongly-marked traits that people from other countries find very noticeable, sometimes admirable, sometimes puzzling, sometimes bothersome. Knowing something of the American character is therefore important for understanding American culture and interacting with Americans.

Americans are the descendants of immigrants, sometimes of quite recent ones. Immigrants are typically people who, for whatever reason, believe that, through effort and the endurance of suffering, life can be made better. Life in a new country with a new language is not easy. Yet immigrants are constantly uprooting their lives, leaving most of their friends and family behind, and going to the US. So it is no mystery that Americans have a drive to work harder and become more successful. Children learn from their parents, and the parents of Americans were not a random sample of the Europeans, but a self-selected group of people with particular energy and drive.

If we take an American class system, it is based on money. The fastest way for aspiring social climbers to gain entry to American society is to donate a small fortune to fashionable charities or to establish a foundation in their own name. One single motivation uniting all Americans, it's their desire to be rich and famous. Your status is determined by what you wear, drive, inhabit or own. Status is everything to Americans.

There has been a fair amount of comment recently that America is very independent and not very minded to pay attention to international opinion. Given their cultural heritage, this is unsurprising. Their ancestors cared little about the opinions of the countries that they left.

AUSTRALIA

The Coat of Arms features a kangaroo and emu, chosen because they are uniquely Australian, and are unable to walk backwards.

The Union Jack shows that the first colonization by Europeans was by Britain. The Star of Federation is a seven pointed star for each state.

I was told about Australia by Paul, my friend – Australian.

English people first came to Australia in 1788. Aboriginal people lived there for a long time. British and French Empire were fighting over the Pacific region. The British came to Australia before French. And they took convicts to build a new country. They didn't take any slaves because it was not fashionable anymore. Although in reality convicts were slaves. Convicts were from the lower class in England. Many of them were unfairly sent to Australia.

At the beginning of 19th century English Empire sent a lot of convicts to Australia. In 1830-1840 England stopped sending convicts. But it was too far to go back home. When the convicts got the freedom, they had their own culture. This is the foundation of modern Australia.

Australia became an independent country in 1901. And in 1950 the state has been already formed officially

After World War 2 there were a lot of immigrants from many countries all over the World. Most of them from Greece, Italy, Vietnam, Cambodia, China. And now Australia is a very multicultural country.

Australia is a free country - everyone can say whatever he thinks.

What do they feel about the U.S., Britain, New Zealand and Canada:

As for England Australian people still think that they are related, but they observe distance.

About New Zealand: they think as it is their younger brother.

The USA is the country which Australia copies a lot, but they don't admit it. And they say that Americans is arrogant (высокомерный).

Australian don't know very much about Canada, but they think that it's the same with Australia.

CANADA

As stated by Prime Minister Paul Martin in a Canada Day speech in Ottawa, July 2005, "The maple leaf is a symbol of duty and valor, pride and perseverance, ingenuity, diversity and, of course, global hockey supremacy. More than anything else, it's a symbol of what we as Canadians stand for".

It was decided to make the arms of Canada very similar to those of Great Britain To represent the fact that these nations are part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, their appearance in the Canadian Arms is meant to represent the fact that these are three of the founding peoples of Canada. The fourth quarter, Azure, three fleurs-de-lys or, of course represents Royal France, thus symbolizing the foundation of Canada by France.

About Canada I was told by my friend – Melody, Paul's wife.

What's unique about Canada, is that it became a country by an act of British Parliament. America had a war of independence, but Canada had no such thing. They constantly compare themselves to America and also to England.

For example Canadians are very proud of their healthcare system. This is mostly because the American system is lacking. Most Canadians see their country as more religiously tolerant, again compare with America. Canada has 2 official languages and tries very hard to make a good impression in the world, especially on the topic of language.

As for human rights, Canada is often referred to as a good example. Racial tensions are often glossed over for the sake of maintaining their good reputation.

Canadians are peacemakers. Canadians value truthfulness. Canadians are genuinely nice people. It's not a veneer, it's a real value. Sure there might still be problems underneath, both on the national level and the personal one, but they aren't ignored so much as not as highly valued as keeping the peace. And peace is something the whole world could use more of.

GREAT BRITAIN

The process of forming the English nation was determined by the following conditions: insularity in what is Great Britain now and the forced assimilation of the ancestors of the modern British representatives of many tribes of conquerors: Celts, Romans, Angles, Saxons, Yutami, Scandinavian Vikings and Normans. Thus, in the English national character have been historically assigned the Anglo-Saxon practicality and courage of the Vikings, Celtic dreaminess and Norman discipline.

One of the dominant traits of English character is observance of British traditions. Moreover, unlike the Chinese traditions, based on the cult of ancestors and Chinese history, the British are trying to preserve some English rituals and habits in its original form. However, this does not prevent them to get acquainted with the best of what other people have.

Many foreigners call the English coldness, but in fact, it is self-control. This ability to control themselves, is a sign of English mentality.

Typically English education may seem harsh. The British are convinced that the severity of children are more justified than the softness, and in the future will go to their advantage.

A good upbringing and education is one of the traditional British values. Strict discipline, according to parents, contribute to better education.

This attitude to the education played a significant role during the British Empire when the British were able to conquer vast colonial lands to survive and consolidate their position.

Conclusion

Nowadays English has become a unique means of intercultural communication. This is easily seen by visiting international conferences, exhibitions or during the ordinary foreign tourist trips.

There are a lot of reasons, which have affected the mentality of nations: historical, geographical, the culture of aboriginal, who lived in that territory and so on. All these phenomena are clearly reflected in the mentality of the peoples of these countries.

There is no bad nation, there are bad people.

And now I've fully understood why English countries live not together, but speak in one language. Because, even if they were convicted, even if they were emigrated, or just left the native countryside – they did not forget their culture, they did not forget their traditions, they did not forget their language.

It is language that takes the first place to the nation. It is language that brings people together. If it were not the English language, probably there would be no my friends – a married couple of Australian and Canadian – Paul and Melody.