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

西奥多·罗斯福

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

【美】小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格 主编

【美】哈尔·马科维奇 著

周娟 译



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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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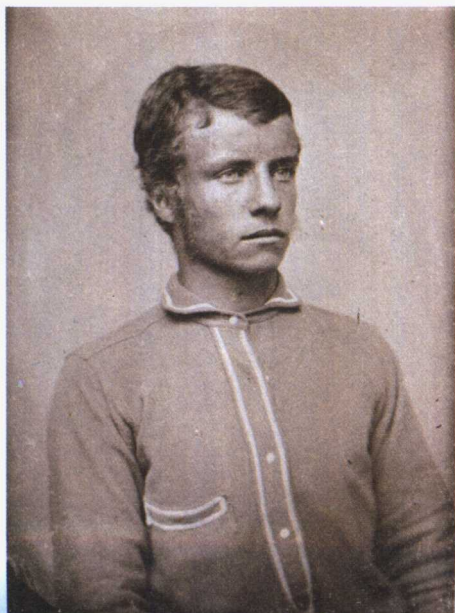
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A Born Fighter

Fourteen-year-old Theodore Roosevelt sat in the stagecoach as it bounced along the dusty, unpaved roads of New England in 1872. He was a thin and *sickly* boy who wore thick glasses and suffered terribly from asthma, a medical disorder



第一章

天生的斗士

1872年的一天，14岁的西奥多·罗斯福乘坐一辆公共马车，在新英格兰尘土飞扬、崎岖不平的道路上颠簸前行。他是一个病怏怏的瘦弱男孩，戴着一副厚厚的眼镜，

Theodore Roosevelt was a boxer and wrestler at Harvard when this photo was taken, around 1875. Physically, he'd come a long way from the skinny, sickly boy who just three years earlier had been roughed up in a stagecoach.

这张照片大约摄于1875年，西奥多·罗斯福当时是哈佛大学的拳击和摔跤运动员。他曾是一个皮包骨头、病怏怏的小男孩，仅仅三年前还在一辆公共马车上受到别人的欺负，为了让自己体格强壮起来，他费了不少功夫。



caused by allergies that makes it difficult to breathe. Still, young Theodore—who was called “Teedie” by his parents—had a zest for life and refused to allow his asthma to get in the way of his many interests. Teedie had a fascination with science, and he was particularly interested in birds and other wildlife. When he grew older, he planned to pursue a career in science.

Still, there were times when “the asmer,” as he called it, became almost unbearable, causing him to cough and wheeze uncontrollably. His parents, Martha and Theodore Roosevelt Sr., were convinced the asthma was caused by the stuffy, polluted air that hung over the family’s home in New

Moosehead lake in iaine (shown here)was teedie Rossevelt's destination during his fateful stagecoach ride of 1872.

缅因州的穆斯黑德湖是西奥多·罗斯福1872年乘坐马车前往的目的地。那次旅行对他来说意义重大。

患有严重的哮喘,这是一种由过敏引起使呼吸困难的医学疾病。尽管如此,年幼的西奥多——父母叫他“特迪”——热爱生活,并没让哮喘阻碍他发展广泛的兴趣爱好。特迪对科学很着迷,他尤其喜欢鸟类和其他野生生物。长大后,他的理想是从事科学研究。

然而,哮喘,他称之为“号喘”,发作起来经常让人难以忍受,使他难以自制地咳嗽、喘气。他的父母,马撒和老西奥多·罗斯福,认定是他们位于纽约市的住宅上空



York City. Whenever Teedie's asthma seemed particularly bad, his mother and father would make arrangements to take the boy into the country.

The Roosevelts were a wealthy family and could afford the luxuries of splendid countryside vacation homes. This year, with Teedie's asthma troubling him severely, his parents had decided once again to send him out of the city. Teedie was now old enough to travel alone, so the Roosevelts had booked passage for him on the stagecoach. It was heading for Moosehead Lake in Maine, where the boy would stay in a cabin until his asthma improved.

On the trip north, Teedie found himself sharing the stagecoach with two older boys. Bored from the long trip aboard the tiny and uncomfortable stagecoach, the two boys decided to make sport of the skinny kid with the glasses. Teedie was no meek little lamb—he had always had the courage to stand up for himself—but in this case he was overmatched.

"I have no doubt they were good-hearted boys, but they were boys!"¹¹ Teddy Roosevelt, as he would become known later in life, recalled. "They found that I was a foreordained and predestined victim, and industriously proceeded to make life miserable for me. The worst feature was that when I finally tried to fight them I discovered that either one singly could not only handle me with



混浊、污染的空气造成的哮喘。特迪的哮喘一旦出现加重的趋势，他的父母就会安排这个男孩到乡村去。

罗斯福家境富裕，有能力支付豪华乡村假日别墅的昂贵花费。这一年，特迪的哮喘病又严重了，他的父母再次决定要送他离开都市。这时的特迪已经不再是个小孩子，可以单独外出旅行了，因此家人帮他预定了公共马车的座位。马车驶往缅因州的穆斯黑德湖，这个男孩将住在那的一栋小屋里，直到他的哮喘好起来。

在北上的旅途中，特迪注意到与他同行的还有两个大一些的男孩子。长途跋涉，马车里又小又挤，这两个男孩感到太乏味了，就决定戏弄一下眼前这个戴着眼镜的皮包骨头的家伙。特迪也不是温顺的小羊羔——他总是勇敢地维护自己的尊严——但是这次他还是吃了苦头。

“毫无疑问他们并无恶意，但他们毕竟是男孩子！”特迪·罗斯福后来懂事后回忆道，“他们觉得我注定是个受气包，还想要把我搞得更惨一点儿。最糟糕的是，当我终于忍无可忍想要还手的时候，我发现他们两个人中无论

注：① have no doubt 意为“毫不怀疑、确信”，其后为省略了引导词 that 的宾语从句。



easy contempt, but handle me so as not to hurt me much and yet prevent my doing any damage whatever in return."

Teedie did not intend to go through life being bullied by older boys. When he returned to New York, he informed his father that he intended to take boxing lessons so that he could defend himself. Theodore Roosevelt Sr. was delighted with his son's decision. He was a strong advocate of physical fitness and believed that Teedie's problems with asthma could be solved if he developed his body.

"Theodore, you have the mind, but you have not the body, and without the help of the body the mind cannot go as far as it should," Theodore Sr. told his son. "You must make your body. It is hard drudgery to make one's body, but I know you will do it." Teedie clenched his teeth. "I'll make my body," he declared.

Teedie's father searched the gyms of New York for a suitable boxing instructor. He finally hired John Long to tutor his son in the techniques of self-defense. Long had been a *prizefighter* himself, and he was now a trainer of some of New York's most famous professional boxers. This was before there were many rules in boxing and even before organizations were established to regulate the sport. When Theodore Roosevelt learned how to box, professionals fought with "bare knuckles," meaning they



哪一个都不但能轻而易举地对付我，还能把握好分寸不至于使我受伤，又让我无力反击。”

特迪可不想总是受大男孩的欺凌。他从乡下返回纽约后，就告诉父亲他想学拳击来自我防卫。老西奥多·罗斯福对于儿子的这个决定感到由衷的高兴。他十分赞成有一个强健的体魄，坚信特迪加强身体锻炼可以治愈哮喘。

“西奥多，你很聪明，但是缺乏一个健壮的体魄。要知道没有好的身体，才智也不能很好地发挥。”老西奥多·罗斯福对他的儿子说，“你必须加强身体锻炼。虽然要吃苦头，但我相信你一定能够做到。”特迪咬紧牙关发誓：“我一定要变得强壮起来。”

特迪的父亲遍访纽约的运动场所，寻求合适的拳击教练。最后，他聘请约翰·朗来教他的儿子自卫的技巧。朗曾经是一个职业拳击手，现在是纽约一些非常著名的专业拳击手的教练。当时还没有具体的拳击运动规则，更别提会有专业的组织来规范这项运动。在西奥多·罗斯福学习拳击的时候，那些职业拳击选手们都是“赤手空拳”上阵





didn't wear the heavy, padded boxing gloves that today's fighters wear.

Teedie was an enthusiastic student. For months, he trained at Long's gym. When he wasn't working with his teacher in the ring, he concentrated on developing his muscles. He performed exercises and lifted weights to increase his strength and endurance.

Theodore Sr. bought some exercise equipment and had it installed in the family's backyard garden in New York so that Teedie could also train at home. Family members could often find the young fitness enthusiast in the garden exercising among the azaleas and tiger lilies while the Roosevelts' pet peacocks strutted nearby.

Teedie's sister Corinne later said, "For many years one of my most vivid recollections is seeing him between the horizontal bars, widening his chest by regular, monotonous motion—drudgery indeed."

All that work paid off. While in training, Teedie was much less troubled by asthma.

One day, Long held a competition among his students. They would box each other, and the win-

Theodore Roosevelt enjoyed other sports besides boxing. As president, he helped write new rules for football designed to end unnecessary violence in the game. He also helped form the National Collegiate Athletic Association.