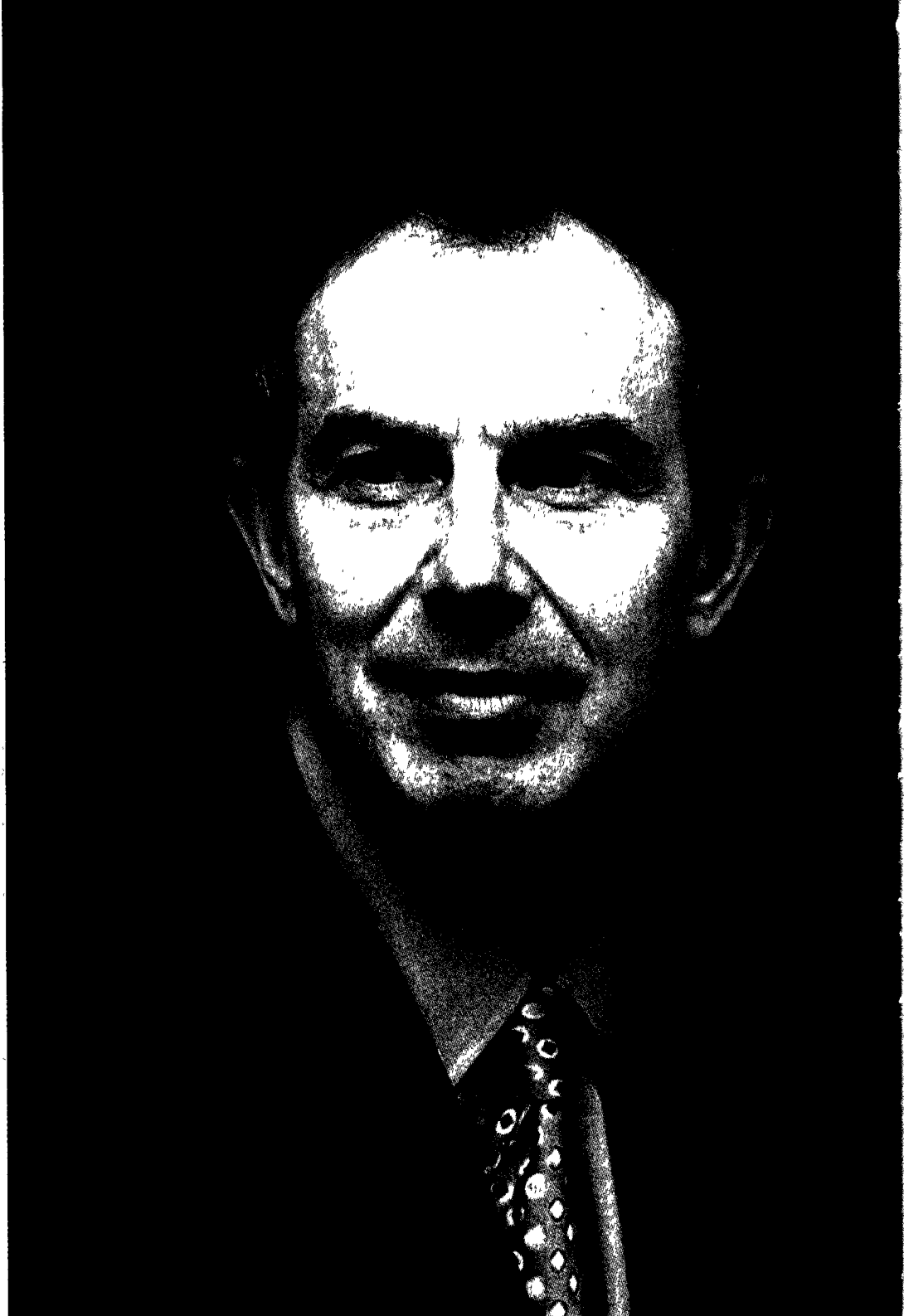

高端人物 TOP(1)
TONY BLAIR——布莱尔


Tony
BLAIR



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Tony BLAIR

Thomas M. Collins





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电　话 / (010)68359376　68359303 68359101 68357937
邮　编 / 100044
传　真 / (010)68357870
电子邮箱 / ctpc@public.bta.net.cn
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序言

《高端人物》丛书是在全社会学好外语迎奥运的热潮中从美国引进的人物传记系列丛书。该套图书主要针对高中及大学在校生以及同等水平的英语爱好者。

2005年我国大学英语四六级考试进行了重大改革，改革为大学英语教学提出了一个明确的思路：教师和学生要从应试教学和学习向提高英语基础素质和应用能力方向转变。英语学习图书市场也悄然发生了变化：考试类图书出版趋于理性和谨慎；而有助于提高学生英语应用能力的阅读类、听力类、口语类、写作类等图书渐渐热销起来；还有一个重要的变化是，读原汁原味的原版外语读物渐成趋势并成为迅速提高阅读能力的一个有效途径。

我认为该系列丛书有四个方面的明显特点，值得大家一读。

一、原汁原味，质量可靠

本丛书是国内同类阅读读物中为数不多的原版引进图书。作为多年的美国教学辅助读物，其选材精细、内容成熟、编写严谨、质量可靠。特别是引进后的图书，完整保持了原汁原味的美语风格，使读者能够与全真的英文零距离接触，有助于同学们通过阅读改变语言思维习惯，迅速提高英文阅读能力。

二、在学习英语的同时了解西方历史和文化

本丛书选取的是8位当代西方国家著名人物的传记，他们的成长历程，（如：普京、布莱尔，从一个平民孩子到一个大国领袖；罗琳，从一个贫困潦倒的女作家到当今世界上最成功的女人之一等）为我们了解西方的政治背景和社会环境提供了一个窗口。

三、对疑难词句进行了注解

本系列丛书，对疑难词句进行了认真的注解，并针对书中的内容设置了问题，提供了答案。使同学们在时间充裕的情况下可以进行精读；也有助于单词量偏低的同学阅读顺畅。

四、有同步听力素材，免费下载

我们还邀请美籍专家对精彩片段进行了录音，配套的音频产品可以在网上免费下载。这是英语阅读类图书中的一个创举，有利于同学们阅读与听力同步提高，互相促进。

《高端人物》丛书，语言纯正，是集阅读、听力为一体的不可多得的好书，将对学习英语的青少年朋友们大有裨益。

2006年5月

北外松园

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第一章

2003年3月18日，星期二，伦敦《晨报》上的大标题醒目地告诉人们世界上所发生的重大事件。“美国总统布什向萨达姆发出最后通牒。”“联合国召回武器核查人员。”“法国、俄罗斯和德国反对对伊拉克使用武力。”

那么英国将何去何从呢？英国首相布莱尔在唐宁街首相官邸的一间书房里思考着，准备他将在议会作的发言。这将是一个是否把英国推向战争的发言。

Chapter **ONE**

SUMMONS TO WAR

Tuesday, March 18, 2003. The morning headlines in London, England, tell the story of the day: "George Bush Offers Saddam Hussein[1] Exile[2] or Destruction," "UN Pulls Out Weapons Inspectors," "France, Russia, and Germany Oppose the Use of Force."

A cold wind blows up and down tiny, tucked-away[3] Downing Street[4], home of Great Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair[5]. On this raw spring morning, he sits in a small den[6] in his official home as he makes the final changes to the speech he is about to give. It is the most serious speech that a head of state can give — a summons to war[7].

Millions of Britons in all of England's major cities and other citizens in cities all over the world have been in the

streets protesting the war that many fear is to come. At times it seems that Tony Blair and George Bush, president of the United States, are the only people on the planet who are willing to go to war with Iraq. Certainly, Prime Minister Blair's own Labour Party[8] is up in arms. While Blair is popular for winning elections for Labour, he is denounced for leading the charge to war. Three ministers have resigned from his government, and more than one hundred Labour members of Parliament[9] are sure to vote against him on this day.

It will require every ounce[10] of his powers of persuasion for Blair to convince enough of his Labour allies of the need for war to win the majority vote. His traditional political enemies, the Conservatives[11], actually support him on this issue.

Blair had written most of the speech a few days before, sitting in another small room upstairs, surrounded by books on Islam[12] (the main religion in Iraq) — and by John Lennon[13] CDs. The main points of his argument he can scribble on the back of an envelope. They spring from that terrible day in the United States — September 11, 2001 — when nineteen al-Qaeda[14] terrorists hijacked[15] passenger airplanes and crashed them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon[16] in Washington, D. C., launching a global conflict of a kind the world had never known before.

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Blair outlined his main points:

- Saddam Hussein, the leader of Iraq, was a past, present, and future threat. Blair and former U. S. president Bill Clinton had controlled his actions for years with air strikes against Iraqi military targets.
- The United States and Great Britain were among Saddam's enemies.
- The people of the United States were ready to follow President Bush into war against Saddam. It was going to happen regardless of what anyone did or said.
- The people of Great Britain and the rest of Europe would not support the United States unless the United Nations — an international body set up after World War II (1939-1945) to promote world peace — played an important role in the process.
- And finally, it would be better for the world if the United States had international support and did not go to war alone.

These were the reasons the stakes[17] were so high. Yet, while the aims of the two world leaders, Bush and Blair, seemed the same, they were quite different. The Bush ad-

ministration was focusing on the removal of Saddam from power in Iraq. Blair was committed to using military power to create a world based on international cooperation, not war. The power would be used to encourage nations to work together for the betterment of all communities and individuals. Somehow, Prime Minister Blair has to make this clear to the House of Commons[18] and to the U.S. president.

On March 18, 2003, Blair steps into the chamber[19] of the House of Commons and takes his place in the front row of the Labour benches facing the opposition, the Conservatives. It is two o'clock in the afternoon. The room is jammed, and the air charged with electricity and deep emotion. Tony Blair readies himself for his moment in history. As he rises, the fate of nations — and of innocent individuals — hangs in the balance.

CHAPTER ONE

1 Saddam Hussein —— 萨达姆·侯赛因
2 exile —— 离开本国
3 tuck-away —— 席卷
4 Downing Street —— 唐宁街（英国首相官邸及若干政府主要部门所在地）
5 Tony Blair —— 托尼·布莱尔
6 den —— 书斋
7 summon to war —— 唤起战争
8 Labour Party —— 工党
9 Parliament —— 议会
10 ounce —— 盎司，少量；一分（力量）
11 Conservative —— 保守党人
12 Islam —— 伊斯兰
13 John Lennon —— 约翰·列农
14 al-Qaeda ——基地组织
15 hijack —— 绑架
16 the Pentagon —— 五角大楼（美国国防部）
17 stake —— 赌注
18 House of Commons —— 下议院
19 chamber —— 议院

QUESTIONS

1 Where is Britain's Prime Minister's home?
2 What was his own Labour Party's attitude to the war?
3 What was his traditional political enemies, the Conservatives' attitude?
4 When did Blair make the speech to the House of Commons?
5 What was Blair's decision?

第二章

1953年5月6日的早晨，布莱尔出生在苏格兰。

父亲利奥·布莱尔曾参加过二战，并官至中尉，战后在税务机关工作。但他并不满足于现状，利用业余时间在大学里攻读法律。他希望将来从政，并作为保守党的候选人竞选议会议员。

Chapter **TWO**

A Middle-Class Childhood

Anthony Charles Lynton (Tony) Blair was born early on the morning of May 6, 1953, in Edinburgh[1], Scotland[2]. He was the second child and second son of Leo and Hazel Blair.

Leo Blair had been raised by foster[3] parents, shipyard worker James Blair and his wife, Mary, in working-class Glasgow, Scotland. His birth parents were young actors unable to care for him.

Leo Blair joined the army in 1942 and rose to the rank of lieutenant[4]. In 1948 he married Hazel Corscaden from Ballyshannon[5], Ireland[6]. Their first child William was born in 1950.

At the time of Tony's birth, his father was a tax official. At night Leo studied law at Edinburgh University.

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