

◇校园中英对照读物◇

2004 年
美国首次出版
畅销全美

美国总统青少年时代
Childhoods of the Presidents

比尔·克林顿

BILL CLINTON

【美】小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格 主编

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蔺秀云 译



中国出版集团 现代教育出版社

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

比尔·克林顿 / (美) 马科维奇著; 蔺秀云译.

—北京: 现代教育出版社, 2005. 1

(美国总统青少年时代)

书名原文: Bill Clinton

ISBN 7-80196-030-0

I. 比… II. ①马…②蔺… III. 克林顿, B. (1946~)

—生平事迹—青少年读物 IV. K837.127=5

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2004) 第136750号

著作权合同登记图字 01-2005-0397

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责任编辑: 裴郁

装帧设计: 叶多

出版发行: 现代教育出版社

地址: 北京市朝阳区安贞里2区1号金珉大厦 邮编: 100029

电话: (010) 64423901 传真: (010) 64420542

印刷: 三河市科达彩色印装有限公司

开本: 787 × 1020 1/32 印张: 3

版次: 2005年1月第1版 印次: 2005年1月第1次印刷

标准书号: 7-80196-030-0

印数: 5000册 定价: 8.00元

★ *Introduction* ★

Alexis de Tocqueville began his great work *Democracy in America* with a discourse on childhood. If we are to understand the prejudices, the habits and the passions that will rule a man's life, Tocqueville said, we must watch the baby in his mother's arms; we must see the first images that the world casts upon the mirror of his mind; we must hear the first words that awaken his sleeping powers of thought. "The entire man," he wrote, "is, so to speak, to be seen in the cradle of the child."

That is why these books on the childhoods of the American presidents are so much to the point. And, as our history shows, a great variety of childhoods can lead to the White House. The record confirms the ancient adage that every American boy, no matter how unpromising his beginnings, can aspire to the presidency. Soon, one hopes, the adage will be extended to include every American girl.

All our presidents thus far have been white males who, within the limits of their gender, reflect the diversity of American life. They were born in nineteen of our states; eight of the last thirteen presidents were born west of the Mississippi. Of all our presidents, Abraham Lincoln had the

least promising childhood, yet he became our greatest president. Oddly enough, presidents who are children of privilege sometimes feel an obligation to reform society in order to give children of poverty a better break. And, with Lincoln the great exception, presidents who are children of poverty sometimes feel that there is no need to reform a society that has enabled them to rise from privation to the summit.

Does schooling make a difference? Harry S. Truman, the only twentieth-century president never to attend college, is generally accounted a near-great president. Actually nine— more than one fifth—of our presidents never went to college at all, including such luminaries as George Washington, Andrew Jackson and Grover Cleveland. But, Truman aside, all the non-college men held the highest office before the twentieth century, and, given the increasing complexity of life, a college education will unquestionably be a necessity in the twenty-first century.

Every reader of this book, girls included, has a right to aspire to the presidency. As you survey the childhoods of those who made it, try to figure out the qualities that brought them to the White House. I would suggest that among those qualities are ambition, determination, discipline, education— and luck.

—ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.

序

亚历克西斯·德·托克维尔以讲述人的童年作为他的巨著《美国的民主》的开始。托克维尔说，如果我们想理解支配一个人生活的偏见、习惯和爱好，我们必须观察他还是襁褓中的婴孩这一时期的情况；我们必须审视世界投射到他心灵上的第一个印记；我们必须聆听唤醒他那沉睡中的思想力量的第一句话。他写道：“可以说，从婴孩时期的摇篮中将可以了解整个人。”

这就是为什么这套关于美国总统童年的书如此重要。另外，正如历史所展示的，尽管童年时代的经历多种多样，却都能引导一个人走上通往白宫的道路。历史的记录验证了一句古话：每个美国男孩，不管早期看起来前途多么无望，都能够立志成为总统。人们还希望，这句古话所涵盖的范围不久将扩展，把每个美国女孩也包括在内。

迄今为止，所有的美国总统都是白人男性，他们在有限的性别范围之内，反映了美国生活的多样性。他们出生于合众国的19个州；最后13位当中有8位出生在密西西比河西部。在所有的总统当中，亚伯拉罕·林肯的童年最显得前途无望，然而他却成为美国历史上最伟大的总统。非常奇怪的是，童年生活优裕的总统有时却有一种责任感，进行社会改革，给家庭贫苦的孩子创造更好的机会。而另一方面，除林肯是一个特例之外，出身贫苦的总统有时却感到，对于使他们从穷困的底层发展到事业颠峰的社会，没有进行改革的必要。

学校教育重要吗？哈里·S·杜鲁门是仅有的一位从未上过大学的 20 世纪的美国总统，然而却被普遍认为接近最伟大的总统。实际上，我们的总统当中有 9 位——占全部的五分之一还多——从未上过大学，包括乔治·华盛顿、安德鲁·杰克逊以及格罗弗·克利夫兰这些杰出的人物。但是，除杜鲁门以外，所有这些没上过大学却担任了总统这一最显要职务的人都生活在 20 世纪以前。由于社会生活变得越来越复杂，大学教育毫无疑问将成为 21 世纪美国总统的必备条件。

该书的每位读者，包括女孩在内，都有权立志当总统。你们在探讨这些总统的童年时，要努力去领悟是什么品质使他们当上了白宫的主人。我在这里做一提示，在这些品质当中包括志向、决心、纪律、教育——当然还有机会。

——小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格

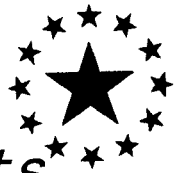


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First in Line

When African-American soldiers from Arkansas returned home in 1945 after fighting in World War II, they found the same racism that had been a part of life in the South before the war. Blacks were not permitted to eat in the same restaurants as whites. They could not use the same public bathroom facilities or drink from



第一章

第一个

1945年，第二次世界大战刚刚结束，阿肯色州的非裔美国士兵回到了阔别已久的故乡。此时他们发现，战前美国南部的种族歧视现象已经渗透到这里生活中的每个角落。黑人不能与白人在同一个餐馆就餐，不能与白人共用一所公共浴室，不能使用同一个饮水器。在公共汽车上，黑人要给白人让座。黑人的子女不能与白人的孩子在同一

President John F. Kennedy shakes hands with a 16-year-old from Arkansas, 1963. Thirty years later, that young man, Bill Clinton, would himself occupy the White House—and his intelligence, charisma, and vigor would remind many people of Kennedy.

1963年，约翰·F·肯尼迪总统与一个来自阿肯色州的16岁男孩握手，这个男孩就是比尔·克林顿。三十年后，他当选为美国总统入主白宫。他聪明的才智、超凡的魅力和旺盛的精力总会让人们回想起肯尼迪总统。

the same water fountains.^① They were expected to give up their bus seats to white riders, and their children were not permitted to attend the same schools as white students.

Even after the United States Supreme Court made a number of rulings establishing civil rights for African Americans, equality was slow to come to the state of Arkansas. In 1957, the school board in the Arkansas capital of Little Rock opened the doors of Little Rock High School to nine black students. But Governor Orval Faubus swore that black students would never enter the school, and he dispatched the Arkansas National Guard to keep them out. Only after President Dwight D. Eisenhower stepped in and ordered the National Guard to leave Little Rock were the black students permitted to enter.

Growing up amid this racial tension in Arkansas was Bill Clinton. Born just after World War II, he was raised first in Hope, a tiny town not far from the Texas border, and then in Hot Springs, a much larger community about 80 miles north of Hope. But wherever he went, Bill Clinton couldn't help but notice that blacks and whites were not treated equally.^② The boy soon concluded that treat-

注:① 这是一个被动句,其结构是“主语+be+动词的过去分词形式”,be 随着主语单复数和时态的变化而变化。一般在不清楚主语是谁,或者不好表达主语的时候,会采用这种句型,以突出主语作为受动者的情况。

所学校就读。

为了保护非裔美国人的公民权利，联邦高等法院制定了一系列法规，但是这些法规迟迟不能在阿肯色州实施。1957年，阿肯色州首府小石城的学校委员会决定，小石城高中接收9名黑人学生。但是阿肯色州州长奥维尔·福布斯却宣称，黑人学生决不能进入学校，并派遣阿肯色州国民警卫队将他们赶出了小石城中学。直到德怀特·D·艾森豪威尔总统亲自过问此事，并命令国民警卫队撤离小石城后，黑人学生才又回到了学校。

比尔·克林顿就是在阿肯色州这种紧张的种族歧视环境下长大的。恰逢二战刚刚结束，比尔·克林顿出生在阿肯色州的距德克萨斯州不远的霍普镇。后来搬到霍普镇以北大约80英里的温泉城。但是无论比尔·克林顿走到哪里，他都能发现，黑人不能得到与白人同等的待遇。很快，这个小男孩就清楚地意识到，在阿肯色州以及南方的其他地区，黑人受到的待遇是不公平的。

注：② “can't help but” 是禁不住，不得不的意思，but 后只跟动词原形。



ment of blacks in Arkansas and elsewhere in the South was unfair.

"He was seeing black people mistreated in school," said his mother, Virginia Clinton Kelley, "and he felt then it was just because of their color; and he just could hardly stand it."

Although the Clintons were certainly not racial reformers, the family was far more tolerant of blacks than were their neighbors. Bill's grandmother, Edith Cassidy, worked as a nurse in Hope, and she would often drive into the black section of town to see patients who had no money for medical care.^① Her husband Eldridge, who owned a grocery store on the edge of the white section






“他看到黑人儿童在学校里受虐待，”他的母亲维吉尼亚·克林顿·凯莱说，“当时他几乎无法忍受仅仅是因为肤色的不同。”

尽管克林顿的家人不是种族平等的倡导者，但是与邻居相比，他的家人对待黑人更宽容一些。比尔的外祖母伊迪丝·卡斯蒂是霍普镇的一名护士，她经常深入小镇的黑人街区，照顾那些没有钱接受医疗看护的病人。比尔的外祖父埃尔德雷治在霍普镇白人区街边开了一个食品杂货店，也一直愿意接待黑人顾客。

The Arkansas of Bill Clinton's childhood was a racially troubled place. In 1957, when Bill was 11, black students were first admitted to Little Rock High School—but only after President Eisenhower had dispatched federal troops. In 1997 President Clinton attended a 40th anniversary celebration of the school's integration.

比尔·克林顿童年时代所在的阿肯色州是种族冲突非常激烈的州。1957年，比尔11岁那年，艾森豪威尔总统派遣联邦军队进驻阿肯色州后，黑人学生才第一次被允许进入小石城的高中就读。1997年，克林顿总统参加学校实现种族融合40周年庆典。

注：① “more...than...”，比……多，是比较级的一种用法，即一事物比另一事物多，前面加上far是指更加的意思。



of Hope, was always willing to accept blacks as customers.

When Bill Clinton was 16 years old, he was picked by the American Legion post in Hot Springs to attend the Arkansas convention for Boys Nation. The American Legion is an organization of **veterans**, and it sponsors many activities designed to help students learn about the government of America. Boys Nation was one such activity. Two "senators" from each state would be selected at their conventions to attend a national convention in Washington. There they would spend a week learning about the federal government, visiting the historic landmarks in the nation's capital, and actually passing **resolutions** that would take positions on the important issues of the day. The resolutions would be adopted through votes by the senators, and the sponsors of Boys Nation hoped that the students would engage in vigorous debates on the resolutions so they could experience the true nature of **lawmaking**.

But to take part in Boys Nation, Bill Clinton would have to win the job of senator at the Arkansas convention. In late June, Bill attended the state convention at a summer camp near Little Rock. He spent the week campaigning hard for the job, going from cabin to cabin each night so he could introduce himself to the hundreds of other boys in attendance. In the morning, he rose early so he could station himself at the entrance of the cafeteria and shake hands with the boys as they arrived for breakfast.



在比尔·克林顿 16 岁的时候，他被总部设在温泉城的美国退伍军人协会选中，出席阿肯色州的男孩联邦代表大会。美国退伍军人协会由退伍军人组成，他们组织各种活动，以帮助青少年学生了解美国政府。男孩联邦就是其中的一个。每个州通过代表大会选举两位“参议员”参加在华盛顿召开的男孩联邦全国代表大会。在那里，参议员们将利用一周的时间了解联邦政府，参观首都的历史性建筑，并着手制定一些决策，处理当天发生的重大事件。参议员通过投票的方式制定各种决策。男孩联邦的发起人希望学生们能够通过参与与决策有关的激烈讨论，亲身体验法律制定的过程。

要想成为男孩联邦的一员，比尔·克林顿就必须在阿肯色州代表大会中赢得参议员的资格。六月底，比尔参加了州代表大会在小石城附近组织的一个夏令营。他花费了一周时间，积极争取参议员资格。每天晚上，他忙碌于各个营房之间，向参加夏令营的数百名男生介绍自己。每天早晨，他早早地起床，站在自助餐厅的门口，同每一位前来就餐的男生握手问候。在夏令营中，他结识了许多朋友。这些朋友又四散开来，敦促自己的朋友投比尔一票。





He recruited many friends at the camp, and they fanned out and urged their friends to vote for Bill Clinton for Boys Nation senator.

By the end of the week every boy at the state convention had met Bill. Most liked the eager young man, who impressed them with his intelligence, drive, and ability to make friends. He won the election in a *landslide*.

"It's the biggest thrill and honor of my life," he said after winning the election. "I hope I can do the tremendous job required of me as a representative of the state. I hope I can live up to the task."

Bill Clinton and the other Arkansas senator, Larry Taunton, left for Boys Nation on July 19, 1963. It would

注:① 这是一个宾语从句, "...who...", 宾语+who+ 其它, who 及其后面的内容作为从句来修饰who 前面的宾语。