

非常实用英语系列

Selected Articles

In American & British News Publications

# 新编美英报刊 阅读文选

普及本

主编 端木义万

让你了解西方文化

使你掌握现代实用英语

带你步入外刊阅读自如境界

学苑出版社

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# 新编美英报刊阅读文选

(普及本)

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## 前言

我所编著的《美英报刊阅读教程》(南京大学出版社, 1994)自出版以来承蒙广大读者厚爱, 迄今已连续印刷9次。近几年来, 不少读者来信建议我编一本较为易读的外刊教材, 这使我萌生了编著《美英报刊阅读文选》(普及本)的想法。

伴随改革开放规模扩展, 我国各行各业接触英语报刊机会日趋增多。近些年来, 外报外刊已成为广大英语学习者学习、掌握现代英语的重要工具。之所以出现这种情况主要原因是外报外刊具有下列特色:

1、**内容趣味性**: 外报外刊向读者展现日新月异的大千世界, 内容新颖有趣。

2、**语言现代性**: 报纸杂志报道新闻同时也传播新的词语和语言现象, 语言最为现代。

3、**词语丰富性**: 报刊如同“百科”, 题材面域广阔, 词语丰富实用。

然而, 再好的工具不掌握使用技巧也无法取得良好效果。要想步入外刊轻松自如的阅读境界就得熟悉外刊特色和规律。

根据笔者多年教学体会, 外刊阅读要过好语言和文化两关。

报刊英语在标题、篇章结构、句式和用词等方面有其自身特色, 不了解这些特色便构成一大障碍。

语言与文化密切相关; 语言反映文化, 文化影响语言。许多语言理解困难根源不在语言本身, 而在文化方面。不熟悉美英文化也会形成一大障碍。

为了帮助读者逾越这两大障碍, 本书每课设有“文化介绍”(Background Information)和“语言简说”两个栏目(Language Features), 系统介绍课文相关语言和文化情况。

书中每篇课文之后提供“课文新词”(New Words)和“难点注释”(Notes to the Text)。此外, 还配有“问题思考”(Questions on the Article)和“内容分析”(Analysis of the Content)。练习答案附在本书后部。

该书文化内容注释方面得到我在美国北卡罗莱纳大学访学期间所结识的James R. Jackson 和 Elaine S. Jackson 两位好友的全力帮助。在资料收集方面得到端木栋林同志和郭荣娣女士的大力支持。沈虹同志承担打字编排工作。

在此, 谨向他们致以诚挚谢意。

主 编

2000年7月18日

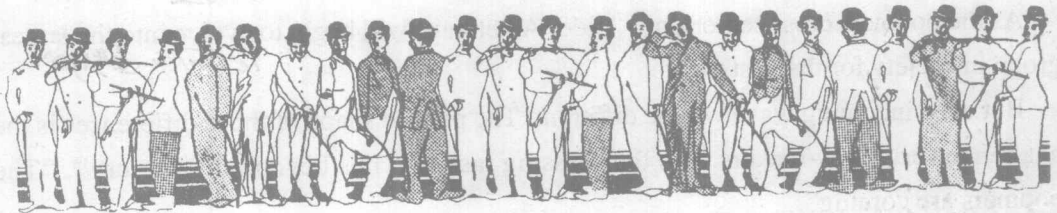
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# Lesson One

## Boomers<sup>1</sup> Can't Be Lumped into a Single Generation

By Bernard Starr



Watch out, the boomers are coming. That's the warning sounded by demographers, economists, sociologists, <sup>baby boomer</sup>psychologists and others alerting us to the huge generation of baby boomers— 77 million strong— now approaching retirement<sup>2</sup>.

Will society, they ask, be able to withstand the assault on fragile programs like Social Security and Medicare<sup>3</sup>?

But is it an army at all<sup>4</sup>? Here are the profiles of two boomer couples. What do they have in common?

At 34, Jim is still at the beginning of his career at a high-tech company. His 34-year-old wife, Marge, just gave birth to their first child. Marge plans to be mommy-at-home for two years before she gets her career in investment banking back on track<sup>5</sup>. They wonder how they'll handle the finances without Marge's income, and they worry about saving for education.

Jane, 50, is a teacher and her husband, Bob, is 52. He's been at his job in advertising for 27 years and is thinking of retiring before he gets "downsized". Their oldest daughter, Susan, just graduated from college and the younger daughter is a junior in college.

These two couples live in vastly different worlds. Jim and Marge— the young boomer couple— probably have more in common with Bob and Jane's young adult children. And Jim and Marge's parents, in their mid-60s and recently retired, would surely have a lot to talk about with Bob and Jane.

Yet these two profiled couples<sup>6</sup> are called baby boomers— part of one generation. Does

that make any sense<sup>7</sup>?

True, they were products of a post-World War II birth-rate explosion — from 1946 to 1964 — that peaked in 1957 with 3.7 births per woman<sup>8</sup>. But the 34-52 year-old boomers span many religions, ethnic groups, educational backgrounds and socioeconomic levels, representing a wide range of needs, interests, planning, lifestyles and dreams<sup>9</sup>.

To talk about one entity of 77 million boomers for social and financial policy makes about as much sense as coming up with a single life plan for our two couples<sup>10</sup>. One size will not fit all. The boomers are no army. They surely don't march to a single drum beat<sup>11</sup>.

As the boomers cross senior line<sup>12</sup>, older Americans will begin to evolve into the largest group in society for the first time.

But each incoming wave will be different. The precise shape of those differences is the challenge for policy-makers. It's the pressing task that lies beyond the war cry<sup>13</sup>, "The boomers are coming".

(Starr is a psychologist-gerontologist at Marymount Manhattan College)

*Scripps Howard News Service*

## I. New Words



- lump [lʌmp] v. to consider different things as a single group 把...归为一类
- demographer [di'mɒgrəfə] n. 人口统计学家
- psychologist [saɪ'kɒlədʒɪst] n. 心理学家
- approach [ə'prəʊtʃ] v. to come nearer to 接近, 临近
- assault [ə'sɔ:lt] n. to attack in a violent way 攻击, 袭击
- fragile ['frædʒaɪl] adj. easily damaged, spoilt, or destroyed 脆弱的
- profile ['prəʊfaɪl] n. a short description 简要介绍
- high-tech [ˌhaɪ'tek] adj. using high technology 高技术的
- downsize ['daʊnsaɪz] v. to reduce the number of people it employs in order to reduce costs 裁员, 精简机构
- peak [pi:k] v. to reach the highest point or level 达到高峰
- span [spæn] v. to include 包括
- ethnic ['eθnɪk] adj. connected with a particular race, nation, or tribe and their customs and traditions 种族的
- socioeconomic [ˌsəʊsiəʊekə'nɒmɪk] adj. 社会经济的

- entity ['entɪti] *n.* something that exists as a single complete unit  
实体, 独立存在体
- senior ['si:niə] *adj.* older 较年长的, 年高的
- evolve [e'vɒlv] *v.* to develop by gradually changing 逐步形成, 发展成
- incoming ['ɪnkʌmɪŋ] *adj.* (only before noun) arriving or coming in 正来临的
- gerontologist [dʒerɒn'tɒlədʒɪst] *n.* 老人学家

## II. Background Information



### 战后七代人

美国内战后出生的几代人分别是: 传教士一代 (Missionary Generation)、迷惘的一代 (Lost Generation)、大兵一代 (GI Generation)、沉默的一代 (Silent Generation)、婴儿潮代 (Boom Generation)、第十三代 (Thirteenth Generation)、千年的一代 (Millennial Generation) 他们身上深深地打上了美国内战后各个时期的烙印。

代	传教士一代	迷惘的一代	大兵一代	沉默的一代	婴儿潮代	第十三代	千年一代
类型	理想型	反叛型	公民型	适应型	理想型	反叛型	公民型
出生	1860-	1883-	1901-	1925-	1943-	1961-	1982-
时间	1882	1900	1924	1942	1960	1981	2003
时间跨度	23年	18年	24年	18年	18年	21年	22年
总人数	4500万	4500万	6300万	4900万	7700万	9300万	7600万
现有人数	0.3万	1100万	2900万	4000万	6900万	7900万	7600万
移民比例	23%	21%	9%	9%	10%	11%	12%
代表人物	爱因斯坦	海明威	肯尼迪 里根 迪斯尼	罗斯福 路德·金 蒙代尔	克林顿 金·里奇	泰森	布什

30年代经济大萧条以及随后的二战期间, 许多美国妇女没有结婚, 或者成婚很晚。战后, 随着数百万退伍士兵回国, 美国的出生率猛增。1957年, 美国的出生率 (birth rate) 达到最高点, 全年共出生了430万婴儿, 比1945年多150万。



美国不同时期出生率对比表

年代	大萧条时期	47-50年	60年	64年	93年
出生率	18%	25%	23.7%	21%	15.5%

美国的报刊杂志上, 可以看到婴儿潮代人各种各样的别称: 注重现在的一代 (Now Generation)、以我为中心的一代 (Me Generation)、动辄抗议的一代 (Protest Generation)、追随斯波克大夫的一代 (Spock Generation) (斯波克大夫著有《育婴常识》, 反越战)、越战的一代 (Vietnam Generation)、伍德斯托克一代 (The Woodstock Generation) (摇滚史上的一次盛会)、摇滚的一代 (Rock Generation)。

据报道, 这代人中 40% 吸过大麻; 27% 曾效仿嬉皮士的装扮; 16% 参加过反战和民权运动; 10% 练瑜伽、静坐或迷信东方的宗教; 5% 尝试过群居生活。这代人开始进入美国的领导阶层。1992 年, 二战后出生的克林顿击败了大兵一代的布什, 入主白宫。

### III. Notes to the Text



● 1. Boomers: 又称 baby boomers. See Background Information attached to this article.

● 2. That the warning sounded alerting us to the huge generation of baby boomers—77 million strong now approaching retirement: 这是人口统计学家、经济学家、心理学家和其他一些人发出的警告, 使我们关注到婴儿潮代一个拥有七千七百万巨大人口数目的一代—即将退休。(① alert sb. to sth. to make someone notice something important or dangerous; ② 77 million strong the word strong is used to give the number of people in an organization or a crowd)

● 3. Will society be able to withstand the assault on fragile programs like Social Security and Medicare: 我们社会的像社会保障与医疗照顾这类脆弱的福利计划能否经受得起冲击? (① Medicare system by which the US government helps to pay for the medical treatment of old people; ② Social Security system of insurance run by the American government into which workers make regular payments, and which provides money when they are unable to work, especially because they are old 由于美国人口日趋老年化, 社会福利开支负担不断加重。1965 年美国老年人的养老金与医疗项目所占国民生产总值 (GNP) 比例为 4.4%, 但到 1990 年已猛增到 9.7%。据美国社会学家

分析,到婴儿潮代全部进入退休时期,老年人将占全国人口的21%,美国将出现“失衡现象”(top-heaviness)。到那时,老年人养老金和医疗项目将占国民生产总值的145%!显然,这种负担是美国经济难以承受的。)

● 4. But is it an army at all: 但是它到底是不是一个大的群体? (army large number of people bearing similarity in some respects involved in the same activity or for a particular purpose)

● 5. get back on track: 使……回到正常轨道上

● 6. these two profiled couples: 这两对简要介绍的夫妇 (profile to write or give a short description of someone or something)

● 7. make sense — to have a good reason or explanation

● 8. that peaked in 1957 with 3.7 births per woman: 在1957年达到最高峰,平均每个妇女生育3.7个孩子。

● 9. But the 34 — 52-year-old boomers span many religions, ethnic groups, educational backgrounds and socioeconomic levels, representing a wide range of needs, interests, planning, lifestyles and dreams: 但是由34岁到52岁的人组成的婴儿潮代有着许多不同宗教、种族群体、教育背景、社会经济水准,并且代表了广泛各异的需求、兴趣、计划、生活方式和梦想。

● 10. To talk about for our two couples: 将七千七百万人看作一个整体来为他们制定社会、金融政策,就像为这两对夫妇制定同一个生活方案一样,不合情理。

● 11. They surely don't march to a single drum beat: 字面意义为:他们不会随同一个鼓点前进;即:他们不应归为一个整体。

● 12. to cross the senior line — to become old

● 13. It's the pressing task that lies beyond the war cry, he boomers are coming: 这是急需要办的事,仅仅呐喊“婴儿潮代人来啦!”是无法奏效的。(pressing: needing to be dealt with very soon; urgent)

#### IV. Language Features



#### 报刊英语

新闻英语主要受以下五个因素制约:大众性,节俭性,趣味性,时新性和客观性。报刊是大众传媒(Mass Media),写作必须适合广大读者水平,语言必

须通俗易懂。报业十分珍惜版面，读者看报珍惜时间，这就迫使新闻写作人员养成文字简洁的风格。

报刊面临电视、广播、网络传媒的巨大挑战，要稳住报业市场就得加强趣味性，因而新闻报道必须写得生动有趣。

新闻报道在提供最新消息的同时也传播了相关的新词。此外，不少新闻写作人员为了增加文章的吸引力，在语言上刻意求新，因而新闻英语具有新颖活泼的特色。

客观性是纯新闻报道所遵循的准则，没有客观性报道就要丢掉可信性，也就会失去读者。客观性要求新闻报道文字准确具体，避免使用情感词语和夸张手法。

初读美英报刊的人往往会遇到很多困难。之所以如此，主要是因为他们对报刊英语特点了解不够。譬如，新闻标题短小精悍，在句式和用词上都有相应的省略手段。又如，新闻报道为了节约篇幅，采用一系列手段浓缩、精炼句式。较常见的有前置定语、名词、身份同位语前置、词性转化、借代、缩略词等。再如，为使语言生动、活泼，报刊常常使用比喻和成语活用手段。新闻刊物不仅是报导新闻的媒介，而且是“使用新词的庞大机器和杜撰新词的巨大工厂”。这些特点会给读者带来理解上的困难。新闻报道结构有其自身特色，报刊中许多词语具有特定文化内涵。不了解这些情况，便会构成理解障碍。

### V. Analysis of the Content



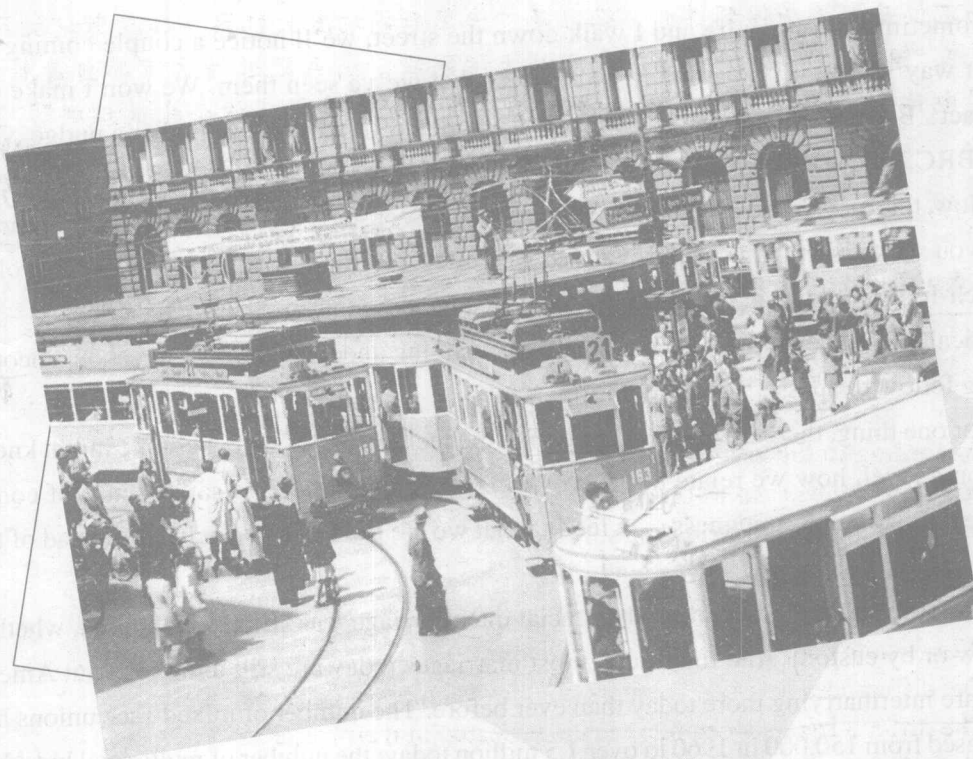
1. According to the author, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. boomers can be seen as one entity
  - b. boomers were born during the second World War
  - c. boomers live in vastly different worlds
  - d. boomers will all get retired soon
2. Which statement is Not true?
  - a. The differences between boomers will have an impact on policy-making.
  - b. The differences between boomers is reflected in many aspects.
  - c. The differences between boomers is often overlooked by some people.
  - d. The differences between boomers actually has little significance.

3. The phrase "get downsized" in paragraph 5 means: \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. get unemployed    b. get smaller in size    c. become old    d. become lower in position
4. According to the article, the year of \_\_\_\_\_ witnessed the highest birth rate.
- a. 1946                      b. 1957                      c. 1964                      d. 1960

## VI. Questions on the Article



1. Why are social scientists deeply worried about the approaching retirement of baby boomers?
2. Can baby boomers be regarded as one entity? Give the reasons for your answer.
3. What are the differences between the lifestyles of the two boomer couples described in the article?
4. What does the author mean by "they surely don't march to a single drum beat"?



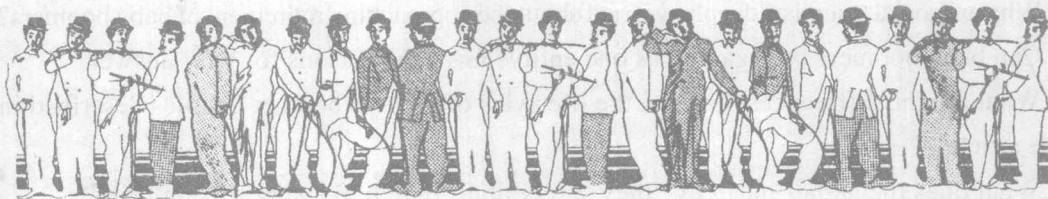
# Lesson Two

## Mingling Bloodlines Isn't Answer

/mɪŋɡl/ v. 混合 混合

---Interracial Marriages Aren't Solution to Bridging Race Gap.<sup>1</sup>

By Eric Liu



Sometimes, as my wife and I walk down the street, we'll notice a couple coming the other way. We won't do anything to indicate that we've seen them. We won't make eye contact<sup>2</sup>. But immediately after they pass, Carroll and I will give each other a nudge

"BRC," we'll whisper. As in "biracial couple."<sup>3</sup>

Now, this may sound a little odd. Or unduly color-conscious.<sup>4</sup> Or maybe even prejudiced.<sup>5</sup> But you see, it isn't with disapproval that we notice BRCs. After all, we are one. Carroll is Scotch-Irish and Jewish; I am Chinese. And we are conscious of other mixed couples— we practically tally them up<sup>5</sup>— because there's something undeniably satisfying about encountering fellow trespassers of the color line.<sup>6</sup>

For one thing, there's a sense of solidarity, the feeling that this other couple might know, on some level, how we relate to the world. There's also, I have to say, a sense of confidence, perhaps even smugness, a feeling that we are the wave of the future, ahead of the demographic curve.<sup>7</sup>

There was a time, of course, when racial intermarriage was strictly prohibited, whether by law or by custom. And to be sure, most marriages today are still unmixed. But Americans are intermarrying more today than ever before. The number of mixed-race unions has increased from 150,000 in 1960 to over 1.5 million today; the number of multiracial kids<sup>8</sup> has boomed to more than 2 million.

And so it's not surprising that one of the central points of Warren Beatty's farcical film

*Bulworth*<sup>9</sup> is that mixing up our genes (Sen. Bulworth puts it more colorfully) is the way to move the country beyond color. As Beatty said in a recent interview, there's a simple solution to the race problem: "It's called love."

This "love" line is an old riff.<sup>10</sup> Throughout our history, people from Alexis De Tocqueville to Frederik Douglass to Norman Podhoretz<sup>11</sup> have proclaimed that miscegenation<sup>12</sup> is the only true path to interracial healing.<sup>13</sup>

It's certainly a nice thought. As one who has jumped into the integrated gene pool, I'd like to think I'm doing my part to advance good race relations. But it's misguided, in the end, to say that the difference I make is the difference that matters.<sup>14</sup>

We can start by asking a simple question: What is the problem that intermarriage is supposed to solve? If the problem is strife between races, well sure, BRCs are powerful symbols of life beyond pure hostility. But generally, BRCs aren't trying to save the world; they just happened to fall in love. And their mere existence doesn't do much to alter the social circumstances—from residential segregation to media stereotypes to campaign rhetoric<sup>15</sup>—that can generate racial hostility.

If the problem is something else—say, that people of color are vulnerable to discrimination—it's not clear that BRCs solve the problem at all. It's true, of course, that mixed marriages produce mixed kids and that mixed children defy old racial categories. It's not necessarily true, though, that the collapse of racial categories means the collapse of racialism.

Consider how "blacks," who are as genetically mixed a group as can be found in America, were converted by a "one-drop rule"<sup>16</sup> into a single group. Think about how those Asian-Americans who are assimilating and intermarrying are said now to be "becoming white".

And note that while intermarriage is up across the board,<sup>17</sup> mixed marriages involving blacks are still the least common.

Perhaps our color line is giving way to a color continuum. But life along that continuum is still likely to follow a simple rule: The lighter you are, the better. When Carroll and I have kids, will they be considered white? Will they be called Asian? Will they be more stigmatized than "pure" whites and Asians? Will they be less stigmatized than other mixed children with darker skin?

The answers lie not in what is to be seen but in how people choose to see. Intermarriage isn't the panacea<sup>18</sup> we'd like it to be, but it does make one thing clear: Race is a man-made myth, not a God-given truth, and it's something we impose upon each other often in spite of our actual color.

(miθ) n. 神话; 传说, 想像的人, 虚构的故事

v. 征婚, 配对, 结合, 联姻

ipɔ'sju:t/n. 种族

n. 生产; 制造; 生育; 产

That's why it falls to that other timeless pursuit—politics, rather than procreation—to address the fact that in countless unwanted ways, race still matters.<sup>19</sup> It's in the realm of public life, not the realm of personal romance, that we can do most to equalize the life chances of kids of every hue.

So by all means, let's mingle our blood lines with abandon. Let's hurry forth the day when counting BRCs is a tired game.<sup>20</sup> But let's not forget that when it comes to bridging the gap of race, love isn't all we need.

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## I. New Words



- mingle ['mɪŋɡl] v. to mix; to blend 使混合; 使相混
- bloodline ['blʌdlaɪn] n. 血统; 种系
- interracial [ɪntə'reɪʃəl] adj. between different races of people
- solution [sə'lu:ʃn] n. a way of solving a problem
- nudge [nʌdʒ] n. the act of pushing someone gently, usually with the elbow, in order to get attention 用肘轻推
- biracial [baɪ'reɪʃəl] adj. between two races
- undeniably [ʌndɪ'naɪəbəlɪ] adv. unquestionably
- encounter [ɪn'kaʊntə] v. to meet someone unexpectedly
- trespass ['trespəs] v. to go onto someone's private land without permission 擅自进入
- solidarity [sɒlɪ'dærɪtɪ] n. unity or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests 团结
- smugness ['smʌŋnɪs] n. the state of being too pleased with one's goodness, cleverness or successes 沾沾自喜; 自鸣得意
- prohibit [prə'hɪbɪt] v. to officially stop an activity by making it illegal or against rules 禁止
- multiracial [mʌltɪ'reɪʃəl] adj. including or involving several different races of people 多种族的
- boom [bu:m] v. to increase rapidly 激增
- gene [dʒi:n] n. 基因
- integrated [ɪntɪgreɪtɪd] adj. having all the parts combined into a harmonious whole 综合的, 整体的

- misguided [mis'gaidɪd] *adj.* wrong because it is based on a wrong misunderstanding of a situation 被错误引导的
- residential [rezi'denʃəl] *adj.* having to do with homes 居住的, 住所的
- segregation [segrɪ'geɪʃən] *n.* the practice of keeping people of different races or religions apart 种族隔离
- campaign [kæm'peɪn] *n.* a planned course of action for some special purposes 运动; 竞选运动
- rhetoric ['retərɪk] *n.* language used to persuade or influence people 言语
- generate ['dʒenəreɪt] *v.* to produce or create something 产生
- genetically [dʒə'netɪklɪ] *adv.* having to do with genes, with origin or natural growth 基因方面; 遗传地
- Asian-American [ˌeɪʃənə'merɪkən] *n.* an American whose family originally came from Asia 亚裔美国人
- assimilate [ə'sɪmɪleɪt] *v.* to become part of a country and are accepted by other people in it 同化
- continuum [kən'tɪjuən] *n.* 连续体
- stigmatize ['stɪgmətaɪz] *v.* to describe (someone) scornfully
- address [ə'dres] *v.* to do something about a particular problem 对付, 处理
- hue [hju:] *n.* a type (of opinion, belief etc.) 类型
- abandon [ə'bændən] *n.* a yielding to natural impulses; freedom from restraint 放纵; 无拘无束

## II. Background Information



### 混血现象

美国人的血统较为复杂。早期移民基本来自西欧、北欧。中期移民中增加了大量的东欧、南欧成分。近期移民队伍又增添了大批亚洲和拉美籍成员。不同民族的移民以及他们后裔彼此间的通婚造成了当今美国人复杂的混血现象 (mixed blood)。

美国人血缘关系的复杂性往往体现在祖籍关系上。一名1945年出生于美国的白人妇女自幼在家里只讲英语。当问到她祖籍何处时, 她却说自己的祖籍是“德国、瑞士、苏格兰、法国、荷兰和英国”。这些国家其实是她的祖父母



或曾祖父母所来自的国家。由于一个美国人往往选认多种祖籍，因而造成各项具体世系的美国人总数大大超出美国人口的实际数字。

美国人血缘的复杂也导致种族成分的界定问题(ethnic identification)。如何称呼具有双重或多种血裔的人一直是个有争议的问题(a controversial issue)。一些人认为应当把不同种族的夫妻所生育的后代按其种族构成称为“有几分之几血统的人”。如“有二分之一白人血统的人”，“有四分之一黑人血统的人”或“有十分之一印第安人血统的人”。另一些人则不赞成“几分之几”这样的称呼，他们觉得这种称呼听起来学术味太浓，人情味太淡。他们赞成根据外表特征(physical features)而定。如若一个人外表特征看来更像亚洲人而不像欧美白人，那么就该称他为“黄种人”。即使具有欧洲白人的血统，但具有黑人外貌特征的人仍被定为“黑人”。

纵观美国历史，不同肤色种族之间的交融虽然早在立国之时就已出现，但长期以来却遭到社会，特别是白人的非议。受“白人至上”(the superiority of the white race)观念影响的人认为与其他肤色种族联姻(intermarriage)，白人会受到玷污(be made impure)。美国曾有相应法律禁止黑人和亚裔移民与白人结婚，涉及通婚的人可能被判入狱(imprisonment)或罚款(fines)。但事实上，白人被其他有色人种“玷污”由来已久。早在殖民地奴隶制时期就有无数黑人妇女生下了白人施暴与玩弄的后果——混血儿(half-breed)。

1967年，禁止不同种族通婚的法律正式被取消，为异族通婚提供方便。现今美国不同种族通婚比例很高。白人与黑人的联姻已较为常见。美国亚裔人和其他种族的通婚率正在上升。据统计华裔与异族通婚比例约占30%。

### III. Notes to the Text



- 1. to bridge race gap—to fill race gap (Note the omission of the article “the” in the headline.)
- 2. eye contact: 目光接触
- 3. As in “biracial couple.”: 就是“biracial couple”中的BRC三个字母
- 4. unduly color-conscious—excessively concerned about race
- 5. tally up—to count
- 6. fellow trespassers of the color line—referring to interracial married people or other biracial couples