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

# 詹姆斯·麦迪逊

## JAMES MADISON

【美】小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格 主编

【美】丽瑟·科兹雷斯基 著

孟祥德 译



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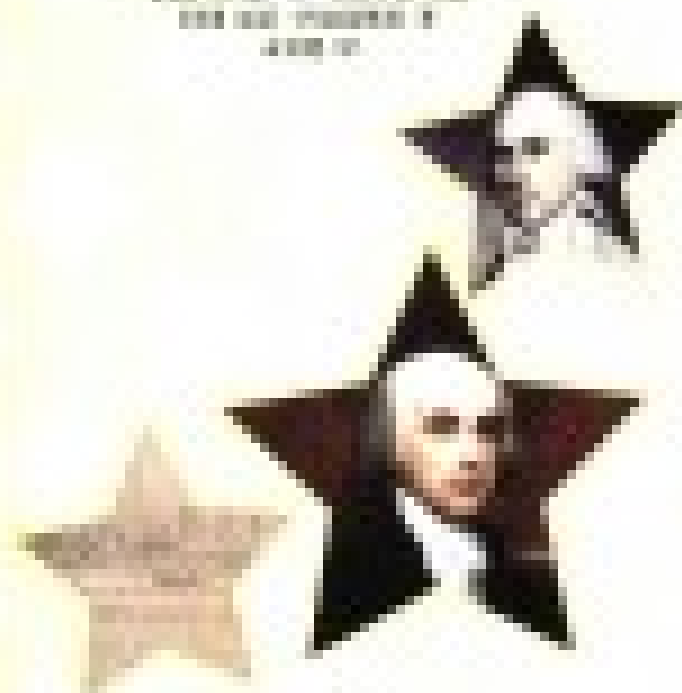
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JAMES MADISON

THE FATHER OF  
THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE U.S.



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# ★ *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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## *Night of Protest*



The bonfire crackled and snapped, illuminating the evening sky with the glow of its orange and red flames. A speaker stood on a low platform, holding up a piece of paper and shouting angry words. The crowd surrounding the fire roared its approval. Nearly all of the people in the crowd were young men. Most were students at the College of New Jersey in Princeton, New Jersey. The year was 1770, and the students were angry with the government of Great Britain, the country that ruled the 13 American colonies at the time.

Many people in the colonies were unhappy with the British government. After the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the British had forced the Americans to pay new taxes. The government said that the taxes were necessary to help repay the cost of the war, which had been fought mostly on the western borders of the 13 colonies. However, the Americans argued that the taxes were unfair. The colonies were not represented in

# 第一章

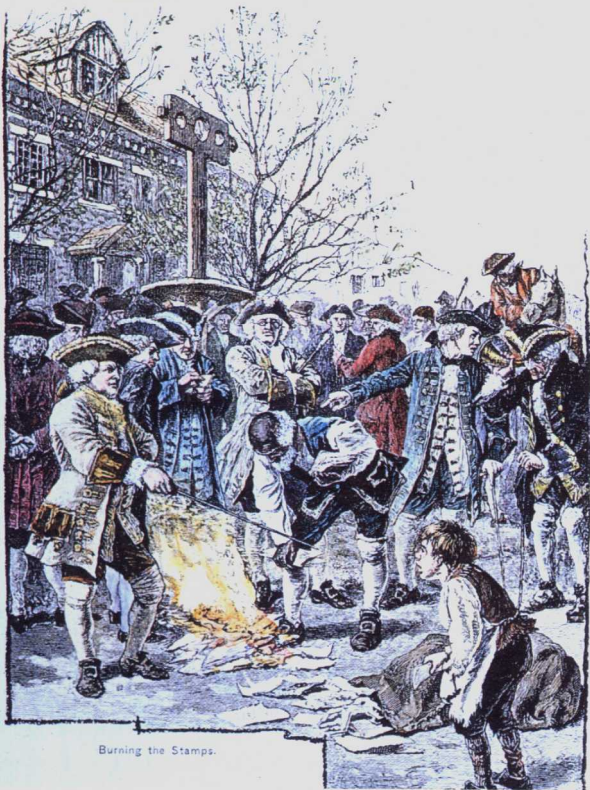
## 抗议之夜

篝火噼噼啪啪地爆响，燃起红黄色的火苗，辉映着夜空。一个演讲者手里扬着一张纸，站在平台上，厉声疾呼，拥在火堆周围的人群高声附和。人群中几乎全是年轻人，大部分是新泽西普林斯顿的新泽西学院的学生。那年正是1770年。当时大英帝国统治着北美的十三个殖民地，学生们对英国政府充满了憎恨。

这些殖民地中不少人对英国政府十分不满。1763年，“法印战争”<sup>①</sup>结束后，英国又强迫北美大陆人民交纳新的税收。英国政府声称，这些税收对于弥补战争开支十分必要。这场战争大部分发生在这十三个殖民地的西部边界地区。北美人民据理力争，认为这些税收是不公平的。因

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注：① 英法为争夺殖民地的战争，战场在北美和印度。法国联合北美印第安人与英国人作战但最终失败。英国虽然取得胜利，但留下了巨额公债。故英国决定将一些费用转嫁给殖民地。又称“七年战争”。



Burning the Stamps.

**Parliament**, the part of the English government that made the laws. If they had no say in the laws made by Parliament, colonial leaders argued, then it wasn't fair to force them to pay taxes.

England had established the colonies in the 17th and early 18th centuries. Over the years trade between the colonies and England had been profitable. The colonists

American colonists protest the Stamp Act, a British tax on printed materials, by burning newspapers. In 1770 the patriotic fervor of the young James Madison was similarly awakened at a bonfire in support of a boycott of British goods.

北美殖民者焚烧报纸以示对英国强加到他们出版物上的税收——“印花税法案”的抗议。1770年，在一次参与支持抵制英货的行动中，青年詹姆斯·麦迪逊的爱国热忱伴随着雄雄的篝火陡然升起。

为英国议会 是英国政府制定法律的机构，而北美这些殖民地在议会中不占任何席位。殖民地的领袖们便认为，既然在议会立法中没有发言权，迫使他们交纳这些税收就是不公平的。

早在17世纪和18世纪早期，英国就在北美确立了其殖民统治地位。这些年来，与这些殖民地的贸易使英国人获利甚丰。北美殖民者卖给英国商人木材、烟叶、棉花等



sold raw materials—timber, tobacco, cotton, and other products—to merchants in England. In return, English merchants sent finished goods—books, furniture, glass windowpanes, and rolls of linen and cotton cloth—to the colonies, where they could be sold.

In 1767, the British government placed a tax on finished goods sent to the colonies. In response, merchants from the 13 colonies decided not to buy goods from England unless they were absolutely necessary. They hoped the tax would be **repealed** once the English merchants saw their sales—and profits—falling.

The letter the speaker waved from the platform at the College of New Jersey that night in 1770 was from a group of merchants in New York. The merchants were thinking about ending their **boycott** of English goods. They wanted to know how merchants in the other colonies would react if they began buying from the British again.

The reaction of the students was clear. They cheered as the speaker crumpled the letter and threw it into the bonfire. They didn't want American merchants to give in and accept the British taxes.

In the crowd of angry students that night was a young man from Virginia. He believed strongly in the American cause and was inspired by the protest at the College of New Jersey. In a few years, as Americans fought for their independence from Great Britain, he would become an important and respected American political leader. His



原材料，反过来，英国商人把他们加工好的书籍、家具、门窗玻璃、成捆的棉麻布匹等成品运到北美殖民地，在那里销售。

1767年，英国政府对运往北美殖民地的成品货物征税。相应的，北美13个殖民地的商人们决定，除非万不得已就不去购买英国货物。他们希望一旦英国商人看到自己的货物销售额及其赢利渐渐下降，就会把这一税收撤销。

1770年的那个夜晚，那位演说者在新泽西学院讲坛上挥动着的那封信就是纽约的一群商人们写的，他们正打算结束联合抵制英货的行动。他们想知道，如果他们开始购买英货，别的殖民地的商人会做何反应。

学生们的反应是很明确的。当演说者把信搓成一团扔进火堆时，他们欢呼雀跃。他们不愿北美商界就此屈服，从而接受英国人强加到他们头上的赋税。

在那晚愤怒的学生们中间，有一位来自弗吉尼亚的青年。他坚信北美人民的事业是正义的。新泽西学院的抗议行动使他受到了激励。在随后的几年，当北美人民为摆脱英国统治、争取独立而浴血奋战时，他逐渐成长为一位杰出的受人尊敬的政治领袖。他的名字就叫詹姆斯·麦迪逊。





name was James Madison.

At first glance young James Madison didn't look like much of a leader. He was small—standing just 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighing only about 100 pounds. He spoke in a soft voice. When he did discuss a subject in public, he wasn't a very inspirational speaker. Rather than try to win his audience over with impassioned speech, he preferred to use logic to make his points. He seemed destined to settle down to the life of a well-to-do Virginia landowner—like his father and grandfather—not to become a leader admired by millions of Americans.

But those who looked past James Madison's soft voice and quiet demeanor would have been impressed with his intelligence, as well as with his dedication to the ideals on which America would be founded. The education he had received as a child helped him understand issues clearly and use logic and reason to solve problems. By the time he was an adult, powerful men had learned to lower their voices and listen to what James Madison had to say.

James Madison's contributions to the United States went far beyond his accomplishments before and during the American Revolution. He helped create the Constitution, which remains the basis for the government of the United States of America. Later he served as the







年轻的詹姆斯·麦迪逊初看起来并非很象一名领袖人物。他身材矮小——身高只有5英尺4英寸<sup>①</sup>高，体重也不过100英镑<sup>②</sup>，说话声音柔和。即使当众辩论时，他也不是那种富有煽动性的演说家。他宁愿条理分明地阐明自己的观点，也不愿用慷慨激昂的言辞来赢得听众。他似乎天生就是那种满足于过弗吉尼亚地产者安逸生活的人——就像他父亲和祖父，而不是去当一名受千百万人敬仰的领袖。

可是，那些认为詹姆斯·麦迪逊声音轻柔、举止不温不火的人们后来却被他的智慧以及他献身美国建国的理想而折服。他对问题理解透彻，处理难题有条不紊，这得益于他从小受到的教育。到他长大成年时，那些有权有势的人们早已学会压低嗓门去聆听麦迪逊的意见了。

詹姆斯·麦迪逊对美利坚合众国所做出的贡献远远不止他在美国独立战争打响前后所取得的成就。他帮助制订了宪法，这部宪法一直被奉为美利坚合众国政府的基石。后来，他担任了美国第四任总统。

注：① 约163厘米

② 约45.4公斤

