



房龙经典·中文导读英文原版

[美] 房 龙 著

彩色插图

百年

畅销版

THE STORY OF
MANKIND

人类的故事

★ 中文导读英文原版 ★



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出版前言

亨德里克·威廉·房龙（Hendrik Willem van Loon, 1882 - 1944），著名荷兰裔美国作家、历史学家、科普作家和文学家。

房龙于1882年1月出生于荷兰鹿特丹。幼年时期的房龙由于家庭暴力而感受不到温暖，8岁就进入寄宿学校，10岁就迷上了史学。20岁以后，房龙到美国康奈尔大学、德国慕尼黑大学求学，获得博士学位，但他并没有成为书斋里的学究。他当过编辑、记者和老师，屡经漂泊，同时苦练写作。房龙还是个多才多艺的人，从小就对历史、地理、船舶、绘画和音乐感兴趣，而且终生未曾放弃。他能用10种文字写作并与人交流，还拉得一手很好的小提琴，善绘画，他著作中几乎所有的插图都是自己绘制。

1921年，房龙出版《人类的故事》，使他一举成名，从此迎来了创作的丰收期。之后，《发明的故事》、《圣经的故事》、《美国的故事》、《房龙地理》（又名《人类的家园》）、《人类的艺术》、《宽容》（又名《人类的解放》）、《与世界伟人谈心》、《伦勃朗传》、《荷兰共和国兴衰史》、《太平洋的故事》等几十部著作陆续出版，几乎本本畅销，饮誉世界，许多国家都翻译出版了他的作品。可以说，房龙一生出版的30余种著作，将人类各方面的历史几乎全都复述了一遍。

房龙在学问和文学上坚持人文主义的立场，并逐渐形成了一套自己的理解和表达方式。他认为：“凡学问一到穿上专家的拖鞋，躲进了它的‘精舍’，而把它鞋子上的泥土作肥料去的时候，它就宣布自己预备死了。与人隔绝的知识生活是引到毁灭去的。”因此，深入浅出地将艰深枯燥的学问化作轻松风趣的精神食粮，成了房龙作品的显著特征。

房龙的作品基本围绕人类生存与发展的最本质问题，贯穿其中的精神是科学、宽容和进步，其目标是向人类的无知与偏见挑战，从而将知识和真理

普及为人所共知的常识。

当然，由于房龙坚持人文主义立场，在有些问题上不免有失偏颇甚至谬误；同时，由于他的生活时代所限，使他在有些问题上的见解不可避免地受到局限，如他在《房龙地理》中错误地将西藏放到“中亚高地”，而不是放到“中国”这一章来讲述；又比如，他以地理环境决定论来解释日本近代的侵略行为。所有这些，希望读者在阅读时能够甄别。

房龙的主要作品在20世纪20年代就开始被介绍给我国读者。历史学家和著名报人曹聚仁回忆说，他早年曾在一次候车时偶然买到《人类的故事》中译本，“那天下午，我发痴似的，车来了，在车上读，到了家中，把晚饭吞下去，就靠在床上读，一直读到天明，走马观花地总算看完了。这50年中，我总是看了又看，除了《儒林外史》、《红楼梦》，没有其他的书这么吸引我了。”我国著名文学家郁达夫也曾评价房龙的作品说：“房龙的笔，有一种魔力……是将文学家的手法，拿来用以讲述科学……无论大人小孩，读他书的人都觉得娓娓忘倦了。”

房龙作品在我国至今仍然畅销不衰。显然，对于我国学习英语的广大读者来说，亲切而不失幽默，同时又饱含人文气息的房龙作品原著是难得的阅读文本。因此，我们在推出这套房龙作品的英文原著时，为了有助于读者了解书中的内容，特意采用了中文导读的形式，对全书各章内容进行了简要介绍，希望对读者有所裨益。

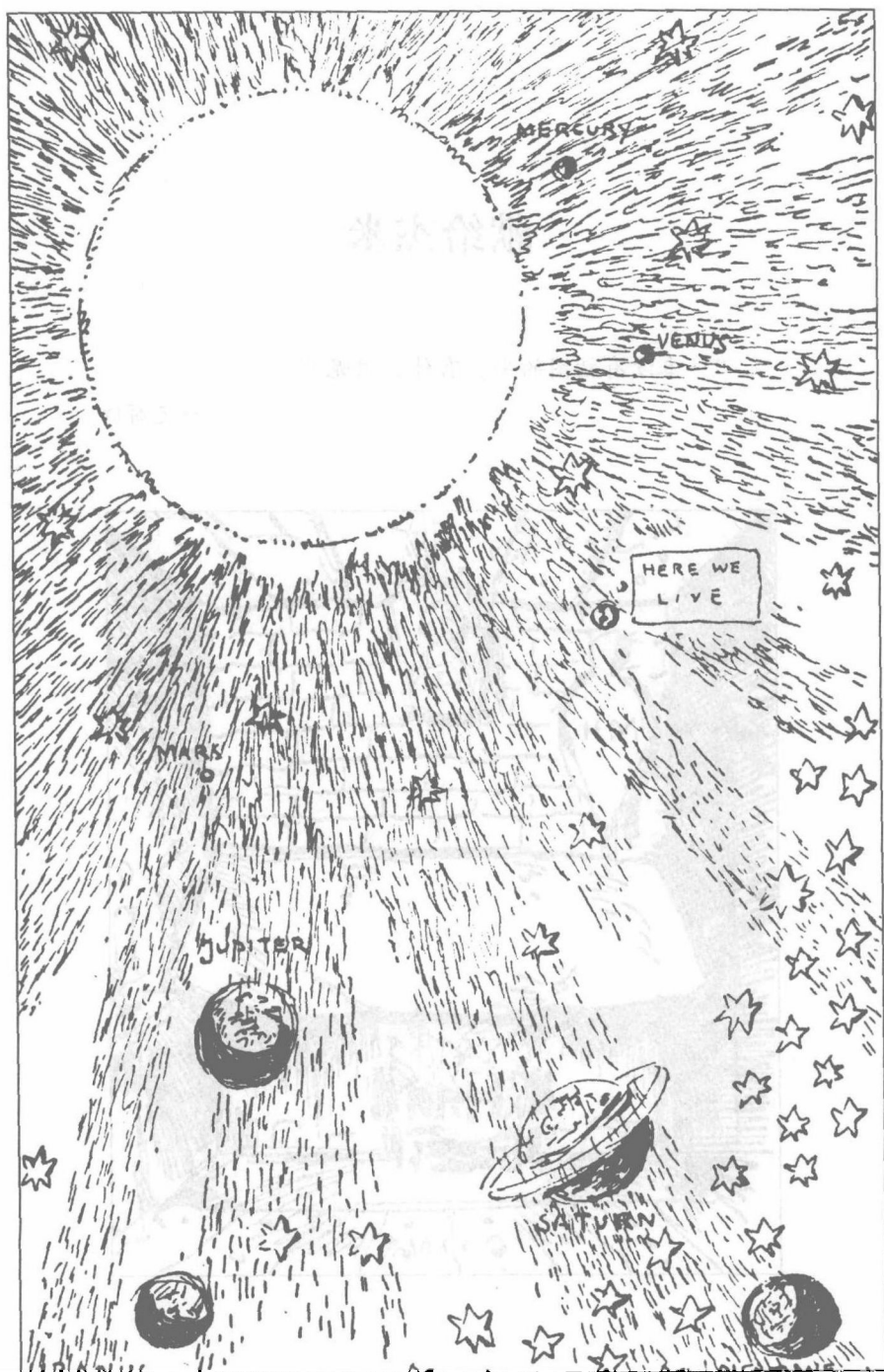
参与本书中文导读故事素材搜集整理的有李少龙、李平、吴平、康健、赵悦、张岩、杨滢、殷俊、赵永安、孙晔等。由于我们水平有限，错误在所难免，希望读者朋友不吝指正。

献给杰米

“一本没有插图的书，有什么用呢？”

——艾丽丝





我们的历史发生在浩瀚宇宙中一个小小的星球上

Russia, changed this attitude of contempt into one of fear. The internal affairs of Prussia were arranged so skillfully that the subjects had less reason for complaint than elsewhere. The treasury showed an annual surplus instead of a deficit. Torture was abolished. The judiciary system was improved. Good roads and good schools and good universities, together with a scrupulously honest administration, made the people feel that whatever services were demanded of them, they (to speak the vernacular) got their money's worth.

After having been for several centuries the battle field of the French and the Austrians and the Swedes and the Danes and the Poles, Germany, encouraged by the example of Prussia, began to regain self-confidence. And this was the work of the little old man, with his hook-nose and his old uniforms covered with snuff, who said very funny but very unpleasant things about his neighbours, and who played the scandalous game of eighteenth century diplomacy without any regard for the truth, provided he could gain something by his lies. This in spite of his book, "Anti-Machiavelli." In the year 1786 the end came. His friends were all gone. Children he had never had. He died alone, tended by a single servant and his faithful dogs, whom he loved better than human beings because, as he said, they were never ungrateful and remained true to their friends.

50 重商主义

THE MERCANTILE SYSTEM

HOW THE NEWLY FOUNDED NATIONAL OR DYNASTIC STATES
OF EUROPE TRIED TO MAKE THEMSELVES RICH AND WHAT WAS
MEANT BY THE MERCANTILE SYSTEM



在中世纪，金银是稀有商品。美洲的发现及秘鲁银矿的开发改变了这一切。贸易中心从地中海转移到了大西洋沿岸。古代的意大利“商业城市”失去了金融上的重要地位。新兴的“商业国家”取而代之，金银也不再是稀罕物。

16 世纪出现的政治经济学家提出了一套国家财政理论。他们认为，金银都是实实在在的财富，因此哪个国家的国库和银行有最多的实际现金储备，它便是最富有的国家。既然金钱意味着军队，那么最富有的国家也就是最强大的，可以统治世界其他地方。这种理论就是“重商主义”。它被人们毫无怀疑地接受了。

在实践中，重商主义是这样推理的：一个国家要想获得最大的贵重金属储备，必须有对外贸易顺差。如果你对邻国的出口超过了他对你的出口，那么它就欠你钱，必须以黄金还债。于是，你会有盈余，邻国则亏损。这一规律的结果是，17 世纪每个国家的经济纲领几乎无一例外地遵循着同样的原则。

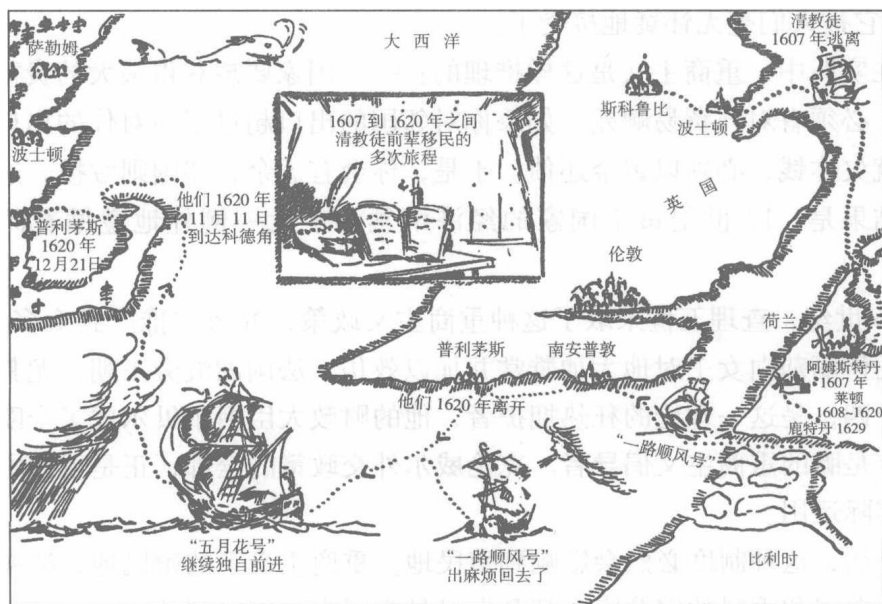
16 世纪，查理五世采取了这种重商主义政策，并将它推广到众多属地。英国的伊丽莎白女王对他大加赞赏并加以效仿。法国的波旁王朝，尤其国王路易十四，是这一理论的狂热拥护者，他的财政大臣柯尔贝尔成了全欧洲唯其马首是瞻的重商主义倡导者。克伦威尔外交政策的全部，正是重商主义体系的实际运用。

显然，这种制度必然会影响到殖民地。重商主义下的殖民地，纯粹成了黄金、白银和香料的储藏库，其开发只是为了宗主国的利益。

重商主义的作用是推动了一些过去本没有任何制造业的国家新兴工业的

巨大发展，改善了交通，提高了商人的社会地位，同时也削弱了贵族的势力。但另一方面，它也造成了巨大的灾难。它使殖民地人民成为最无耻剥削的牺牲品，使宗主国居民遭受到更可怕的命运。它在很大程度上将每个国家变成了军营，它们为了自己的直接利益而行事。由于它如此强调拥有财富的重要性，以至于“发财致富”成了普通市民的唯一美德。

WE have seen how, during the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries, the states of our modern world began to take shape. Their origins were different in almost every case. Some had been the result of the deliberate effort of a single king. Others had happened by chance. Still others had been the result of favourable natural geographic boundaries. But once they had been founded, they had all of them tried to strengthen their internal administration and to exert the greatest possible influence upon foreign affairs. All this of course had cost a great deal of money. The mediæval state with its lack of centralised power did not depend upon a rich treasury. The king got his revenues from the crown domains and his civil service paid for itself. The modern centralised state was a more complicated affair. The old knights disappeared and hired government officials or bureaucrats took their place. Army, navy, and internal administration demanded millions. The question then became—where was this money to be found?



□ 清教徒前辈移民的旅程

Gold and silver had been a rare commodity in the middle ages. The average man, as I have told you, never saw a gold piece as long as he lived. Only the inhabitants of the large cities were familiar with silver coin. The discovery of America and the exploitation of the Peruvian mines changed all this. The centre of trade was transferred from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic seaboard. The old “Commercial cities” of Italy lost their financial importance. New “commercial nations” took their place and gold and silver were no longer a curiosity.

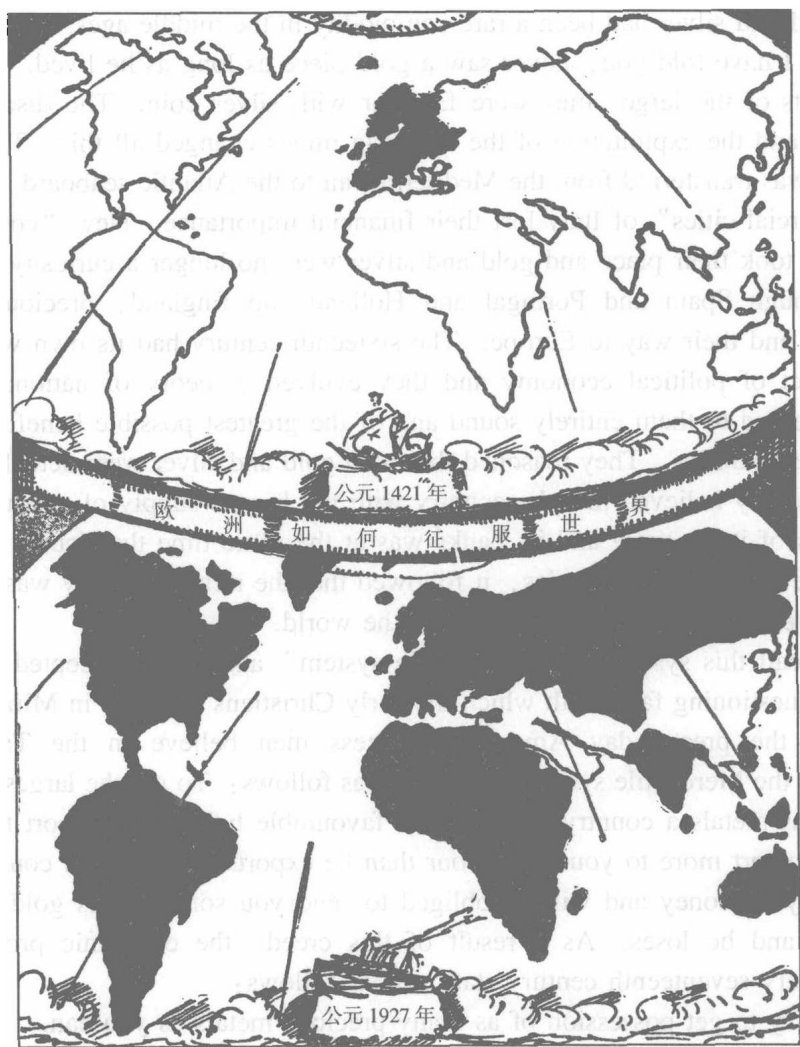
Through Spain and Portugal and Holland and England, precious metals began to find their way to Europe. The sixteenth century had its own writers on the subject of political economy and they evolved a theory of national wealth which seemed to them entirely sound and of the greatest possible benefit to their respective countries. They reasoned that both gold and silver were actual wealth. Therefore they believed that the country with the largest supply of actual cash in the vaults of its treasury and its banks was at the same time the richest country. And since money meant armies, it followed that the richest country was also the most powerful and could rule the rest of the world.

We call this system the “mercantile system” and it was accepted with the same unquestioning faith with which the early Christians believed in Miracles and many of the present-day American business men believe in the Tariff. In practice, the Mercantile system worked out as follows: To get the largest surplus of precious metals a country must have a favourable balance of export trade. If you can export more to your neighbour than he exports to your own country, he will owe you money and will be obliged to send you some of his gold. Hence you gain and he loses. As a result of this creed, the economic program of almost every seventeenth century state was as follows:

1. Try to get possession of as many precious metals as you can.
2. Encourage foreign trade in preference to domestic trade.
3. Encourage those industries which change raw materials into exportable finished products.
4. Encourage a large population, for you will need workmen for your factories and an agricultural community does not raise enough workmen.
5. Let the State watch this process and interfere whenever it is necessary to do so.

Instead of regarding International Trade as something akin to a force of nature which would always obey certain natural laws regardless of man's interference, the people of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries tried to regulate their commerce by the help of official decrees and royal laws and financial help on the part of the government.

In the sixteenth century Charles V adopted this Mercantile System (which



□ 欧洲如何征服世界

was then something entirely new) and introduced it into his many possessions. Elizabeth of England flattered him by her imitation. The Bourbons, especially King Louis XIV, were fanatical adherents of this doctrine and Colbert, his great minister of finance, became the prophet of Mercantilism to whom all Europe looked for guidance.

The entire foreign policy of Cromwell was a practical application of the Mercantile System. It was invariably directed against the rich rival Republic of Holland. For the Dutch shippers, as the common-carriers of the merchandise of Europe, had certain leanings towards free-trade and therefore had to be destroyed at all cost.

It will be easily understood how such a system must affect the colonies. A colony under the Mercantile System became merely a reservoir of gold and silver and spices, which was to be tapped for the benefit of the home country. The Asiatic, American and African supply of precious metals and the raw materials of these tropical countries became a monopoly of the state which

happened to own that particular colony. No outsider was ever allowed within the precincts and no native was permitted to trade with a merchant whose ship flew a foreign flag.

Undoubtedly the Mercantile System encouraged the development of young industries in certain countries where there never had been any manufacturing before. It built roads and dug canals and made for better means of transportation. It demanded greater skill among the workmen and gave the merchant a better social position, while it weakened the power of the landed aristocracy.

On the other hand, it caused very great misery. It made the natives in the colonies the victims of a most shameless exploitation. It exposed the citizens of the home country to an even more terrible fate. It helped in a great measure to turn every land into an armed camp and divided the world into little bits of territory, each working for its own direct benefit, while striving at all times to destroy the power of its neighbours and get hold of their treasures. It laid so much stress upon the importance of owning wealth that "being rich" came to be regarded as the sole virtue of the average citizen. Economic systems come and go like the fashions in surgery and in the clothes of women, and during the nineteenth century the Mercantile System was discarded in favor of a system of free and open competition. At least, so I have been told.



□ 海上勢力

51 美国革命

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

AT THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY EUROPE HEARD STRANGE REPORTS OF SOMETHING WHICH HAD HAPPENED IN THE WILDERNESS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT. THE DESCENDANTS OF THE MEN WHO HAD PUNISHED KING CHARLES FOR HIS INSISTENCE UPON HIS "DIVINE RIGHTS" ADDED A NEW CHAPTER TO THE OLD STORY OF THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT



当西班牙和葡萄牙两国在印度洋及太平洋上探索时，荷兰和英国尚未进入这片领域。但是，由于最早的西班牙和葡萄牙航行者经常冒犯亚洲、美洲和非洲的土著人，所以当英国人和荷兰人来到这些地方时，反而被土著人视为朋友和解救者而受到欢迎。结果，英国和荷兰取代了西班牙和葡萄牙。然后，英国又凭借强大的海军赶走了荷兰。这时，英国和法国在北美大陆成为主要对手，军事力量更强大的英国舰队最终击败了法国海军，法国被迫分割了殖民地，损失了大部分土地，整个北美大陆均落入了英国手中。

北美大陆英属殖民地是来自英格兰的异教徒的避难港湾，人们聚集在这里安置新家，远离王权的监控和干涉，生活在更加幸福祥和的氛围中。他们想成为自己的主人。但英国统治阶级似乎不理解这一点。英国政府和殖民者之间的感情变得越来越糟糕。

当和平谈判无济于事时，殖民者们最终拿起了武器。战争持续了7年之久。大部分时间里，人们都怀疑反抗者们能否取得最终胜利，但是伟大人物华盛顿捍卫了殖民者的事业。每当面临似乎不可避免的失败时，他的战略一次又一次地扭转了战局。他的士兵通常填不饱肚子，冬天缺衣少鞋，但他们对伟大领袖的信任绝不动摇，直到取得胜利的最后一刻。

1776年6月，弗吉尼亚州的理查德·亨利·李向大陆会议提出一项议

案：“联合殖民地从此成为而且理应成为自由独立之邦；他们无须继续效忠于英王；并且他们与大不列颠王国间一切政治联系也应完全解除。”约翰·亚当斯支持了这项提议，并于7月2日起开始实施。紧接着，7月4日公布官方的《独立宣言》，它是托马斯·杰斐逊的杰作。

美国殖民者的胜利证明，很多被认为不可能发生的事情都有发生的可能。很快，莱克星顿的枪声就穿越了大西洋，来到欧洲的火药库，并在法国引发了一场大爆炸，震惊了整个欧洲大陆。

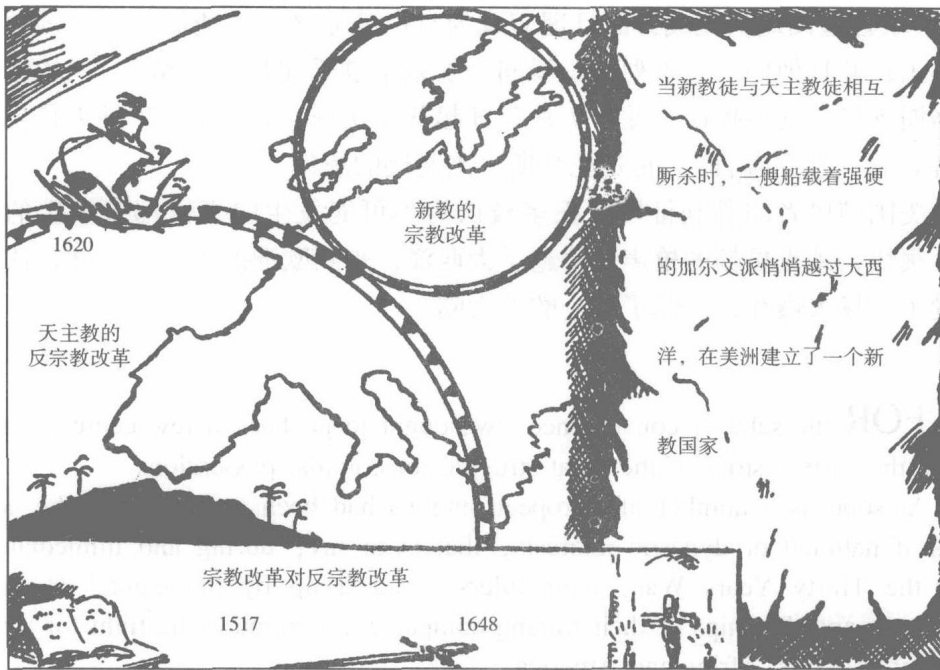
FOR the sake of convenience, we ought to go back a few centuries and repeat the early history of the great struggle for colonial possessions.

As soon as a number of European nations had been created upon the new basis of national or dynastic interests, that is to say, during and immediately after the Thirty Years War, their rulers, backed up by the capital of their merchants and the ships of their trading companies, continued the fight for more territory in Asia, Africa and America.

The Spaniards and the Portuguese had been exploring the Indian Sea and the Pacific Ocean for more than a century ere Holland and England appeared upon the stage. This proved an advantage to the latter. The first rough work had already been done. What is more, the earliest navigators had so often made themselves unpopular with the Asiatic and American and African natives that both the English and the Dutch were welcomed as friends and deliverers. We cannot claim any superior virtues for either of these two races. But they were merchants before everything else. They never allowed religious considerations to interfere with their practical common sense. During their first relations with weaker races, all European nations have behaved with shocking brutality. The English and the Dutch, however, knew better



□ 为自由而战



· 清教徒前辈移民

where to draw the line. Provided they got their spices and their gold and silver and their taxes, they were willing to let the native live as it best pleased him.

It was not very difficult for them therefore to establish themselves in the richest parts of the world. But as soon as this had been accomplished, they began to fight each other for still further possessions. Strangely enough, the colonial wars were never settled in the colonies themselves. They were decided three thousand miles away by the navies of the contending countries. It is one of the most interesting principles of ancient and modern warfare (one of the few reliable laws of history) that "the nation which commands the sea is also the nation which commands the land." So far this law has never failed to work, but the modern airplane may have changed it. In the eighteenth century, however, there were no flying machines and it was the British navy which gained for England her vast American and Indian and African colonies.

The series of naval wars between England and Holland in the seventeenth century does not interest us here. It ended as all such encounters between hopelessly ill-matched powers will end. But the warfare between England and France (her other rival) is of greater importance to us, for while the superior British fleet in the end defeated the French navy, a great deal of the preliminary fighting was done on our own American continent. In this vast country, both France and England claimed everything which had been discovered and a lot more

which the eye of no white man had ever seen. In 1497 Cabot had landed in the northern part of America and twenty-seven years later, Giovanni Verrazano had visited these coasts. Cabot had flown the English flag. Verrazano had sailed under the French flag. Hence both England and France proclaimed themselves the owners of the entire continent.



在“五月花号”的船舱里

During the seventeenth century, some ten small English colonies had been founded between Maine and the Carolinas. They were usually a haven of refuge for some particular sect of English dissenters, such as the Puritans, who in the year 1620 went to New England, or the Quakers, who settled in Pennsylvania in 1681. They were small frontier communities, nestling close to the shores of the ocean, where people had gathered to make a new home and begin life among happier surroundings, far away from royal supervision and interference.

The French colonies, on the other hand, always remained a possession of the crown. No Huguenots or Protestants were allowed in these colonies for fear that they might contaminate the Indians with their dangerous Protestant doctrines and would perhaps interfere with the missionary work of the Jesuit fathers. The English colonies, therefore, had been founded upon a much healthier basis than their French neighbours and rivals. They were an expression of the commercial energy of the English middle classes, while the French settlements were inhabited by people who had crossed the ocean as servants of the king and who expected to return to Paris at the first possible chance.

Politically, however, the position of the English colonies was far from satisfactory. The French had discovered the mouth of the Saint Lawrence in the sixteenth century. From the region of the Great Lakes they had worked their way southward, had descended the Mississippi and had built several fortifications along the Gulf of Mexico. After a century of exploration, a line of sixty French forts cut off the English settlements along the Atlantic seaboard from the interior.

The English land grants, made to the different colonial companies had given them “all land from sea to sea.” This sounded well on paper, but in practice, British territory ended where the line of French fortifications began. To break