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美国重大历史事件

100
American
Historical Events

主编 田耀



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辽宁大学出版社

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前 言

中国的几代领导人反复强调：我们的发展，要吸收和借鉴全人类的文明成果。胡锦涛同志 2003 年 11 月 24 日在主持中央政治局第九次集体学习的讲话中提出：“不仅要有深远的历史眼光，而且要有宽广的世界眼光。”“要认真研究和借鉴其他国家历史发展提供的教训，站在世界文明发展的历史高度，进一步认清当今世界风云变化的规律性趋势，进一步认清我国的基本国情和发展趋势，更好地掌握加快我国发展的主动权。”

美国是中国最重要的外交对手，是影响中国经济发展、国家安全、政治稳定和祖国统一的最重要的外部力量；另外，美国又是在经济、科技、教育、文化等领域同中国交往最多的国家。无论是总结以前的历史经验、展望世界的未来，还是分析中国现所处的国际环境，借鉴发达国家的经验，都必须全面了解美国，深入研究美国。我们只有综合研究美国，才能了解它的特性根源何在，促进自身的发展。

《100 个美国重大历史事件》一书跨越历史时空，介绍了从建立美洲殖民地时期到 20 世纪末影响美国历史进程重大历史事件。这些事件涉及到美国政治、经济、社会、外交、军事、早期探索与定居、科技与发明、教育及文化等方方面面。这些重大历史事件从不同的时期和不同的侧面，反映了美国社会和历史的变化过程，构成了一幅幅生动活泼的社会风情和历史画卷。

该书作为美国文化专题研究的教材，希望能为英语专业研究生、本科生以及非英语专业研究生打开一扇能够系统了解美国的窗口，在学习英语的同时他们可随着书中的人物去穿越时空，深入系统地了解美国社会与文化的精髓，可以深入了解每一个发生在美国的重要的历史史实。培养学生分析问题和解决问题的能力。特别是在经济全球化不断深入的今天，用历史眼光和全球视野为中国的发展寻找世界性坐标，具有了更加现实的意义。

此外，随着国内学者特别是大学生对美国社会与文化研究的升温，出版该书显得十分及时和必要。在多轮课程教学的实践基础上，我们认为编写此书的时机已基本成熟。

该书可归纳入高等学校英语拓展系列教程中，每一篇均为 3 000 字，对所有历史事件的描述均采取编写的形式，并加有注释。每一篇的开头都有 150 字左右的汉语简介。文章的最后都设有 2 个供读者思考的问题（Questions for Discussion）。每篇文章的基本体例为史实描述、分析和该重大历史事件对美国社会所产生的影响。

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1. The Mayflower Compact

五月花公约

[内容提要] 经过六十六天的漂泊之后，“五月花号”大帆船在科德角外普罗温斯顿港抛锚。上岸之前 41 名男子签订了五月花公约。随着岁月的流逝，五月花公约这一具有宪法性质的文献，逐渐成为美国立国的传奇和神话。这个公约奠定了普利茅斯政府的基础，对以后美国政治发展具有重大影响。它在美国历史上的地位是毋庸置疑的，甚至是在全世界范围内都是一个法律的典范！

The **Mayflower**^[1] Compact is a written agreement composed by a consensus of the new Settlers arriving at New Plymouth in November of 1620. They had traveled across the ocean on the Ship Mayflower that was anchored in what is now Provincetown Harbor near **Cape Cod**^[2], Massachusetts. The Mayflower Compact was drawn up with fair and equal laws, for the general good of the settlement and with the will of the majority. The Mayflower's passengers knew that the New World's earlier settlers failed due to a lack of government. They hashed out the content and eventually composed the Compact for the sake of their own survival. All 41 of the adult male members on the Mayflower signed the Compact. Being the first written laws for the new land, the Compact determined authority within the settlement and was observed as such until 1691. This established that the colony (mostly persecuted Separatists), was to be free of English law. It was devised to set up a government from within themselves and was written by those to be governed.

When James became king, the **Pilgrims**^[3] thought they might finally be able to ask for permission to establish their own church. Although **King James**^[4] was a **protestant**^[5], he was intolerant of different religious views. So the Pilgrims decided to leave England for Holland where freedom of religion was accepted. After several years in Holland, the group became unsettled with the growing Dutch influence on their families. They still felt they were English, but their children were adapting to Dutch ways and wanted to speak the language of their new country. The leaders of the Pilgrim group, William Bradford and several others worked out a plan to move the entire Pilgrim group to America where they could be free to establish their own church.

It was too expensive and difficult to move everyone at once, but they began to organize the trip. **William Bradford**^[6] and other Pilgrim leaders had secured the right to settle on the land claimed by the Virginia Company near the mouth of the Hudson River. To raise money for the voyage the Pilgrims signed a contract with a group of London stockholders. In return the stockholders would share the profits of the

planned colony. In addition to the Pilgrims, it was necessary to include about 50 other English people who wanted to go to America and would help to pay for the ship and the supplies. The original Pilgrim church members called themselves "Saints" and called the others "Strangers." So the altogether 102 passengers on the Mayflower were divided into two groups. 41 of them were Pilgrims; the rest was "strangers", including merchants, craftsmen, skilled workers and indentured servants, and several young orphans. About one-third of them were children. All were common people. On September 6, 1620, the Mayflower departed from Plymouth, England with 102 passengers.

The 3,000-mile voyage across the Atlantic lasted more than two months. When they finally sighted land on November 9, 1620, the captain of the Mayflower knew right away that they were at Cape Cod, far north of their destination. The captain headed the Mayflower southward; however, it ran into rough, shallow waters and was in danger of sinking. Rather than chancing more days at sea, the Pilgrims decided to land. The Mayflower finally dropped anchor in a harbor at the tip of Cape Cod.

Almost immediately, an argument broke out. Several "strangers" made discontented and mutinous speeches: when we came ashore, we would use our own liberty, for none had the power to command us. Imagine the situation: over 100 people, cut off from any government, with a rebellion brewing. And the land was outside the chartered territory of the London Company. Only staunch determination would help the Pilgrims land and establish their colony. If they didn't work as a group, they could all die in the wilderness. Thus, the Mayflower Compact was signed to establish a civil government based upon a majoritarian model and to proclaim the settlers' allegiance to the King.

The Mayflower Compact was probably composed by William Bradford, and was signed by nearly all the adult male colonists, including two of the indentured servants. The format of the Mayflower Compact is very similar to the written agreements used by the Pilgrims to establish their Separatist churches in England and Holland. The Mayflower Compact expressed four main ideals: It expressed the deep faith and belief in God and His divine guidance which was held so dear to the Pilgrim Fathers; it expressed deep loyalty to the native England and to the King, regardless of his actions to persecute and exile the Pilgrims; it expressed mutual regard for one another as equals in the sight of God; it expressed the intent to establish just and equal laws upon which would be built a truly democratic form of government, the first recorded in history. The agreement set forth principles of a self-governed body not completely separate from the King of England.

The Mayflower Compact established a strong relationship between the ideas of church covenanting and covenanting together to form a civil government which is the Foundations of American Constitutionalism. What is most important to note here is that the framers of this Compact understood that there was a significant difference between a covenant and a constitution. In the former case of a covenant, they referred to it in order to combine themselves together into a civil body. A constitution, however, and laws which flowed from it did not combine them into a civil body, but organized that previously combined civil body in such a manner and in such a fashion as was "most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony."

One of the main concepts derived from the Mayflower Compact was governing law for and by the people. The concept is the heart of democracy and the foundation of philanthropy and the nonprofit commu-

nity. Nonprofit organizations within certain areas of activity, such as health and education, are subject to similar public regulations as for-profit and state sectors. As long as organized entities lawfully observe required safety and employment practices, the boards and staff of organizations are free to pursue their missions.

The Compact created the idea of a social contract. A social contract is an actual or hypothetical compact between the ruled and their rulers that defines the rights and duties of each (Encyclopedia Britannica). Although specific duties were not assigned to each colonist, a concept of higher order was established by the election of John Carver as the first governor of New Plymouth. Nonprofit organizations use the same principle in creating a contract between the agency and its employees.

The Mayflower Compact was a solemn recognition that people wanted a fresh start to create their own laws and form their own government. Every man, women were not allowed to vote, was given a right to take part in the government in exchange for the promise to obey the laws that were passed. The experience and this short document are significant because the Mayflower Compact established a pattern of self-government in America. It was the first governing document of Plymouth Colony. The compact was referred to by John Adams^[7] as the foundation of the Constitution of the United States, but he was speaking figuratively, not literally.



Questions for Discussion

1. Why and how did the first colonists come to America?
2. What is the significance of the Mayflower Compact in the founding of the new nation?



Notes

[1] Mayflower “五月花”号：英国3桅杆轮船，长19.50米，宽7.95米，吃水量3.35米，排水量180吨，于1615年下水。1957年在英国德文郡（Devon）布里克瑟姆（Brixham）建造了“五月花”二号，作为送给美国的纪念礼品。1995年美国普利茅斯城决定复原“五月花”号作为一艘展览船，也作为普利茅斯移民社会发展的标志。

[2] Cape Cod 科德角：美国马萨诸塞州一个港湾城市，景色秀美，旅游业十分兴旺，不少人到当地登记结婚或度蜜月。1990年该市人口只有15万，现在已超过23万。

[3] the Pilgrims 清教徒：是指那些宗教信仰持不同意见的人，他们为逃避当时疯狂的打击迫害而从英国逃亡。最初他们逃亡到荷兰，然后他们离开荷兰建立起北美殖民定居地。1620年他们来到位于马萨诸塞州后来被称作普莱马斯的地方。

[4] King James 詹姆士一世（1566-1625）：英国国王，1603年3月24日到1625年3月27日在位，并成为苏格兰国王詹姆士六世（英文名James VI），1567年7月24日到1625年3月27日在位。

[5] protestant 新教徒：西方基督教会的一个成员，其信仰和实践建立在新教改革运动中

提出的原则之上，并把圣经作为上帝启示的唯一来源，只承认因信称义，并认为所有的信徒都有作教士的资格；新教徒也指宗教改革后的加尔文教，路德教的教徒。

[6] William Bradford 威廉·布莱福特 (1590-1670)：生于英国约克郡的奥斯特菲尔德。他自学成才，年轻时加入清教。1608 年，他与 125 名清教徒离开英国前往荷兰莱顿，后又出发前往美洲大陆。1621 年，他接替死去的卡弗先生成为普利茅斯殖民地的掌舵人，统治这个殖民地长达 30 年之久。1856 年，他出版了《普利茅斯垦殖记：1620-1647》一书。

[7] John Adams 美国第二届总统 (1797-1801)：生于 1735 年 10 月 30 日，1826 年逝世。

The Mayflower Compact was a solemn recognition that people wanted a fresh start to create their own laws and form their own government. Every man, women were not allowed to vote, was given a right to take part in the government in exchange for the promise to obey the laws that were passed. The compact and this short document are significant because the Mayflower Compact established a pattern of self-government in America. It was the first governing document of Plymouth Colony. The compact was referred to by John Adams⁽⁷⁾ as the foundation of the Constitution of the United States, but he was speaking figuratively, not literally.

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Notes



- [1] Mayflower “五月花”号：英国 3 桅杆轻船，长 19.30 米，宽 7.92 米，吃水量 3.32 米，排水量 180 吨，于 1612 年下水。1927 年在美国德文郡 (Devon) 市里茨基 (Brixham) 建造了“五月花”二号，作为送给美国的纪念礼品。1992 年美国普利茅斯城决定复原“五月花”号作为一艘展览船，也作为普利茅斯移民社会发展的标志。
- [2] Cape Cod 科德角：美国马萨诸塞州一个沿海城市，景色优美，旅游业十分兴旺，不少人到当地度假或度蜜月。1990 年该市人口只有 12 万，现在已超过 23 万。
- [3] the Pilgrims 清教徒：是指那些宗教信仰中持不同意见的人，他们为逃避当时英国的迫害而到美国逃亡。最初他们逃亡到荷兰，然后他们离开荷兰迁往北美建立定居地。1620 年他们来到位于马萨诸塞州普利茅斯的地方。
- [4] King James 詹姆斯一世 (1566-1625)：英国国王，1603 年 3 月 24 日到 1625 年 3 月 27 日在位，并成为苏格兰国王詹姆斯六世 (英文名 James VI)，1567 年 7 月 24 日到 1625 年 3 月 27 日在位。
- [5] Protestant 新教徒：西方基督教的一个成员，其信仰和实践建立在宗教改革运动中

2. Bacon's Rebellion

培根起义

【内容提要】 培根起义是英属北美殖民地的第一次农民起义。由于航海条例的打击，烟草价格暴跌，再加上粮食连年歉收，以及不合理的捐税制度等，使北美殖民地广大农民群众及小种植园主面临破产。起义的直接导火索是印第安人为夺回自己失去的土地对边疆村庄进行的袭击。培根要求伯克利总督对印第安人进行惩处，但遭拒绝，他于1676年8月发动了起义，首先对印第安人进行征伐。培根起义最终以失败而告终。

Bacon's Rebellion was probably one of the most confusing yet intriguing chapters in Jamestown's history. It was the first rebellion in the American colonies in which discontented frontiersmen took part. For many years, historians considered the Virginia Rebellion of 1676 to be the first stirring of revolutionary sentiment in America which culminated in the American Revolution almost exactly one hundred years later.

After the restoration of **Charles II**^[1] to the throne at the end of the **English Civil War**^[2], Parliament passed the **Navigation Acts**^[3] of 1660 - 1663. The tobacco planters in Virginia were no longer able to sell to customers in France, and Dutch ships were prohibited from trading with Virginia. Throughout the 1660s, tobacco prices were painfully low and Virginia planters struggled economically. The elite farmers on the Atlantic coast, called the "Tidewater Gentry" owned much of the best farmland in the area and exercised political power disproportionate to their numbers, to the discontent of the majority of the population who were small farmers, indentured servants and slaves. Native Americans drew small farmers, being unable to afford the best lands, to the backcountry lands that were vulnerable to be attacked. Backcountry farmers also had difficulty moving their goods to markets. Taxes were high, especially on tobacco after 1660. But there was no political outlet for the unhappy planters. Not surprisingly, the frustrations were vented in other ways.

Nathaniel Bacon^[4]'s Rebellion can be attributed to several causes. Economic problems such as declining tobacco prices, growing commercial competition from Maryland and the Carolinas, an increasingly restricted English market and the rising price of English manufactured goods (mercantilism) caused problems for the Virginians.

There were heavy English losses in the latest series of naval wars with the Dutch and, closer to home, there were many problems caused by weather. Several natural disasters including hailstorms,

floods, drought and hurricanes rocked the colony all in the course of a year and had a damaging effect on the colonists. These difficulties encouraged the colonists to find a scapegoat against whom they could vent their frustrations and place the blame for their misfortunes.

The colony also suffered from a strained relationship with the local Indian tribes. There had been several outbreaks of hostilities, including some with the Susquehannocks, and to help prevent further incidents, the colonial governor of Virginia, **Sir William Berkeley**^[5] had levied a new tax for the construction of forts. People in the western settlements were unhappy with this plan. Since the forts would be spread out along the border, attacking tribes could simply go between them. There was widespread complaint about government corruption and the uselessness of the forts. They wanted troops to take action against the Indians and they wanted it now. As described by Warren Billings, "Loss of the Dutch trade, war with the Netherlands, the breakdown of peace with the Indians, and the revival of proprietary land grants compounded Berkeley's troubles."

Nathaniel Bacon, a young, wealthy Englishman who had recently settled in the backcountry of Virginia said, "We must defend ourselves against all Indians in general, for that they were all enemies." A many other Virginians, especially those who lived in the interior, also shared the opinion that all Indians were enemies. Bacon attracted a large following who, like him, wanted to kill or drive out every Indian in Virginia. Berkeley had refused to react to the claims that the Indians were committing murders and thefts on the frontier. Because he was making a good profit from trading with the Indians, and was not willing to disrupt that business by triggering open war. In 1675, when Berkeley denied Bacon a commission (the authority to lead soldiers), Bacon took it upon himself to lead his followers in a crusade against the "enemy." They marched to a fort held by a friendly tribe, the Occaneechees, and convinced them to capture warriors from an unfriendly tribe. The Occaneechees returned with captives. Bacon's men killed the captives. They then turned to their "allies" and opened fire. Then Berkeley declared Bacon a rebel and charged him with treason.

On July 30, 1676, Bacon issued his "Declaration of the People" which addressed the dissatisfaction of Berkeley's leadership. The document accused Berkeley was corrupt, played favorites, mismanaging the public treasury, raising taxes, and protected the Indians for his own selfish purposes. Upon hearing this, more people supported Bacon. Bacon's rebels retained the loyalty of many indentured servants and small landholders. The colony depended heavily on supplies from England, however, and the sea captains and sailors sided with Berkeley.

After a sharp skirmish Bacon recaptured the capital (Berkeley again took flight) but, fearing that he could not hold it against attack, set fire to the town. Bacon now was in charge of Virginia but his success quickly ended. He became ill with **dysentery**^[6] and died in the fall of 1676, and without his leadership the rebellion lost its heart and soul and collapsed quickly. Berkeley briefly returned to power and relentlessly hunted down the rebels before being recalled to England.

Bacon's Rebellion demonstrated that poor whites and poor blacks could be united in a cause. This was a great fear of the ruling class—what would prevent the poor from uniting to fight them? This fear hastened the transition to racial slavery. However, the political strength of the common farmers and laborers had not improved—they would long remain in the shadow of the Tidewater Gentry. Further, these