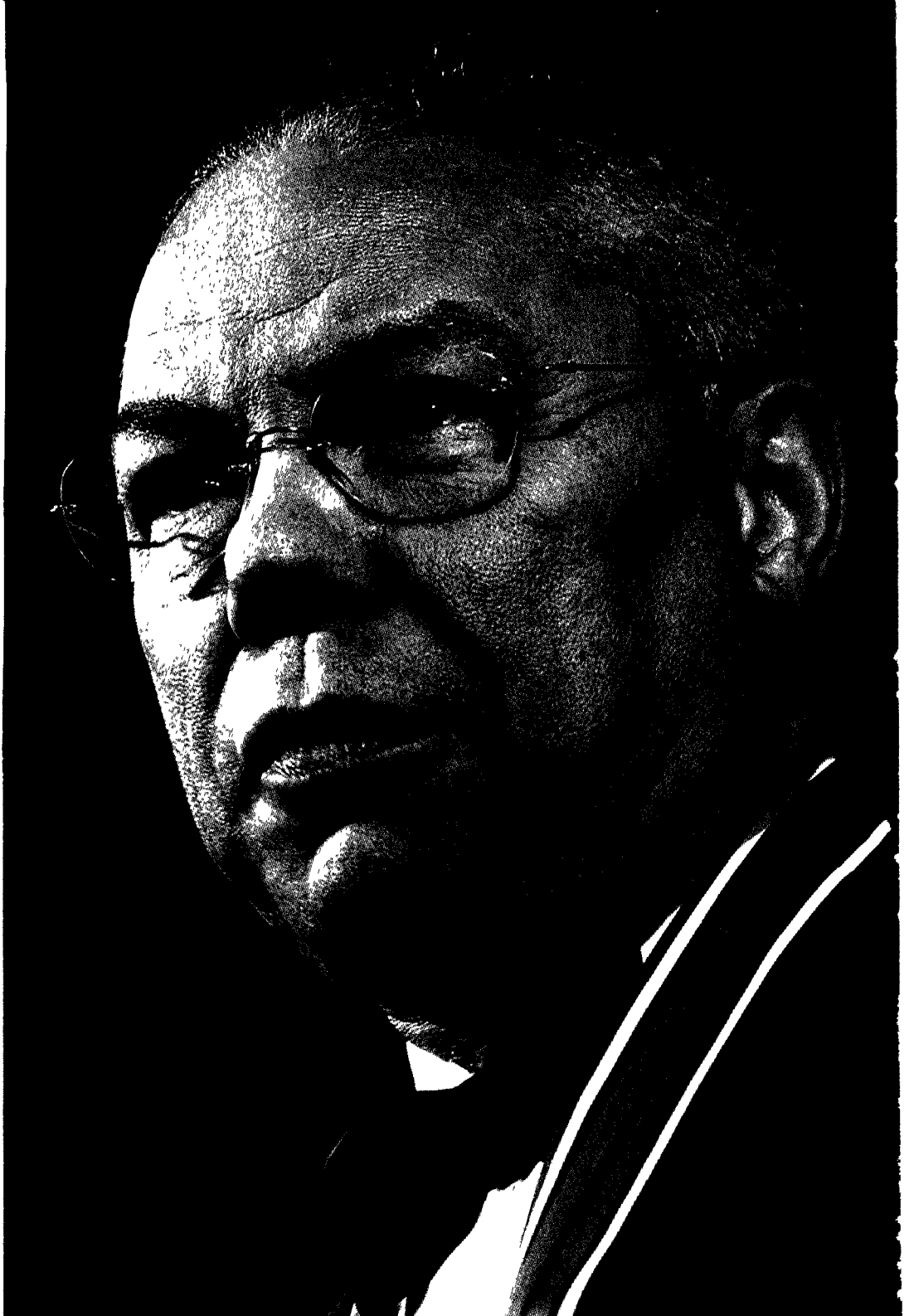

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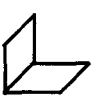


Biography

Colin POWELL

Reggie Finlayson





Lerner Publications Company
Minneapolis

图书在版编目（CIP）数据

科林·鲍威尔=Colin Powell /（美）范雷森（Finlayson, R.）著. —北京：中国对外翻译出版公司，2006.7（高端人物，4. 第Ⅱ辑）
ISBN 7-5001-1638-1

Ⅰ. 科... Ⅱ. 范... Ⅲ. ①英语—语言读物 ②鲍威尔，C. —生平事迹 Ⅳ. H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字（2006）第 080539 号

（著作权合同登记：图字 01-2006-568 号）
Colin Powell by Reggie Finlayson. Copyright © 2004 by Reggie Finlayson.
Published by arrangement with Twenty-First Century Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group, 241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401,U.S.A.
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出版发行 / 中国对外翻译出版公司
地　址 / 北京市西城区车公庄大街甲 4 号物华大厦六层
电　话 / (010)68359376　68359303 68359101 68357937
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网　址 / http://www.ctpc.com.cn

责任编辑 / 王晓颖
封面设计 / 李宇师

印　刷 / 河北天普润印刷厂
经　销 / 新华书店

规　格 / 880 × 1230 毫米　1/32
印　张 / 16
字　数 / 200 千字
版　次 / 2006 年 8 月第一版
印　次 / 2006 年 8 月第一次
印　数 / 1-8000

ISBN 7-5001-1638-1　定价：50.00 元

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中国对外翻译出版公司

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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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UNITED STAT

前言

1950年的夏天，13岁的鲍威尔，一个牙买加黑人移民家庭的儿子，被神父选中去参加由教会组织的在纽约郊外的夏令营。这无论对鲍威尔还是对全家都是份特殊的荣誉。

但13岁的鲍威尔那时还很难把握住自己。他和一些孩子们把啤酒偷偷地带入营地，藏在卫生间抽水马桶的水箱里。事情很快败露。

INTRODUCTION

ORDINARY OR EXTRAORDINARY?

It was the summer of 1950. Thirteen-year-old Colin Powell[1], the son of Jamaican[2] immigrants[3], had received a special honor. His family's priest, Father Weeden[4], had chosen Colin to attend a church camp near Peekskill, New York. There were just a few openings at the camp, so the selection was an honor and a source of pride for Colin and his parents.

Besides that, the camp offered an inviting change of pace from Colin's day-to-day life. He lived in the South Bronx — a loud, bustling[5], diverse[6] neighborhood in New York City. The streets there were lined with old apartment houses and family-owned shops. Colin and his friends usually spent their summers playing in the streets, amid the crowded brick buildings and sounds of honking car horns. Colin was black, as were many of his friends. But other friends were Puerto Rican[7], Jewish, Italian, and Hungarian[8]. Many neighborhood families, like Colin's, had immigrated to the United States earlier in the century.

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Who Will Own Up Like a Man?

The summer camp was about an hour's drive north of New York in a quiet country setting. Colin was excited to leave New York City for the green, woodsy[9] camp. But shortly after arriving, he fell in with a bad group of boys. One night the boys smuggled beer into the camp. They didn't think anyone had seen them as they returned with all the stealth of Army Rangers[10]. They confidently hid the cans of beer in a toilet tank to cool. Then they returned to the other campers.

The boys thought they were home free and felt triumphant as they mingled[11] with the other campers. Each wore a smile of satisfaction, thinking they had a winning plan. But they weren't as smart as they thought. It wasn't long before the priest in charge found the beer and summoned all the campers to the meeting hall.

He surveyed the young audience coolly before announcing his discovery. Backs stiffened throughout the hall as the boys considered the harsh discipline likely to flow from this incident. They silently braced[12] themselves for the expected storm of words. But the priest didn't threaten. He didn't even preach. He spoke in a quiet, firm voice: "Who will own up[13] like a man?" he asked. The words hung in the air like breath on a cold day.

Was that it? Colin wondered. The possibilities flashed in



Summer camp offered a refreshing change for city boys like Colin.

his mind. He was sure no one had seen them. No one else knew who was guilty. All the boys had to do was keep quiet. Colin certainly didn't want to suffer the shame of getting caught. More than that, he had no wish to suffer his father's disapproval.

Just keep quiet, he thought to himself. But even as he

thought it, the priest's words echoed in his mind with increasing volume. Who will own up like a man? Who will own up like a man? Suddenly, things seemed very clear for Colin. Without further hesitation, he rose and said: "Father, I did it." Then, two other boys surprised him. They stood to admit their part in the deed, refusing to let him take the blame alone.

Justice was swift. The priest put the humiliated[14] boys on the next train back to New York City. It was a long and sad journey. But the worst part for Colin was the walk to his house at 952 Kelly Street. The buildings seemed to press in on him. His shoulders ached. But that was just the beginning.

Bad news travels fast, and Colin's disgrace was on everyone's lips when he entered the family home. His mother, Arie Powell[15], spoke first. Her sharp questions cut deeper with each pass. Then his father, Luther Powell, joined in with his own angry words. Colin could not help feeling ashamed. It seemed like he would carry the mark of a hoodlum or thug from that time forward.

Just then the telephone rang. It was Father Weeden calling for Mr. Powell. Colin watched as his father's grim face softened and even became friendly. He saw a reaction that gave him hope. Later, his father repeated the priest's words. It was true that the boys had behaved badly, Father Weeden said. "But your Colin stood up and took



Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, President George W Bush, center, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, right, listen attentively during a meeting on international affairs.

responsibility. And his example spurred[16] the other boys to admit their guilt." His parents beamed[17]. They were again proud of their son. Colin had not only shown integrity[18], but he also seemed to bring that trait out in others. He was, according to his father and mother, a real Powell.

Years later, as an adult, Colin Powell often recalled the incident. Sometimes it made him laugh to remember his mistake. Other times he thought about the mark the event

had left on him. He had learned about honesty that summer. Honesty wasn't just something he talked about after that. It was something he tried to live by.

An American Journey

Young Colin Powell was not an exceptional student or an exceptional athlete. For many years, he showed no signs of greatness. He was a black child from an immigrant family, growing up during a time when blacks in the United States were often viewed as second-class citizens. His family did not have much money. They could not send him to fancy schools. Few people expected Colin Powell to do anything out of the ordinary.

But inside this seemingly average young man, there were qualities — such as the honesty, integrity, and courage that he had demonstrated at summer camp — that would make young Powell a great leader one day. Eventually, the whole world would see those traits very clearly.

By the early twenty-first century, Colin Powell was anything but ordinary. In the half century since his unexceptional childhood, he had risen through the ranks of the military and government. Finally he held one of the most important jobs in the world: secretary of state of the United States of America. In this position, Powell represented the United States to all the nations of the globe. The U.S. president relied on Powell's opinions when making crucial deci-

sions on international affairs. Other world leaders clamored to meet with him. They paid careful attention to his words and ideas. They knew that his views and his opinions could change the course of history.

How did Colin Powell, a boy from the gritty South Bronx streets, become one of the most powerful people in the world? How did he become one of the most admired and respected Americans in public life? What is his story? In his autobiography[19], *My American Journey*, Colin Powell answers the questions this way: "[Mine] is a story of hard work and good luck, of occasional rough times... It is a story of faith — faith in myself, and faith in America. Above all, it's a love story: love of family, of friends, of the Army, and of my country. It is a story that could only have happened in America."

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