

英语阅读文库·人生世界

丛书主编 马瑞香 王正元

Their Sparkling Life Stories

他们
的经历在诉说

主编◎张 萍

编委◎张 萍 闫怡恂 孙若红
郭旭东 潘佳宁

华中科技大学出版社

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A decorative border featuring stylized flowers and leaves, primarily in shades of gray, framing the text. The border is most prominent on the left and right sides, with smaller floral motifs at the top and bottom.

主编寄语

人生经历总有坎坷,有快乐
也有顺利,也有曲折
其实,我们的经历是怎样的
由我们自己选择

也许,经历是生命的航线
也许,经历成就了生命之河
当岁月要磨去我们记忆的时候
才想起来问自己:我一生经历了什么

也许,经历了无数奋斗、拼搏
也许,走过了无数苦难、酸涩
谁的经历没有过春风得意
关键是我们的经历给世界留下了什么

经历中总有难以忘怀的美好时刻
回顾,总有困惑
经历可能是陈年流水
难忘的是经历中的追求与寄托
重要的是人生经历的标记
听听这书中人物怎么说

总 序

大学生的精神世界是活跃的、丰富多彩的，有着许多动人的美丽、憧憬和色彩光亮的梦想。大学生的心态很天真，很阳光。但是在成长的道路上，总会有快乐和迷茫，面对五彩缤纷的世界、求职的拥挤和失意，他们开始严肃地审视世界，认真地思考自己，什么是幸福、爱情、奋斗、经历、追求、创业等，这些话题悄然走进大学生们的生活。正是基于这些，我们为大学生编写了这套英语阅读文库《人生世界》。

这套书共十本，包括奋斗、爱情、创业、经历、幸福、梦想等十个大学生关心的话题。所选的英语原文词汇量和难度与大学生的英语阅读水平相适应，每篇文章前有导读，文中的疑难词语配有注释，并附有赏析和阅读思考题，每本书前主编还写了一首诗歌作为主编寄语，这一切，希望广大读者能够喜欢。

在编写这套书时，我们给读者提供的文章不仅是地道的英语表达，而且读来耐人寻味，从而使这套书更具有语言性和知识性、阅读性和思考性相结合的特点。在这套书出版之前，我们曾将部分书稿交给学生阅读，请他们谈谈阅读感想。有的说：“好像喝了杯热咖啡，有点苦，也有点甜。”有的说：“好像嚼槟榔，爽！”一个美丽的女孩悄悄地说：“我的爱情彩球飞得太高了，无法着陆。”

……我们感受到了写书的快乐。

北京外国语大学、辽宁大学、哈尔滨工程大学、燕山大学等十几所知名大学的英语教师参加了这套书的编写工作，给读者献上了文字优美的短文，感人的英文故事。华中科技大学出版社的梅欣君老师和诸位相关的编辑耐心、细致地把这套书做得如此漂亮，作为主编，我们实在应该感谢他们。这次推出了英语阅读文库的《人生世界》，也许很快就能陆续推出《文化世界》、《文学世界》、《商务世界》，与大学生朋友共享行走在英语世界中的快乐。

丛书主编

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A Practitioner of Transformations: Margaret Thatcher

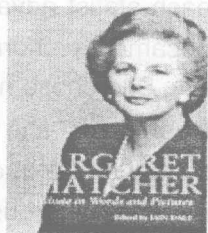
改革的践行者——玛格丽特·撒切尔



这是一个出生在平民之家的普通女孩，她刻苦勤奋，凭奖学金一直读到了牛津大学。34岁进入议会，44岁升任教育大臣，后来就任英国首相，成为世界政坛上的“铁娘子”，她叫玛格丽特·撒切尔。她解决了英国的工会问题，立法限制了工会的特权；在经济领域她进行了私有化改革，引发了各大洲50多个国家向英国学习私有化操作的狂潮；1982年，在她的领导下，英国在与阿根廷的军事冲突中取得了胜利。正如文中所说，她就像是催化剂，引发了一系列有关联的事件，使英国在20世纪最后20年里发生了翻天覆地的变化。

She was the **catalyst**¹ who set in motion a series of interconnected events that gave a revolutionary twist to the century's last two decades and helped mankind end the millennium on a note of hope and confidence. The triumph of capitalism, the almost universal acceptance of the market as **indispensable**² to prosperity, the collapse of Soviet imperialism, the downsizing of the state on nearly every continent and in almost every country in the world — Margaret Thatcher played a part in all those transformations, and it is not easy to see how any would have occurred without her.

Born in 1925, Margaret Hilda Roberts was an enormously





industrious girl. The daughter of a Grantham shopkeeper, she studied on scholarship, worked her way to Oxford and took two degrees, in chemistry and law. **Her fascination with politics led her into Parliament at age 34, when she argued her way into one of the best Tory seats in the country, Finchley in north London³.** Her quick mind (and faster mouth) led her up through the Tory ranks, and by age 44 she got settled into **the “statutory woman’s” place in the Cabinet⁴** as Education Minister, and that looked like the summit of her career. But Thatcher was, and is, notoriously lucky. Her case is awesome testimony to the importance of **sheer chance⁵** in history. In 1975 she challenged Edward Heath for the Tory leadership simply because the candidate of the party’s right wing abandoned the contest at the last minute. Thatcher stepped into the **breach⁶**. When she went into Heath’s office to tell him her decision, he did not even bother to look up. “You’ll lose,” he said, “Good day to you.” But as Victor Hugo put it, nothing is so powerful as **“an idea whose time has come⁷.”** And by the mid-1970s enough Tories were fed up with Heath and **“the Ratchet Effect⁸”** — the way in which each statist advance was accepted by the Conservatives and then became a platform for a further statist advance.

She chose her issues carefully — and, it emerged, luckily. The legal duels she took on early in her tenure as Prime Minister sounded the themes that made her an enduring leader: open markets, vigorous debate and loyal alliances. Among her first fights: a struggle against Britain’s out-of-control trade unions, which had destroyed three governments in succession. **Thatcher turned the nation’s antiunion feeling into a handsome parliamentary majority and a mandate to restrict union privileges by a series of laws⁹** that effectively ended Britain’s trade-union problem once and for all. “Who governs Britain?” she famously asked as unions



struggled for power. By 1980, everyone knew the answer: Thatcher governs.

Once the union **citadel**¹⁰ had been stormed, Thatcher quickly discovered that every area of the economy was open to judicious reform. Even as the rest of Europe toyed with socialism and state ownership, she set about privatizing the nationalized industries, which had been hitherto **sacrosanct**¹¹, no matter how inefficient. It worked. British Airways, an embarrassingly slovenly national carrier that very seldom showed a profit, was privatized and transformed into one of the world's best and most profitable airlines. British Steel, which lost more than a billion pounds in its final years as a state concern, became the largest steel company in Europe.

By the mid-1980s, privatization was a new term in world government, and by the end of the decade more than 50 countries, on almost every continent, had set in motion privatization programs, **floating loss-making public companies on the stock markets**¹² and in most cases transforming them into successful private-enterprise firms. Even **left-oriented countries**¹³, which scorned the notion of privatization, began to reduce their public sector on the sly. Governments sent administrative and legal teams to Britain to study how it was done. It was perhaps Britain's biggest contribution to practical economics in the world since J.M. Keynes invented "**Keynesianism**¹⁴", or even Adam Smith published *The Wealth of Nations*.

But Thatcher became a world figure for more than just her politics. **She combined a flamboyant willpower with evident femininity**¹⁵. It attracted universal attention, especially after she led Britain to a spectacular military victory over Argentina in 1982. She understood that politicians had to give military people clear orders about ends, then leave them to get on with the means. Still, she



could not bear to lose men, ships or planes. "That's why we have extra ships and planes," the admirals had to tell her, "to make good the losses." **Fidelity**¹⁶, like courage, loyalty and perseverance, were cardinal virtues to her, which she possessed in the highest degree. People from all over the world began to look at her methods and achievements closely, and to seek to imitate them.

One of her earliest admirers was Ronald Reagan, who achieved power 18 months after she did. He too began to reverse the Ratchet Effect in the US by effective deregulation, tax cutting and opening up wider market opportunities for free enterprise. Reagan liked to listen to Thatcher's various lectures on the virtues of the market or the **minimal state**¹⁷. "I'll remember that, Margaret," he said. She listened carefully to his jokes, tried to get the point and laughed in the right places.

They turned their mutual affection into a potent foreign policy partnership. With Reagan and Thatcher in power, the application of judicious pressure on the Soviet state to encourage it to reform or abolish itself, or to **implode**¹⁸, became an admissible policy. Thatcher warmly encouraged Reagan to rearm and thereby bring Russia to the negotiating table. She shared his view that Moscow ruled an "evil empire", and the sooner it was dismantled the better. Together with Reagan she pushed Mikhail Gorbachev to pursue his perestroika policy to its limits and so fatally to undermine the self-confidence of the Soviet elite.

Historians will argue hotly about the precise role played by the various actors who brought about the end of Soviet communism. But it is already clear that Thatcher has an important place in this huge event.

It was the beginning of a new historical epoch. All the forces that had made the 20th century such a violent disappointment to idealists



— **totalitarianism**¹⁹, the gigantic state, the crushing of individual choice and initiative — were publicly and spectacularly defeated. Ascendant instead were the values that Thatcher had supported in the face of sometimes spectacular opposition: free markets and free minds. The world enters the 21st century and the 3rd millennium a wiser place, owing in no small part to the daughter of a small shopkeeper, **who proved that nothing is more effective than willpower allied to a few clear, simple and workable ideas**²⁰.

注释



1. catalyst ['kætəlist] *n.* 催化剂
2. indispensable [ˌɪndɪs'pensəbl] *adj.* 绝对需要的, 不可缺少的
3. 对政治的热衷让她 34 岁就进入了议会, 凭口才占据了保守党最好的国内议席之一, 掌管伦敦以北的芬其利。
4. the “statutory woman’s” place in the Cabinet 内阁的“法定的妇女席位”
5. sheer chance 纯粹的机会
6. breach [bri:tʃ] *n.* 缺口, 破口
7. an idea whose time has come 应时而生的主意
8. the Ratchet Effect 轮棘效应 (指经济领域中的继续增长或党派政治领域中一党派对另一党派的强制牵引带动作用)
9. 撒切尔将国内的反工会情绪转化为国会的多数意见, 由此制定了一系列法律限制工会特权……
10. citadel ['sɪtədəl] *n.* 城堡, 要塞, 堡垒
11. sacrosanct ['sækərəʊsæŋkt] *adj.* 神圣不可侵犯的
12. floating loss-making public companies on the stock markets 让亏损的国有企业上市
13. left-oriented countries 左翼国家



14. Keynesianism ['keɪnzɪəˌnɪzəm] *n.* 凯恩斯主义 (以 J.M. Keynes 的理论为基础, 主张采用国家干预经济的政策以实现充分就业和经济增长的一个当代经济学流派)
15. 她将张扬的意志与女性的魅力结合起来。
16. fidelity [fi'delɪti] *n.* 忠诚, 忠实, 逼真, 翔实
17. minimal state 最小化政府
18. implode [ɪm'pləʊd] *v.* 爆聚, 内向爆炸
19. totalitarianism [təʊtəli'tɛəriənɪzəm] *n.* 极权主义
20. 她证明了意志力加上清晰明了、切实可行的思想必将无人能敌。



赏析

这篇文章层次分明, 可以划分为四个部分。第一部分简述了撒切尔夫人在 20 世纪最后 20 年中发挥的重要作用; 第二部分选取典型事件向读者介绍了她的政绩; 第三部分分析了撒切尔夫人成为世界知名人物的原因; 第四部分是本文的结尾段, 总结了撒切尔夫人对英国乃至世界的贡献。

玛格丽特·撒切尔的经历告诉我们: 敏锐的头脑、雄辩的口才、凌厉的作风、善于发现并抓住机遇是成功者共同的特点; 勇敢、忠诚和持之以恒是他们最大的美德, 也是他们成功的关键。



思考

1. In what way is Thatcher's case testimony to the importance of sheer chance?
2. Do you agree with Victor Hugo that nothing is so powerful as "an idea whose time has come"?
3. What was Britain's biggest contribution to practical economics? Why?



4. Do you think the author is correct in stating that "Thatcher became a world figure for more than just her politics"?
5. Comment on the statement: Nothing is more effective than willpower with a few clear, simple and workable ideas.

1997年，安南出任联合国秘书长。在1997年1月，安南在联合国大会上被选为第七任联合国秘书长。他的任期从1997年1月1日开始，到2001年12月31日结束。安南在任期间，联合国在维护国际和平与安全方面取得了许多成就。安南在1997年1月1日宣誓就职，成为联合国历史上第一位在任期内完成两届任期的秘书长。安南在任期间，联合国在维护国际和平与安全方面取得了许多成就。安南在1997年1月1日宣誓就职，成为联合国历史上第一位在任期内完成两届任期的秘书长。

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On January 1, 1997, Kofi Annan became the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. His election followed a bitterly-contested United States veto of a second term for his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt. The Security Council recognized it was still Africa's "turn" in the UN's highest office, and eventually selected the US- and French-backed Annan, a self-proclaimed Ghanaian. Headed the UN's Peacekeeping Department. Annan proved an innovative and sound-minded Secretary-General, far less in thrall to the US than many had anticipated. Though his choices are severely limited by the UN's

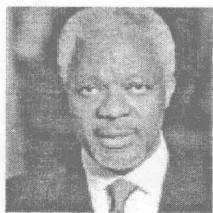
Kofi Annan: Biographical Note

科菲·安南略传



1997年，安南出任联合国秘书长，可以说是受任于多事之秋，奉命于危难之间。为解决联合国的财政危机，他上任伊始便出访华盛顿。为削减联合国运作的财政预算，他大刀阔斧地进行了管理方面的改革，引入了高效的内阁式管理模式。当美国政府拒绝支付所欠债务后，他在一片争执声中，呼吁建立联合国与企业之间的战略合作伙伴关系。在处理其他有争议性的问题时，安南从不优柔寡断。

在安南的领导下，联合国增加了国际交流，更加开放，更加民主，其世界影响力大大提升。



On January 1, 1997, Kofi Annan became **the seventh Secretary General of the United Nations**¹. His election followed a bitterly-contested United States veto of a second term for his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt. **The Security Council**² recognized it was still Africa's "turn" in the UN's highest office, and eventually selected the US- and French-backed Annan, a soft-spoken Ghanaian then heading the **UN's Peacekeeping Department**³.

Annan proved an innovative and surprisingly independent Secretary General — far less **in thrall to**⁴ the US than many had anticipated. Though his choices are severely limited by the UN's



financial crisis and by **unrelenting pressure**⁵ from the US and other major powers, Annan has won widespread support and learned to maximize his options. He moved quickly to reassert UN centrality in emergencies across the globe.

UN staffers have been largely delighted with their new chief, and morale within the organization soared. Annan, the first black African Secretary General and the first to rise to the top position from within the ranks of the UN staff, is appreciated not only for his **political acumen**⁶, but for his respect for and willingness to work collaboratively with his colleagues.

Born in Ghana in 1938, Annan studied economics in Kumasi and earned a bachelor's degree at Macalester College in Minnesota in 1961. He did graduate work in Geneva and later earned a master's degree in management from MIT in 1972.

Annan joined the United Nations system in 1962, working in financial and management posts with **the World Health Organization**⁷, **the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva**⁸, **the UN Economic Commission for Africa**⁹, and at UN headquarters in New York. He headed the UN's Peacekeeping Department from 1993 to 1995, and again in 1996, during a period of unprecedented growth in the size and scope of United Nations peacekeeping operations. At its peak in 1995, the UN was fielding almost 70 000 military and civilian **"Blue Helmets"**¹⁰ from 77 countries.

During Annan's tenure as head of UN peacekeeping, many problems and tragedies arose, as international crises like Bosnia and Rwanda overwhelmed the UN's capacity and demonstrated the insufficiency of support from major member states. While Annan shared some responsibility, and characteristically apologized for his judgment errors, the main crises resulted not from **Secretariat**¹¹ or



secretary-general failures, but from the refusal of the major Security Council members to adequately respond and back the UN efforts.

When Annan came into office in 1997, he faced formidable challenges. The organization was near bankruptcy and it faced serious criticism and hostility in Washington. In his first weeks in office, Annan traveled to Washington to build support in the conservative Congress. **He promised to shrink the UN's operating budget, asking in return that the US pay its \$1.6 billion in back dues**¹².

Annan continued his predecessor's cuts in UN staff and budget. At the same time he introduced many management reforms — a new post of Deputy Secretary General, a new office of financial oversight to keep watch for waste and corruption, and a more efficient **cabinet-style management**¹³. Still, the United States refused to pay its debts, prolonging the financial crisis and keeping Annan's UN very short of resources.

Faced with insufficient funds, Annan sought closer relations between the United Nations and the private sector. Amid some controversy, he joined the annual gatherings of corporate chief executives in Davos, Switzerland, and called for a strategic partnership between the UN and business. **In 1999 he proposed "The Global Compact", nine principles on human rights, labor standards and the environment that corporations should adopt**¹⁴. At the same time, the UN muted its criticism of globalization and gave stronger support to **corporate-friendly open markets**¹⁵. He thus also set the stage for broader alliances between the UN and its agencies and **multinational corporations**¹⁶. Many critics have noted the tarnished environmental, labor and human rights records of some of these partner corporations. Critics are likewise skeptical about the threat to UN decision-making inherent in UN reliance on