

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

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Americans emphasize physical exercise, especially ball sports. The most popular sports are basketball, baseball, golf, and tennis. The United States holds the leading position in each of these sports, especially American football. American football is not played by kicking the ball with the foot, and was invented by Americans, and is very popular domestically. The stadiums are very large, and are accompanied by large parking garages as well. New York City's football stadiums are positioned near to metro stations. Stadiums such as Yankee Stadium and Madison Square Garden are very convenient to get to.

In recent years, golf has been very popular. In the past, golf was a pastime of the wealthy upper classes, but now it is common for ordinary people to play. Golf courses require several hundred acres of land. Generally one plays eighteen holes, and each hole covers a distance of over at least 300 feet, some even stretching to lengths of 1,800 feet. Golf is a very good form of exercise. Golf courses must maintain neat and orderly fairways of grass, man-made lakes, sand traps, and planted forests. The environment is beautiful, but costly. The cost of playing golf in Asian countries is much higher than in the United States. The United States is known throughout the world for its excellent golfing, and for its world-class professional players, for example Tiger Woods. American basketball and tennis are also world-class, and there are many superb athletes in those sports as well.

The supply of electricity in the US is ample, and outages on hot days are rare.

The different types of energy sources can be listed as follows: solar, hydroelectric, and wind, nuclear, natural gas, and coal. The portion of power generated from wind in the United States is comparatively small. The amount of power generated by nuclear plants is very large, but the investment needed is large. The United States relies mainly on natural gas for generating electricity. Although nuclear power is popular throughout the world, it is not the case in the United States since the population is afraid of pollution from leaks, and since human rights are valued. If a nuclear power plant is planned anywhere, the residents invariably protest in opposition. Therefore the United States nuclear power generation is lower than that of developing countries. Solar and hydroelectric power are the most ideal forms of power generation, however they are not able to satisfy the enormous demand for electricity alone. There are some areas that have greater exposure to the sun than others, and solar power is an option. If the power generated is insufficient, then more can be purchased from utilities companies.

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Every fall and spring in New York City, there are large-scale exhibitions of merchandise. A good platform for business transactions is provided by the many factory owners and sellers of bulk goods that take part in the exhibitions. Factory owners are able to directly sell their goods to bulk sellers and retailers. Such exhibits are not meant for direct consumers.

Such exhibitions have several thousand vendor's booths, with participants from all over the world. They sell clothes, food, handicrafts, and numerous other types of goods. Each year's new products will be represented there. Decorations and jewelry are one type of good that is sold rather cheaply at such exhibitions, and vendors will receive large numbers of purchase orders. After the exhibitions has finished, vendors hire numerous temporary workers to start production and fill the orders. So during economic downturns, many out of work textile workers will turn to this industry for temporary employment. Although these products are designed and produced in the United States, the materials are imported from China and other countries.

American building and road construction companies are likewise world-famous. Since there are so many construction projects, the United States is also a large producer of construction materials, such as steel and concrete. When available construction materials surpass domestic demand, they are sold abroad, particularly to developing countries. The demand for construction materials in developing countries is very large, and is often not met. Therefore, exports of construction materials from the United States have grown larger each year.

In the past in the United States, people would absolutely not skimp on work or quality of materials. For example, although the buildings in New York City's Chinatown are over a century old, the construction is of high quality, so they are sturdy and still safe to live in, even more so than some modern buildings.

Sheet rock was also invented in the United States, and has the distinction of being quicker, better, and more convenient than wooden boards or brick. One only needs to cover a partition with sheet rock, paint it, and that's it. This invention has become popular all over the world.

After the Second World War, the United States had become very powerful, and its industry had become very developed. People would come and go between the many cities, and so there were many cars and hotels. Accordingly, motels sprung up around public highways. While lodgings for travelers tended to be in city centers, motels were out in the suburbs and were cheap and convenient alternatives for those traveling by car.

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The amount of paper wasted in the United States is alarming. Everyday each household receives numerous amounts of junk mail, which are usually discarded. Each copy of the New York Times Sunday paper is over one hundred pages, which is more than can be read in a single week. Most of it ends up being thrown away. The cost of a copy of the newspaper is very economical, just three dollars, and each copy is five to ten pounds in weight.

However, paper mills are a serious environmental problem because chemical processes are undergone in production. Therefore applying for and receiving a permit to build a paper mill is not an easy thing to accomplish. In China and in third world countries environmental awareness is lower than in the United States, and for that reason there are many paper mills. China's wealthiest woman made her fortune in recycling old newspapers, and she now owns the world's largest paper mill. To begin as a paper recycler and end up as multi-millionaire almost sounds like a fantasy.

The United States is also very accomplished in bridge building, and examples can be found in San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, and New York City's Brooklyn Bridge. There is creativeness in the bridges' structure. Each bridge has two suspension towers, and iron cables hanging from them support the roadway. The bridges are so high that large ships can pass beneath them.

In the past, bridges were too thick, and it would disrupt river traffic. With a suspension bridge however, there is no such disruption. Currently the designs of America's suspension bridges are copied all over the world. An example is the currently developing Shanghai, which used to have no suspension bridges on the Huangpu River, but now has six or seven. This is more than the world-famous New York City's Hudson River. American bridge design has made a great contribution to the world.

The oil industry in the United States is also very developed. The oil reserves in Texas and Alaska are very large, but the government is reluctant to develop them. For this reason, international oil companies go to other oil producing countries to develop reserves there. The crude oil that is originally produced is very heavy, but can be refined into other forms, such as jet fuel. The lowest quality oil can be used to make plastics. None of it is wasted.

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The pharmaceutical industry is also very developed in the United States, and there are many large producers of pharmaceuticals. Although the chemicals needed to produce pharmaceuticals are expensive, the end product is of high value, and such businesses are very profitable.

The pharmaceutical research and production process in the United States is very strict. Any new drugs must first be tested in experiments on mice. Then the effects must be recorded in experiments on higher levels of animals. Then further experiments are carried out on humans and recorded before it can be used regularly. Therefore such medicines are very safe and reliable. Since the quality is high, they are also exported in large numbers. Medical equipment is also very advanced in the United States, and is also used in many hospitals in China, along with pharmaceuticals from the United States. The United States also exports such things to other countries.

The tobacco industry is also very developed in the United States, the United States being the number one producer of tobacco in the world. Most tobacco is produced in the state of Virginia, and also in South America. Tobacco producers have exclusive rights to buy tobacco from farmers. With such large domestic production of tobacco, American tobacco products long ago became best-selling throughout the world.

In the twentieth century it became known that tobacco and the nicotine contained in it had harmful effects on human health. Although smokers became fewer and fewer in European populations, they became more numerous in the United States and other countries.

The profits earned by tobacco companies are quite enormous, and in 1995 the major tobacco companies were sued by a collective group of smokers who suffered from tobacco-related health problems. As a result the companies were ordered by authorities to pay several hundred million dollars in compensation. However, the companies' large profits allowed them to avoid bankruptcy.

The gambling industry in the United States is the world's most prosperous. In the Nevada desert, numerous casino hotels have been built, and it has become the gambling capital of the world.

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Twenty three: Elderly people in the middle class and above should buy nursing insurance.

In life in the United States, it is essential to deal with insurance companies. Buying insurance gives a person a sense of safety. If one does not buy insurance, meeting some major misfortune, such as a major car accident, illness, or fire, can result in a total loss of one's property. Therefore it is customary for someone to buy auto insurance whenever they buy a car. People also buy health insurance to protect their mental and physical health, and homeowner's insurance to protect against fire and other types of damage. In the event of any accidents or misfortunes, the insurance company and its lawyers will help you and provide compensation.

There are other types of insurance as well, including life insurance and business insurance. Insurance affects all aspects of life, and this is especially true with health insurance, which is an absolute necessity. The cost of health insurance is determined according to the recipient's income. Middle class people and above pay their insurance fees themselves, while low-income people receive aid from the government. With car and home insurance, if the damages are less than five hundred and one thousand dollars respectively, the policy holder pays himself. The insurance company pays for any damages of those amounts. With health insurance, each time one visits the doctor or gets a prescription, he or she must pay a fee which varies from five to twenty five dollars or so. The best policies are those that are paid for by government subsidies, and there are no fees for the patient to pay.

When doing business and hiring employees, it is necessary to buy workers' insurance and unemployment insurance. No matter the industry, the employment market, or the size of the business, each and every company with employees must buy these two types of insurance, even if there is just a single employee. This is enforced by federal law in order to protect workers. The costs of workers' insurance and unemployment insurance are typically taken out of workers' paychecks.

Why is it necessary to buy workers' insurance and unemployment insurance? These types of insurance are necessary to provide workers with the means to maintain their livelihoods for a period of time even after they have lost their jobs, or suffered some kind of accident in carrying out their duties.

Insurance is also necessary for shipping goods from the factory to the marketplace. This is to prevent losses in case of an accident such as damage to transport ships.

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When immigrating to the United States to make a living, no matter whether you plan to find a job or work for yourself, you will no doubt have to work hard and be disciplined. Therefore young people generally work very hard every day until they have aged and become weak. There are some people in their seventies, who are unable to take care of their own lives, and cannot manage to buy groceries, use the restroom, or dress themselves. These are important parts of daily living, and most people can take care of such things themselves. However, when one is unable to do so, it is necessary to obtain nursing assistance. Nursing the elderly was traditionally taken care of by children and grandchildren, the traditional virtue of filial piety. However the structure of modern society has changed. In the United States, families are a one way street: Parents take care of their children, and when those children grow up into adults, they are only responsible for taking care of their own children. If the parents need assistance, they hire a nurse. If an elderly person's income puts them below the poverty line, nurses employed by the government provide care and the fees are covered by the government. Because of the economic independence of American life, people tend not to pay attention to their parents affairs, even if they have high-paying jobs or are successful entrepreneurs. Long-term nursing assistance is costly, and so there are now nursing insurance policies offered in the United States to cover such costs. Although this is pioneering work, there are still relatively few policy holders.

Auto insurance covers personal injury resulting from an accident, as well as damage to the owner's car and any other cars damaged in the accident. There are two types of auto insurance policies. One type just covers injury to everybody involved in the accident, while the other type covers injuries as well as damage to vehicles. It is mandatory to buy both types of insurance when purchasing a vehicle. American law stipulates that every driver must have insurance. If someone drives without insurance, he or she can be sentenced to time in jail, and the vehicle will be impounded. Such laws are meant to protect public safety. Driving can be dangerous, especially if one has been drinking or is not driving cautiously. It is possible for people to be injured or killed. When an accident has occurred, the insurance company will send an employee to assess the damage, and you will be compensated accordingly. As for insurance fees: if you have high deductions, this means you are responsible for some covering some amount of damages in case of an accident, and so fees are low. If your deductions are low, then the insurance fees are accordingly higher.

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Common people are able to go to banks and obtain a safety deposit box, in which they can store precious items in an environment more secure than their homes. However, the issue of compensation is very difficult to address if the contents of the safety deposit box are stolen. This is because the bank will request a record of what was in the box before giving any type of compensation.

When a car accident occurs, the car owner will usually call the police, and a report will be filed at the police station. Both drivers' licenses and insurance information are recorded, and the damage to the cars is assessed by an agent from the insurance company. Insurance companies are experienced with car repairs, and can obtain any repairs or spare parts necessary. If the total cost of repairs is five thousand dollars, then the policy holder will pay an amount of about five hundred dollars to the insurance company, and will receive four thousand five hundred dollars for repairs. If the car can be repaired for less than that, for example at a non-unionized mechanic, then the policy holder can keep the difference.

After the car has been repaired, the driver must fill out paperwork, and inform both the insurance company, and the traffic department. If the driver keeps the money, but does not repair the car, it is a criminal offense. If someone is injured in a car accident, whether it is evident or not, it is necessary to hire a lawyer that specializes in automobile accidents. The lawyer will tell you to go to the hospital for examination, and to go to a recovery center, and will take care of the costs through receiving compensation.

In the United States there is also patent insurance, though the duration is limited. Since the United States is a center of technological innovation, there are many new inventions being made. When someone invents something, he or she usually applies for patent protection to avoid having their product imitated.

The typical length of patent protection is ten years. After that period of time has passed, it is legal for others to produce their own versions of the product. For that reason, once an invention has been patented, it makes sense for it to be produced and marketed as soon as possible to take advantage of the full patent protection period. If one is unable to produce the product, he or she can instead sell the patent to someone else. Therefore the people who think of the invention are not always the ones to profit the most from it.