

199 THINGS EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD KNOW

美国历史常识199

(英汉对照)

American Heritage Magazine

张宏 汪春 [译注]

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2



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INTRODUCTION

John A. Garraty

How precise is the educated American's understanding of the history of our country? I don't mean exact knowledge of minor dates, or small details about the terms of laws, or questions like 'Who was secretary of war in 1851?' (Answer: Charles M. Conrad.) But just how well does the average person remember the important facts—the laws, treaties, people, and events that should be familiar to everyone?

What follows is not a test; nor are these items necessarily the most important things to know about American history. But these are all things an American-educated person might reasonably be expected to be familiar with. Most of them can be found in my college textbook *The American Nation* or in any similar work. A good secondary school teacher might mention any of them in the course of a lecture or class discussion.

If you have never heard of most of these items, either you have a particularly poor memory or teachers like me

have not accomplished what we set out to do. On the other hand, if you already know that, in addition to being President Millard Fillmore's secretary of war, Charles M. Conrad killed a man in a duel (according to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, he was "very intense in his convictions and tenaciously persistent in support of whatever cause he espoused") and served at various times in both houses of the United States Congress and in the Confederate Congress, you don't have to read another word: you know about everything I have to say here—and a lot more. But for the majority of readers, here are 199 things you *should* know about American history.

John A. Garraty is Chairman of the Department of History at Columbia University and a contributing editor to *American Heritage* magazine. His most recent book, *1001 Things That Everyone Should Know About American History*, is published by Doubleday.

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前 言

约翰·A·加勒提

受过良好教育的美国人对这个国家历史的理解有多确切？我不是指对细小日期的确切了解，或是对法律条款细枝末节的知晓，或者知道诸如“1851 年时国防部长是谁？”（答案：查尔斯·M·康拉德）等问题的答案，而是指一般人对那些应该家喻户晓的，诸如法律、条约、人物及事件等重要事实的熟悉程度。

本书内容并非一项测验，这些条目亦未必是关于美国历史所应知道的最重要的东西。但它们都是受过美国教育的人理应熟悉的知识。其中大部分都可在我写的大学课本《美国人民》或任何类似图书中找到。称职的中学教师也会在讲课过程或课堂讨论中提及这些内容。

你若从未听说过大部分条目的内容，要么是你的记忆力特别差，要么像我这样的教师未曾尽责。另一方面，若你早已知道上面问题的答案，查尔斯·M·康拉德除了担任过米拉德·菲尔莫尔总统的国防部长外，他还曾在—场决斗中杀死了一个人（据《美国人物辞典》记载，他“信念坚定，竭尽全力支持自己信奉的一切”。）并在不同时期担任过美国参众两院的议员及邦联议会议员，那么你不必再看下去：因为你已了解我在此

要讲的一切——或许更多。但对大多数读者而言,本书谈了人们应知晓的有关美国历史的 199 件事。

约翰·A·加勒提系哥伦比亚大学历史系主任,《美国传统》杂志的撰稿编辑。他的近作《美国历史常识 1001 条》由双日出版社出版。

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POLITICS MAKES GOOD SLOGANS

政治出口号

1.

TIPPECANOE AND TYLER TOO. Used by the Whig party in 1840, when William Henry Harrison^[1], the hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe, was the Whig presidential candidate, and John Tyler^[2] his running mate. The battle, fought in 1811 in Indiana, destroyed the Indian confederacy organized by Tecumseh^[3], a Shawnee chief, and his brother, Tenskwatawa, known as the Prophet.

选提普卡奴战役的英雄也选泰勒。1840 年辉格党使用的口号。其时提普卡奴战役的英雄威廉·亨利·哈里森是该党的总统候选人,约翰·泰勒为其竞选伙伴。1811 年在印第安

[1] 哈里森(1773—1841),美国第九任总统,曾任印第安那准州州长,英美战争中指挥美军作战,历任美国众议员、参议员等职,就任总统仅一个月即病逝。

[2] 泰勒(1790—1862),美国第十任总统,民主党人,任内改组美国海军,建立气象局,平息罗得岛的多尔叛乱,合并德克萨斯。

[3] 特库姆塞(1768—1813),北美肖尼印第安人酋长,组织印第安人联盟进行反对入侵白人的斗争,参加英美 1812 年战争,战败被杀。

那州进行的那场战斗摧毁了由肖尼印第安部落酋长特库姆塞和他兄弟、人称(肖尼人)“先知”的坦斯克瓦特瓦组织的印第安人联盟。

2.

54°40' OR FIGHT. A Democratic rallying cry in the 1844 presidential campaign, referring to the dispute over whether the United States or Great Britain owned the Pacific Northwest, which had been under joint control since 1818. American expansionists, led by the Democratic presidential candidate, James K. Polk^[1], demanded that the United States take over the entire region, which extended to 54°40' north latitude. In 1846 President Polk agreed to a compromise dividing the region at the 49th parallel.

要么以 54 度 40 分划界,要么打一仗。这是 1844 年总统竞选中民主党的一条争取人们支持的口号,指有关是美国还是英国拥有沿太平洋沿岸北部大陆西北部地区的争议。该地区自 1818 年起一直由两国共管。以民主党总统候选人詹姆斯·K·波尔克为首的美国扩张主义者要求由美国接管延伸至北纬 54 度 40 分的整个地区。1846 年,波尔克总统同意妥协,将该地区在北纬 49 度处划分。

[1] 波尔克(1795—1849),美国第十一任总统,任内通过沃尔沃克关税法案,促进美国对外贸易,发动墨西哥战争,兼并得克萨斯,向西部扩张领土。

3.

VOTE YOURSELF A FARM. Refers to the Republican party's promise in the 1860 campaign to give land in the West to anyone who would settle on it. Unlike so many campaign promises, this one was kept, by passage of the Homestead Act of 1862.

投我们一票,你就会有一个农庄。指在 1860 年总统竞选中共
和党关于给任何愿意在西部定居的人以土地的许诺。与众
多竞选许诺不同,这个诺言因 1862 年通过的《宅地法》而得
以兑现。

4.

DON'T SWAP HORSES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREAM.^[1] First used by Republicans to persuade voters to reelect Abraham Lincoln in 1864.



别在河中央换马。这一口号

支持胡佛的徽章,1932 年

最早由共和党用来劝说选民在 1864 年再次选举亚伯拉罕·林肯为总统。

[1] 英语习语,意为别中途更换领袖。

5.

WE DID NOT GO TO WAR. A phrase used by Martin Henry Glynn, a former governor of New York, in the keynote speech at the 1916 Democratic Convention, which nominated Woodrow Wilson for a second term. When it and other references to Wilson's success in maintaining neutrality drew thunderous applause, the Democrats decided to stress that argument in the fall campaign.

我们未曾卷入战争。纽约前州长马丁·亨利·格林在1916年民主党大会所作主题发言中用的一句话。这次大会提名伍德罗·威尔逊继任总统候选人。由于此话及其他提及威尔逊成功保持中立的话赢得了雷鸣般掌声，民主党决定在秋季的竞选活动中强调这一论点。

6.

EVERY MAN A KING. The slogan of the Louisiana senator Huey Long's Share Our Wealth movement during the Great Depression^[1]. Long proposed to confiscate all fortunes of more than five million dollars and all incomes of more than one million dollars, and to use the money to give every American family a house, a car, and an annual

[1] 大萧条,指1929年到约1939年发生在美国和其他国家的经济衰退。这是资本主义世界在20世纪经历的最大一次经济危机。

income of two thousand dollars or more.

人人皆国王。大萧条期间路易斯安那参议员休伊·朗领导的“共享我们的财富”运动的口号。朗建议没收超出 500 万美元以上的财产及 100 万美元以上的收入,并用这些钱给每个美国家庭一栋房子、一辆车及一笔 2000 美元或更多的年收入。

7.

A CHICKEN FOR EVERY POT. (And a car in every garage.) Used by the Republicans in the 1928 presidential campaign to suggest what they liked to call “Coolidge prosperity [1].”

锅锅有鸡。(户户有车。)共和党人在 1928 年总统竞选中用这句话来指他们所喜欢称道的“柯立芝繁荣”。

8.

HAD ENOUGH? The question was asked by the Republicans during 1946 congressional elections. After fourteen years of “Democratic rule,” the Republicans maintained, it was “time for a change.”

[1] 柯立芝繁荣,指美国第三十任总统柯立芝任内因实行不干涉工商业政策,一面减税,一面坚持高额保护关税,从而出现的美国经济繁荣的局面。

受够了？共和党人在 1946 年国会选举中问的问题。在“民主党统治”14 年后，共和党认为该是“换一换的时候”了。

9.

A CHOICE, NOT AN ECHO. The postwar rallying cry of conservative Republicans opposed to nominating Republicans who favored accepting most New Deal reforms. When, in 1964, the conservatives succeeded in nominating Barry Goldwater^[1] for President, they made wide use of the slogan “In your heart you know he’s right,” prompting Democrats to retort...

选择而非附和。第一次世界大战后共和党保守派反对提名赞成接受大部分(罗斯福)新政改革的共和党人的口号。1964 年,保守派成功地提名巴里·戈德华特为总统候选人后,他们广泛使用了“在心底你们知道他正合适”这一口号,促使民主党作出回击……

10.

...IN YOUR GUTS, YOU KNOW HE'S NUTS.

……你们心里明白他是个疯子。

[1] 戈德华特(1909—),美国参议员,属共和党保守派,主张扩大各州和地方政府权力,采取强硬的对外政策。

11.

A PUBLIC OFFICE IS A PUBLIC TRUST.

This 1884 Democratic campaign slogan reminded voters that the Republican candidate (“Blaine, Blaine, James G. Blaine^[1], the continental liar from the state of Maine”) was believed to have sold favors to a railroad while Speaker of the House in the 1870s.



1892 年时用的 1884 年口号

公职乃公众的信托。这条 1884 年民主党竞选口号提醒选民共和党总统候选人(“布莱恩, 布莱恩, 詹姆斯·G·布莱恩, 美洲大陆的撒谎者, 他来自缅因”)据信曾在 1870 年代担任众议院议长期间曾向某铁路公司出卖过好处。

12.

WE DO OUR PART. The motto of NRA, the New Deal's National Recovery Administration, was used in conjunction with the famous Blue Eagle emblem to identify the

[1] 布莱恩(1830—1893), 美国共和党政治家, 当过众议院议长, 曾两度出任美国国务卿。