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

罗纳德·里根

RONALD REAGAN

【美】小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格 主编

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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

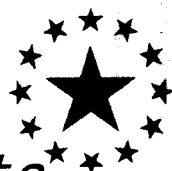


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A Humble Start

Many American presidents have enjoyed privileged backgrounds. They have come from wealthy, respected, and ***prominent*** families. For example, the families of three of the first four presidents—George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison—were among Virginia’s landholding upper class. More recently, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, born into one of the oldest families in New York, spent an idyllic childhood on his parents’ estate, at their vacation home, and in exclusive resorts in Europe. John F. Kennedy’s father—one of the richest men in America—made a fortune in banking and finance and, later, served as ambassador to Great Britain; a grandfather on JFK’s mother’s side had been mayor of Boston. George Bush’s father, too, was a wealthy banker who had served in the United States Senate. And of course, by the time George Bush’s son, George W. Bush, entered politics, his family had become even more prominent.

In contrast with the privileged childhoods enjoyed

第一章

出身卑微

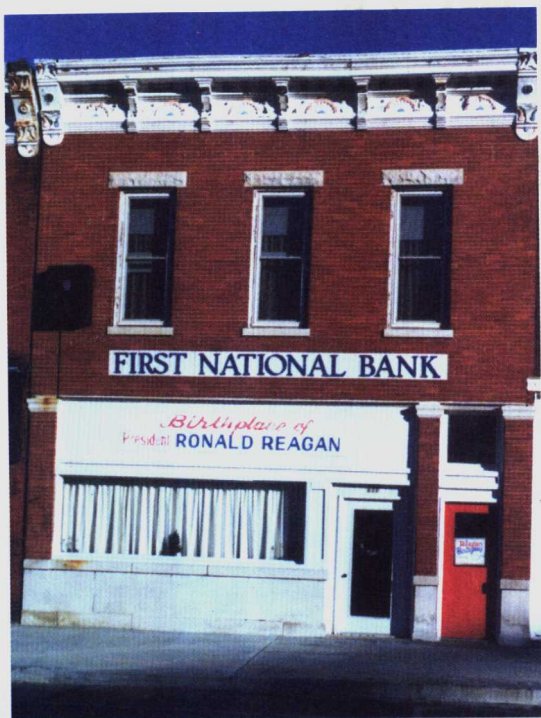
许多美国总统都有显赫的家世。他们出身于富有的、受人尊敬的名门望族。例如，最早的四位总统中的三位——乔治·华盛顿、托马斯·杰斐逊和詹姆斯·麦迪逊——其家族都是弗吉尼亚上层社会的大土地所有者。近一些的总统，如富兰克林·德拉诺·罗斯福，则出生于纽约最古老的家族之一，因其父母的财富而享有无忧无虑的童年，家里有度假别墅，经常可以到欧洲旅行，这都是普通孩子所无法企及的。约翰·F·肯尼迪的父亲——美国最富有的人之一——拥有银行业和金融业的雄厚资产，后来成为驻英国大使；约翰·F·肯尼迪母亲家族中的一位祖父曾任波士顿市市长。乔治·布什的父亲也是一个富裕的银行家，曾任美国参议院议员。当然，到乔治·布什的儿子，乔治·W·布什进入政界时，其家族就更为显赫了。

与这些享有幸运的童年时代继而走上国家最高职位的



里根一家。左起为：杰克，约翰·尼尔，罗纳德，内利。这张照片大约摄于1915年，当时罗纳德四岁。

The Reagan family. From left: Jack, John Neil, Reonald, Nelle. The photo was taken around 1915, when Ronald was about four.



Ronald Reagan was born in his parents' small apartment on the second floor of this building in Tampico, Illinois, on February 6, 1911. At the time, a restaurant and bakery occupied the first floor.

1911年2月6日，伊利诺伊州，坦皮科，罗纳德·里根出生在这座建筑物二楼上他父母的一间小公寓里。当时，一楼是旅馆和面包店。



by these men who went on to serve in the nation's highest public office, the man who became the 40th president of the United States came from a humble background. ^①In some ways Ronald Reagan might be said to have grown up disadvantaged.

In a recent biography of President Reagan, *When Character Was King*, author Peggy Noonan (a former speechwriter for the president) writes, "Ronald Reagan's beginnings were the most modest and lacking of any president of the past hundred years." Reagan's family was never much respected in the community, because of his father's **alcoholism** and inability to hold a job. The Reagans never had a lot of money, never owned a farm or a successful business, and never even reached the middle class. As a young child, Ronald Reagan saw his family move so frequently that he hardly had the chance to call a place home before the bags were being packed again. ^②His parents were from very different backgrounds—and this led to more than a few disagreements and problems.

Despite this difficult beginning, however, Ronald Reagan grew up to become one of this country's most beloved presidents. Nicknamed "the Great Communicator," he connected with the American people, many of whom

注: ① in contrast with 作为介词短语引出的是全句的状语, 而不是表示比较的从句。



人相比，美国第 40 任总统罗纳德·里根却出身卑微，在某种程度上可以说是在逆境中长大的。

在一本新近出版的里根总统的传记《这次扮演国王》中，作者佩吉·努南（总统的前任发言稿撰写人）写道：“在过去几百年来的历任总统中，罗纳德·里根的出身最为平凡穷困。”因为父亲酗酒又总是丢掉工作，里根的家庭从来就不曾受到社会的尊重。里根家从来都没有钱，也没有农场或是经营成功的企业，甚至从来就不曾跨入过中产阶级的行列。很小的时候，罗纳德·里根就与家人一起频繁地搬家。他来不及把任何一个地方称作家就又要打起行装离开了。他父母的出身相差很大，这使得家庭矛盾与问题也特别的多。

然而，尽管出身艰辛，罗纳德·里根长大后却成为这个国家最受爱戴的总统之一，人称“伟大的沟通者”。他与美国人心心相连，许多人感到他是真正的理解他们。他看上去就像是知道他们的过去，理解他们所经历的痛苦挣

注：② 句首 as a child 相当于 when he was a child；注意 so... that... 句型的构成及用法以及否定副词 hardly；连词 before 在此处的翻译也应引起特别注意。



felt he honestly understood them. He seemed to know where they were coming from, to understand the struggles they went through—because he had gone through many of the same struggles as a child.

In her book *When Character Was King*, Peggy Noonan relates a story that illustrates this. In 1987, when Ronald Reagan was president, a young staff member named Doug MacKinnon entered his office for a moment. The two began talking and suddenly MacKinnon blurted out, "Mr. President, my father had the same thing your father had." President Reagan knew right away that he was referring to alcoholism. In the next few minutes, the men shared the pain and the sadness that comes with watching a loved one battle the disease. ^①

"He was really warm and he seemed to want to reach me," MacKinnon recalled. "He wanted to reach out and help someone who was going through what he had gone through. It was just a short visit but it told me everything I needed to know about Ronald Reagan—that he had an enormous heart, that he could empathize with people and that he wanted to make sure you knew he understood and felt for you. . . . That he could persevere and become what he became—to be the son or daughter of an alcoholic is a tough lifestyle to make it out of and many people don't ,but he did."^②





扎，因为孩提时，他与他们一样有着很多相似的苦难经历。

佩吉·努南在她的著作《这次扮演国王》中讲述的一个故事就说明了这一点。1987年，罗纳德·里根总统在任时，一个年轻的工作人员道格·麦金恩进他的办公室里坐了一会儿。二人开始谈话，麦金恩突然迸出一句：“总统先生，我父亲有和您父亲相同的问题。”里根总统立刻明白他指的是酗酒这件事。在随后的几分钟里，这两个男人体会到了同样的痛苦与忧伤，这是因为他们都曾看着亲人被酒瘾所困。

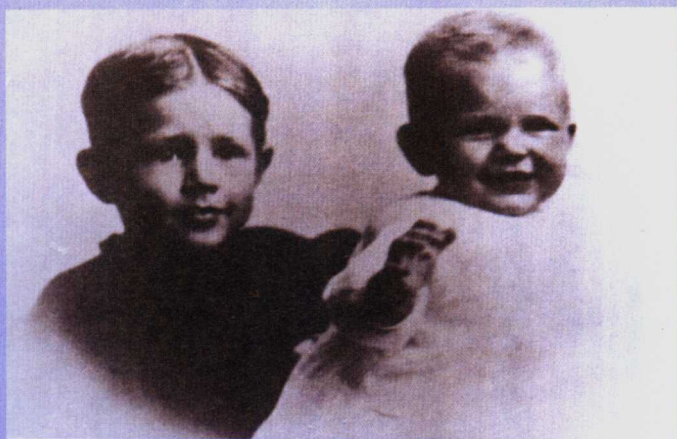
“他真的很热情，看样子他是想安慰我。”麦金恩回忆道，“他想伸出手来帮助一个痛苦的人，这种痛苦正是他自己也曾经历过的。那只是一次短暂的会面，却足以让我真正地了解罗纳德·里根——他有宽广的胸怀，善解人意，并且他希望你知道他理解你，知道你的感受……他能够坚持下来，成为现在的自己——作为一个酒鬼的孩子，这样的日子非常难以出头，许多人都做不到，但是他做到了。”

注：① that 在此处引导的是定语从句，在句中充当的是主语。从句中的句子结构较为复杂，with 引入补语，补语中 watch 之后是一个宾语从句。

② that...an alcoholic 为 that 引导的名词从句，是句子的主语，即为 that 引导的主语从句。



Beginning in a Blizzard



The small town of Tampico, Illinois—population 1,276—was in the middle of a huge blizzard on February 6, 1911, and John “Jack” Reagan couldn’t find Dr. Terry. Reagan was looking for the local physician because his wife, Nelle Wilson Reagan, was in labor with the couple’s second child. In an era when automobiles were still a novelty and horses were the main mode of transportation, it took time for Jack Reagan to find help.[®] Finally, he brought