EVERYDAY ENGLISH SNACK

BIOGRAPHIES OF CELEBRITIES

每天读点英文。名人传记全集

马钟元◎主编

典藏英文全集

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前言 Preface

在浩瀚的历史长河中,在不同的国度里,在众多的领域内,有无数名人成就了自己的辉煌,同时又深深地影响着后人。或是他们的领袖风范为后人敬仰,或是他们的科学成果造福着人类,或是他们的艺术造诣令人叹为观止,又或是他们的文学作品震撼着读者的心灵……正因如此,很多人都希望能够走近名人,真正了解他们如夏花般绚丽辉煌的人生,体味他们意蕴深刻的思想,感受他们面对波折和困难时的勇气与智慧。然而,我们并非有机会能与名人直接对话,名人的传记便为我们提供了一个能深入了解他们的机会。因为传记是名人的心灵剖析,是其人生历程的再现,我们常常会因为名人外在的光环与符号,掩盖其真实的一面。传记在某种意义上就是对生命的还原,对真实的还原。阅读名人传记的目的并不仅仅是要了解其人生轨迹,而更多的是,感受其成功的意义,从而激励我们;分析其失败的原因,从而警示我们,最终延伸到对自我的熏陶和培养上来。

本书编者精选了38篇中外各国名人英文传记供读者赏析学习,汇编一书,详加注释,为读者了解名人生平、赏析优美英文提供了绝佳途径。本书最大特色在于选材全而精,收录有如女王伊丽莎白一世、美国总统林肯、圣雄甘地等叱咤风云的政治家;有如泰勒、罗丹、毕加索等艺术大师;有如牛顿、达尔文、爱因斯坦等科学巨擘;有如但丁、莎士比亚、雨果等文学巨匠;还有如贝克汉姆、姚明、费德勒等体坛巨星。阅读托尔斯泰的传记,从中可以感受一个杰出思想家生活的点滴,读者可以从中体会到一个人的成长过程及其心路历程;阅读达尔文的传记,读者会理解到观察和实证对于科学的重要性,会在《物种起源》的浮光掠影中,多一份对生命奇迹与奥秘的敬畏;阅读甘地的传记,读者能深刻体悟到甘地的精神思想如何带领国家迈向独立,脱离殖民统治,而他的"非暴力"的哲学思想,使其成为影响全世界的民族主义者;阅读莎士比亚的传记,可以让读者了解一个剧场的小演员如何成为英国文艺复兴时期伟

大的剧作家、诗人,最终成为欧洲文艺复兴时期人文主义文学的集大成者。每篇英文传记均出自名家之笔,语言地道规范,神采飞扬,尽显大家风范;内容紧扣主题,内涵直击灵魂,具有极高的学习价值。

本书之第二大特色,在于注释简洁准确,中英文对照,直观快捷,让读者在广泛 诵读之际尽享英文学习之便利。编者与译者共同合作,将每篇文章中较为深奥难懂的 单词——挑选出来,加以注释。注释采用"词性+中文释义"的形式,并且只选文中 之义,免去了英文释义的繁杂,也免去了过多义项的干扰,极大程度减轻读者阅读负担,便于读者阅读过程的便捷流畅,为学习英文铺设出一条"高速路"。

于阅读中体味英文之美,在名人传记中体会成功之道。本书出版之初衷,正是在于为广大读者提供原汗原味的名人传记,在英文的泱泱大海之中为读者撑一叶小舟,带领读者开阔视野,在感受名人魅力的同时,提高自己的英语水平。全书的编纂工作,由天津外国语大学滨海外事学院英语系系主任马钟元教授倾力组织,全书选材、编排、翻译、加注各个环节,均有马教授悉心指导,事无巨细。马钟元教授作为国内英美文学研究的资深专家,凭借多年对于英文的鉴赏力,带领其教师团队,全情投入,最终将《每天读点英文名人传记全集》一书奉献给广大读者。本书付梓之际,编者不胜惶恐,虽倾注有十二分的专心致志,却也无奈水平有限,个中难免存在些许疏漏瑕疵,还请广大读者批评指正,不吝赐教!

《每天读点英文名人传记全集》编委会

目录

Contents

	Abraham Lincoln 亚伯拉罕・林肯	1	
	William Shakespeare 威廉·莎士比亚	13	
	Auguste Rodin 奥古斯特・罗丹	39	60
	Elizabeth Taylor 伊丽莎白・泰勒	46	
	Margaret Hilda Thatcher 玛格丽特・希尔达・撒切尔	54	
	Albert Einstein 阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦	62	
33	Andre Agassi 安德烈・阿加西	78	
	Cristiano Ronaldo 克里斯蒂亚诺・罗纳尔多	86	

克里斯蒂亚诺・罗纳尔多



David	Beckham	
大卫・	贝克汉姆	

94

Isaac Newton 艾萨克・牛顿

103



Lance Armstrong 兰斯·阿姆斯特朗

118



Lev Tolstoy 列夫·托尔斯泰

125







Roger Federer 罗杰・费德勒

160



Dante Alighieri 但丁·阿利吉耶里

168





Shaquille O'Neal 沙奎尔・奥尼尔

190

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi 莫罕达斯・卡拉姆昌德・甘地

198









Pablo Picasso 巴勃罗•毕加索	295	
Queen Elizabeth I 女王伊丽莎白一世	306	
Sarah Bernhardt 莎拉·伯恩哈特	314	ET.
Victor Hugo 维克多·雨果	324	
Walt Whitman 沃尔特・惠特曼	332	
William Wordsworth 威廉·华滋华斯	337	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Winston Churchill 温斯顿・丘吉尔	341	
Gabrielle Chanel 加布里埃尔·香奈儿	356	
Maria Callas 玛丽亚·卡拉斯	364	
King Henry VIII 国王亨利八世	377	

亚伯拉罕・林肯

亚伯拉罕·林肯(1809—1865),出生在肯塔基州哈丁县一个清贫的农民家庭,他的童年是"一部贫穷的简明编年史"。在青年时代,林肯通过自学使自己成为一个博学而充满智慧的人。1860年,林肯成为共和党的总统候选人,11月,选举揭晓,他以200万票当选为美国第16任总统。他信仰人人平等,领导美国南北战争走向全面胜利,并颁布了《解放黑人奴隶宣言》,维护了美联邦统一,为美国在19世纪跃居世界头号工业强国开辟了道路,被称为"伟大的解放者"。



Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809 in a **log cabin** to very humble, uneducated parents; he did grow up in a backwoods settlement that was virtually a wilderness; there, beginning at the age of seven, he did help his father to hew a farm out of that wilderness with an axe; with the benefit of only a few months of schooling, he did study diligently on his own to acquire basic skills in reading and writing; as a young man out on his own and working at menial jobs, he did teach himself from books such subjects as English grammar, sufficient mathematics to learn surveying, and enough law to enter the legal profession at the age of 27. And, of course, he did perform triumphantly in the United States' most severe crisis, saving his country from dissolution, presiding over the destruction of slavery, and dying an authentic American **martyr**^②.

亚伯拉罕·林肯1809年出生于一户贫困人家的小木屋里,父亲母亲都没怎么上过学。林肯自幼在野地里长大,长到7岁时,开始帮助父亲在村中做一些砍伐的活计。幼年的林肯从仅有的几个月上学时间里刻苦习得了基本的读写能力。逐渐长大后,小伙子开始自食其力,做一些体力活,并通过读书自学了英语文法、基本算数技能,并由此掌握测量调查的学问。其法律知识更是自学成才,到27岁时林肯已能通过法律专业的考核。正是他带领全美人民度过了最严峻的国难危机,拯救国家于分裂之中,主持废除了奴隶制度,不愧是一位美国本土的国家英雄。



A Mind Ripe for Learning

From the very beginning, Abraham Lincoln was different, and in a way that many of his neighbors—and especially his father—did not approve. Unlike almost everyone else he grew up with, Lincoln was intensely interested in words and meanings. He learned to read and write at a very early age, actively seeking out books to borrow and taking notes on what he read.

When he left home and struck out on his own at the age of 22, Lincoln settled in the small village of New Salem, Illinois, where he spent six eventful years. Unprepossessing[©] in appearance, he was frequently described as gawky[©] and ill-dressed, but the other residents soon discovered he had many assets. In addition to being intelligent and surprisingly well informed, he was unusually good-natured and friendly. He excelled in popular athletic contests such as running, jumping, and throwing weights; he was unusually strong and a nearly unbeatable wrestler; and though he did not drink, he was convivial[®] and had great ability as a storyteller. He was thus well liked.

Supporting himself with a variety of jobs, Lincoln studied assiduously during his New Salem years to make up for his lack of formal education, of which he remained painfully conscious all his life. Borrowing books wherever he could, he studied history and biography, and he displayed an eager appetite for literature, being particularly fond of Shakespeare and of the Scottish poet Robert Burns.

年少发奋

林肯从小就是个另类,行为处事之不寻常让许多邻居都难以接受,尤其是他的父亲,更是颇为不满。与众多同伴不同,幼年的林肯对于文字与语义表现出极大的兴趣,小小年纪就学会了识字、写字,还积极寻找图书,借来阅读,读完还写读书笔记。

22岁时,林肯离家独自闯荡,在伊利诺伊州一处名叫新塞勒姆的小村子里定居下来,在此度过6年的时光。由于外表不招人喜欢,林肯常常被人笑为怪人,但还是有许多邻居很快发现了他身上诸多的闪光点。他不仅聪明伶俐,还上知天文、下晓地理,除此之外,心地善良,待人十分友好。大众流行的体育运动他都擅长,跑步、跳高、投掷等,无所不能。他身体也非常结实,是个摔跤能手。尽管他不喝酒,却能在酒宴上制造欢乐的气氛,他还是个讲故事的好手。如此,人们都喜欢同他来往。

那段日子里,林肯同时打几份工来维持生计。但他从未停止过对于学习的热情,在新塞勒姆村居位的时光里他一直孜孜不倦,以弥补自己没有接受过正规教育的遗憾。这一遗憾整整伴随了他的一生。无论何时,只要有机会,他就借书来读,钻研历史知识、研读人物传记,还对文学表现出极大的热情,尤其钟爱莎士比亚和苏格兰诗人罗伯特·彭斯。

① unprepossessing adj. 不招人喜欢的 ② gawky adj. 笨拙的,愚蠢的

③ convivial adj. 欢愉的

As a Member of Congress

Before his first year in New Salem was out, he declared himself a candidate for the state legislature, but failed. When he ran again at the next election, he won handily, and served four successive terms. In his second term, in spite of being one of the youngest legislators, he was chosen as his Whig Party's floor leader, an honor that reflected his effectiveness as a speaker, his energy, and his organizational and leadership abilities.

At about the time of his marriage, Lincoln declined to run for a fifth term in the state legislature and began angling for election to the U.S. Congress. When he finally succeeded and took his seat in the House of Representatives in December 1847, the Mexican War was coming to a victorious conclusion, and Lincoln lost no time in joining other Whig members in attacking President James K. Polk for **unconstitutionally** provoking an unjust war for the purpose of acquiring new territory.

This earned Lincoln considerable criticism back home, where the war was very popular. Even as Lincoln contradicted his pro-war Democratic **constituents**[©] on a matter of principle, he offended some of his fellow Whigs with his practicality. So when Lincoln's congressional term was over, he was denied as the head of the General Land Office.

As his brief congressional career ended, Lincoln returned to Illinois, his political ambitions frustrated. With this greater attention to his legal profession, Lincoln's skill and reputation as a lawyer rose, and his firm gained a prominent position in the Illinois bar. He

进入议会

离开新塞勒姆村后的第一年,林肯即宣告参选伊利诺伊州议会议员,但不幸失败。第二次 竞选中,他轻松获胜,并连续四个任期在位。特别在第二任期之内,他作为全州最年轻的议 员,有幸被选中成为辉格党的一名党内领导。这一荣誉有力地说明了林肯过人的口才、充沛的 精力、还有非比寻常的领导组织才能。

大约到林肯结婚之时,他婉言回拒了第五个任期,开始着手准备努力进入美国国会。待到 1847年12月他成功进入国会众议院,获得一席之时,正逢墨西哥战役大胜,林肯马不停蹄地参 与到辉格党的党员之中,针对波尔克总统发起抨击,指责其违背宪法,意图侵占新的领土而发 起不正当战争。

不料此举却使林肯遭到来自家乡伊利诺伊州的一片骂声,而该州的主流思想是赞成墨西哥战役。尽管林肯反对对战争持支持态度的民主党同僚们,但因其现实化的做派也得罪了不少辉格党党成员。如此,众议员任期满了之后,林肯提出就任土地办公室负责人的请求被国会拒绝了。

短暂的国会经历草草结束,林肯回到了伊利诺伊州,对于政坛之纷纭感到心灰意冷。凭借所掌握的扎实的法律专业基础,林肯作为律师渐渐小有名气,也慢慢地在伊利诺伊州当地有了



名人传记全集

was "losing interest in politics," he said of this period. But as the slavery issue heated up in the 1850s, Lincoln's long-standing affinity[©] for political controversy unexpectedly revived.

Path to the White House

By 1854, Abraham Lincoln stopped believing that his political career had reached an end. Lincoln had secured his party's congressional nomination in part by pledging to serve only one term, thus allowing other members of the local Whig Party the chance to serve.

The year 1854 saw new fissures in the delicate sectional compromises over slavery. Increasingly the free North and slaveholding South each saw the other's customs and practices as a lethal threat to its own way of life. Lincoln was drawn to this debate, and thus gradually back to public life. Whether Lincoln seized events or they instead propelled him forward, there can be little doubt over the nation's good fortune: in its time of greatest need, America found its greatest leader.

Free Labor

Abraham Lincoln had always championed "free labor", the principle that a man could rise freely as far as his talents and abilities might take him. Along with many northerners, Lincoln believed that free labor was both economically and morally superior to the slave-based southern alternative. He believed that slavery would over time prove economically untenable,

名望。据林肯自己日后回忆,那时的他"对政治渐渐失去热情"。然而,随着19世纪中期奴隶制的问题逐渐严重,林肯对于政治的激情竟奇迹般地重新燃烧开来。

走向白宫

1854年,林肯不再认为自己的政治生涯就此结束。他请求只就任一届任期,充分地保证党内 其他同胞的竞争机会,因此保住了自己在辉格党内的众议院提名资格。

1854年,针对向奴隶制妥协出现了新的不同态度。解放状态的北方与坚持奴隶制的南方愈发地将对方的制度习俗视为对自己的威胁。林肯被卷入了这场争论之中,一点一点地重新回到了公众的视线之内。无论是他自己跳上这风口浪尖,还是历史大潮将他推向这潮头之上,都无法阻挡美国光明的未来:一个国家,在其最需要之时,迎来了最为伟大的领袖。

劳工自由

亚伯拉罕·林肯始终崇尚"劳工自由",该理念是指:每个人只要具备才能,就可以自由发展。同大多北方人一样,林肯坚信,无论是从经济角度还是道德角度,实施劳工自由要比南方的奴隶制度优越得多。同时他相信,随着历史向前推进,奴隶制在经济上会愈发站不住脚,

but he also understood that, in the short-term, individual wage-earners could not—indeed would not—compete with slave laborers. Along with many other Americans, Lincoln drew two political conclusions: Confined to its existing southern redoubt, slavery would wither away; but if slavery expanded into new territories, it could displace free laborers and gain a new lease on life.

As the young nation grew westward, the terms on which new states would be admitted to the Union, that is, as "slave" or "free" states, thus assumed decisive importance. It first arose during 1820 and 1821, with the application of Missouri for statehood. Thomas Jefferson likened the sectional tension to "a firebell in the night". It eased only through a grand compromise in which Congress admitted Missouri as a slave state, Maine as a free state, and barred slavery from all Louisiana Purchase territories north of 36.5°, Missouri's southern border. With the acquisition of new, formerly Mexican territories, a carefully crafted "Compromise of 1850" mated the admission of a free California with a new *Fugitive Slave Law*, one that obliged northern courts to enforce the seizure and return of slaves who had escaped northward to freedom. Many northerners met these developments with a combination of anger and fear.

With powerful October 1854 addresses at Springfield and Peoria, Illinois, Lincoln emerged as a leading opponent of that law. And during the next two-and-a-half years, Lincoln helped establish the new Republican Party in Illinois. With sectional differences deepening, Lincoln's Whig Party had collapsed, unable to paper over differences between its northern and southern

但他明白,短期之内,独自挣工资的人还不足以同南方奴隶主相抗衡。同许多美国同胞思路相同,林肯得出了两个结论:奴隶制度如若继续控制在南方范围内,终将有一天会衰退。但倘若奴隶制蔓延到新的疆土之上,那么劳工自由制度将会受到威胁,使得奴隶制重新抬头。

美国这个年轻的国度一天天向西推进,关于划分各州属"奴隶制度"或"自由之州"所根据的条件显得愈发关键。问题首次出现在1820年和1821年,密苏里州正式确立。托马斯·杰斐逊曾描述当时的局部紧张态势为"黑夜里响起消防警报"。最终问题的解决倚仗的是极大程度上的妥协,承认密苏里州为奴隶制度,缅因州为自由制度,同时在密苏里州南部边界、北纬36.5°以北所有路易斯安那州所购得的领土全面禁止奴隶制。然而随着先前墨西哥领土一点一点被美国所占有,一个精心策划的"1850妥协"给刚刚宣布"自由"的加利福尼亚州绑上了一部新法:《逃奴法令》。该法令迫使北方法院抓捕并遣返逃至北方寻求自由的南方奴隶。许多北方人对此感到既愤怒又恐惧。

1854年10月,林肯分别于伊利诺伊州的斯普林菲尔德市与皮奥瑞亚市发表重要演说,一举成为《逃奴法令》的主要反对者。其后的两年半时间里,林肯在伊利诺伊州协助组建了共和党。随着局部分歧日益加大,林肯原先所在的辉格党由于无法平衡南北异议而彻底瓦解。相比

名人传记全集

wings. The Republicans, by contrast, were more **forthrightly**[©] sectional and antislavery. Some northern Democrats also joined up with the Republicans. Lincoln's efforts for his new party earned him valuable political capital for the future.

To the White House

Throughout 1859, Lincoln toured a number of midwestern states, speaking and warning against slavery's further spread. Probably he already was thinking about a long-shot run for the presidency: He authorized the compilation and publication of his debates and, in December 1859, began to prepare his **autobiography**^②.

In February 1860, Lincoln traveled to New York, the nation's leading city, not least to meet and address the civic and financial leaders who would have a large say in naming the Republican Party's presidential nominee. Many who gathered at the Cooper Union expected to witness a rough, uncultivated midwesterner.

But then Lincoln spoke. In measured words calibrated to assure the audience he was no radical, Lincoln demonstrated definitively that a majority of the signers of the U.S. Constitution had believed the federal government could indeed prohibit slavery in the territories. Lincoln called for northerners to confine slavery to the states where it already existed, and to oppose fervently its extension to the national territories.

The Cooper Union address was extremely well received. Several New York newspapers published the entire text. One reporter proclaimed Lincoln "the greatest man since St. Paul."

之下,新成立的共和党十分坚定,明确表示反对奴隶制。一些北方的民主党人士也逐渐开始参与共和党的工作。林肯这一全新的政党所付出的努力,为他在党内奠定了宝贵的政治地位。

人主白宫

1859年整个一年,林肯游历中西部各州发表演说,警醒人们防止奴隶制度进一步扩张。或许此时的他已经在思忖着一个竞选总统的长期计划:授权将其所有辩论编撰出版,并且在同年12月,开始筹备撰写自传。

1860年2月,林肯造访纽约。这座全美最前沿的城市,云集了政界和经济领域各色领头人物,他们对于将谁提名为共和党总统候选人有很大的发言权。林肯到此游说演讲,引得众人都聚集库珀联合学院,想要看一看这个粗野的、没多少文化的中西部人。

林肯开始了他的演讲。规范而考究的言辞滔滔而出,清晰地向人们证实了他本人并非什么激进分子,坚定地认为签订了美国宪法的绝大多数同胞都始终坚信联邦政府应当在美国领土之上坚决抵制奴隶制度。林肯呼吁全体北方人将奴隶制度控制在其现存范围之内,并且坚定不移地阻止其向外扩张。

林肯在这次库珀联合学院的演讲反响十分热烈。多家纽约报刊全文转载了林肯的演讲词。 其中有媒体称林肯是"继圣保罗以来最伟大的人"。著名的《纽约论坛报》新闻记者霍勒 Horace Greeley, editor of the influential *New York Tribune*, deemed Lincoln "one of Nature's orators". Many Republicans assumed that the powerful William Seward of New York would capture their party's presidential nomination. But Seward was weak in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Illinois, crucial states where a midwesterner might have more appeal.

Seward fell short on the first ballot, then faded as midwestern states shifted their votes to Lincoln, securing him the nomination on the third ballot. The Republican candidate possessed real advantages in the 1860 general election. Like the now dissolved Whigs, the Democratic Party was **crippled** by its own sectional divisions. Its northern and southern wings nominated rival candidates, allowing Lincoln, who won less than 40 percent of the popular vote in a fourway race, to capture a majority of the electoral votes and the presidency. The South would not accept a Lincoln presidency. Only then would the nation truly witness the wisdom, the strength, and, ultimately, the magnanimity of the man it had chosen during its greatest trial.

Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief

Abraham Lincoln had entered the presidency with no military training or experience except as a militia captain in a minor Indian war three decades earlier. The standing army Lincoln inherited in March 1861 numbered just 16,000 men who were **dispersed**² in small **garrisons** from the Atlantic Coast to California. Lincoln had no modern military command

斯·格里利,赞誉林肯为"天生的演说家"。当时,许多共和党员都认为来自纽约实力强劲的威廉姆·苏尔德将会成为共和党下一位总统候选人。但是苏尔德在宾夕法尼亚、印第安纳和伊利诺斯等州不具优势。偏偏上述各州又颇为关键,中西部出身的人在此可能会更操胜算。

第一轮投票之后,苏尔德落后。随着之后中西部各州纷纷投票给林肯,苏尔德逐渐大势已去。林肯顺利进入第三轮投票。在1860年的大选中,共和党候选人占据绝对优势。正如已然解散的辉格党一般,此时的民主党内部分歧已深,北派和南派分别推举自己的候选人,候选人之间相互斗争。这样一来,本来所获选票低于40%的林肯得以立足于这场四人竞赛之中,获得了多数选票,最终登上总统宝座。然而,南方人却不能接受林肯出任总统。这一刻,国家将要见证自己新选出的这一位领袖将释放出何等智慧、力量与光辉。

统领战争

林肯身为总统,却没有接受过任何正规的军事训练,除了30年前在一次与意大利的小规模 战役中当过队长之外,再无其他任何军事经验。1861年3月他所接手的现有部队总共只有16000 人,分散在从亚特兰大港湾到加利福尼亚的各个小部队中。苦于没有系统化的现代军事基础,



① crippled adj. 受损的

② disperse v. 分散

名人传记全集

system on which to rely for advice or to communicate his instructions effectively to field commanders. Not only was there no general staff when war broke out a month later, but only two regular army generals had ever commanded units larger than a **brigade**^① — one was so corpulent that he could not walk across a room without exhausting himself; the other so **senile**^② that he needed help putting on his hat. Subordinate officers knew little of the higher art of war because the United States Military Academy taught engineering, mathematics, and horsemanship at the expense of strategy.

The Union army's swift wartime expansion did not solve this leadership crisis. In less than a year, the northern army swelled to 600,000 men, and by the war's end it had climbed to a million. Regular army captains became generals overnight. In order to unify the North and rally its large European immigrant population, Lincoln was compelled to appoint volunteer generals from civilian life. Most "earned" their stars because of their political influence rather than for any military potential they might possess.

The crisis extended to the nation's political leadership. Lincoln lacked the support of a united cabinet. While later presidents possessed the luxury of appointing talented but usually pliant subordinates, then-existing custom and political reality required that Lincoln fill his cabinet with willful politicians of national prominence.

A Challenge from the Incompetents

Despite these liabilities[®], by the power of his mind and force of character Lincoln became

林肯无法与前线的指挥官有效沟通。战争爆发后一个月,部队不仅没有正式的将军,而且仅有的两位将领也仅仅指挥过旅级部队大小的队伍。两个将领,一个臃肿肥胖,在屋子里来回走一圈都会累得喘气;另一个垂垂老矣,就连戴帽子也要人帮忙。底下的从属军官对于军事知识更是一窍不通,因为美国的陆军军官学院不教战略,只教工程学、数学和马术。

战争期间北方军的迅速膨胀并不足以缓解这样的领导危机。不到一年的时间,北方军迅速扩张至60万人,到战争结束的时候已达到百万。普通的军官可以在一夜之间变身将军。为了规整北方军,并恢复其绝大多数欧洲移民成员,林肯不得不从民兵中挑选自愿上位者出任将军。他们中,大多数人获得军衔凭借的并非是自身的军事潜质,而是现有的政治影响力。

这样的领导危机逐渐波及林肯作为总统自身的领导地位。林肯急缺的是一个能够支持自己的团结的内阁。先前历届总统有权指认有才并温顺的人组建内阁,可在现在的政治环境下,林肯只能召集一群任性武断且显赫全国的人物组成内阁。

困境斗争

尽管困难重重,但一个有思想力度的头脑与一种有行动力的人格品质,成就了林肯这位杰

① brigade n. 旅级部队 ② senile adj. 年老的

③ liabilities n. 阻碍,妨碍