

# 现代英美散文选

Readings in Modern English Prose

徐齐平 编



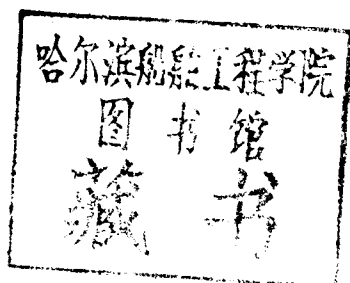
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## Preface

*Readings in Modern English Prose* is designed to stimulate a serious interest in reading, provide cultural information, broaden the vision, and present good models for writing practice. The book is for the seniors at the university and also for self-study and literary appreciation.

It contains fourteen pieces of writing by great British and American authors including Winston Churchill, Bertrand Russell, William Golding, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, E. B. White, and Albert Einstein. The range of subject matter is broad—from history to philosophy, from literature to psychology. The selections discuss the atomic bomb, the end of the Second World War, professions of women, the age of anxiety, the American way of life, and the civil rights of the black people in the United States. Each is, in its own way, challenging and rewarding.

The exercises accompanying them serve several purposes. They are prepared to help students to retain the important points, further explore the issues raised, develop writing skills and the capacity to draw inferences. There is an emphasis on reading comprehension and retention.

Finally to those who will take the trouble to inform me of any errors found in the book and so help its improvement, I here express my thanks in advance.

Xu Qiping

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# The Atomic Bomb

Winston Churchill

*President Truman*<sup>1</sup> arrived in Berlin the same day as I did. I was eager to meet a potentate with whom my cordial relations, in spite of differences, had already been established by correspondence. I called on him the morning after our arrival, and was impressed with his gay, precise, sparkling manner and obvious power of decision.

On July 16 both the President and I made separate tours of Berlin. The city was nothing but a chaos of ruins. No notice had of course been given of our visit and the streets had only the ordinary passers-by. In the square in front of *the Chancellery*<sup>2</sup> there was however a considerable crowd. When I got out of the car and walked about among them, except for one old man who shook his head disapprovingly, they all began to cheer. My hate had died with their surrender and I was much moved by their demonstrations, and also by their haggard looks and threadbare clothes. Then we entered the Chancellery, and for quite a long time walked through its shattered galleries and halls. Our Russian guides then took us to Hitler's air-raid shelter. I went down to the bottom and saw the room in which he and his wife had committed suicide, and when we came up again they showed us the place where his body had been burned. We were given the best first-hand accounts available at that time of what had happened in these final scenes.

The course Hitler had taken was much more convenient for us than the one I had feared. At any time in the last few months of the war he could have flown to England and surrendered himself, say-

ing, "Do what you will with me, but spare my misguided people." I have no doubt that he would have shared the fate of the *Nuremberg criminals*.<sup>3</sup> The moral principles of modern civilisation seem to prescribe that the leaders of a nation defeated in war shall be put to death by the victors. This will certainly stir them to fight to the bitter end in any future war, and no matter how many lives are needlessly sacrificed it costs them no more. It is the masses of the people who have so little to say about the starting or ending of wars who pay the additional cost. The Romans followed the opposite principle, and their conquests were due almost as much to their clemency as to their prowess.



On July 17 world-shaking news arrived. In the afternoon *Stimson*<sup>4</sup> called at my abode and laid before me a sheet of paper on which was written, "Babies satisfactorily born." By his manner I saw something extraordinary had happened. "It means," he said, "that the experiment in the Mexican desert has come off. The atomic bomb is a reality." Although we had followed this dire quest with every scrap of information imparted to us, we had not been told beforehand, or at any rate I did not know, the date of the decisive trial. No responsible scientist would predict what would happen when the first full-scale atomic explosion was tried. Were these bombs useless or were they annihilating? Now we knew. The "babies" had been "satisfactorily born." No one could yet measure the immediate military consequences of the discovery, and no one has yet measured anything else about it.

Next morning a plane arrived with a full description of this tremendous event in the human story. *Stimson* brought me the report. I tell the tale as I recall it. The bomb, or its equivalent, had been detonated at the top of a pylon 100 feet high. Everyone had been cleared away for ten miles round, and the scientists and their

staffs crouched behind massive concrete shields and shelters at about that distance. The blast had been terrific. An enormous column of flame and smoke shot up to the fringe of the atmosphere of our poor earth. Devastation inside a one-mile circle was absolute. Here then was a speedy end to the Second World War, and perhaps to much else besides.

The President invited me to confer with him forthwith. He had with him *General Marshall*<sup>5</sup> and *Admiral Leahy*<sup>6</sup>. Up to this moment we had shaped our ideas towards an assault upon the homeland of Japan by terrific air bombing and by the invasion of very large armies. We had contemplated the desperate resistance of the Japanese fighting to the death with *Samurai devotion*,<sup>7</sup> not only in pitched battles, but in every cave and dug-out. I had in my mind the spectacle of *Okinawa island*,<sup>8</sup> where many thousands of Japanese, rather than surrender, had drawn up in line and destroyed themselves by hand-grenades after their leaders had solemnly performed the *rite of hara-kiri*.<sup>9</sup> To quell the Japanese resistance man by man and conquer the country yard by yard might well require the loss of a million American lives and half that number of British—or more if we could get them there; for we were resolved to share the agony. Now all this nightmare picture had vanished. In its place was the vision—fair and bright indeed it seemed—of the end of the whole war in one or two violent shocks. I thought immediately myself of how the Japanese people, whose courage I had always admired, might find in the apparition of this almost supernatural weapon an excuse which would save their honour and release them from their obligation of being killed to the last fighting man.

Moreover, we should not need the Russians. The end of the Japanese war no longer depended upon the pouring in of their armies for the final and perhaps protracted slaughter. We had no need to ask favours of them. The array of European problems could therefore be faced on their merits and according to the broad principles of the United Nations. We seemed suddenly to have become



possessed of a merciful abridgment of the slaughter in the East and of a far happier prospect in Europe. I have no doubt that these thoughts were present in the minds of my American friends. At any rate, there never was a moment's discussion as to whether the atomic bomb should be used or not. To avert a vast, indefinite butchery, to bring the war to an end, to give peace to the world, to lay healing hands upon its tortured peoples by a manifestation of overwhelming power at the cost of a few explosions, seemed, after all our toils and perils, a miracle of deliverance.

British consent in principle to the use of the weapon had been given on July 4, before the test had taken place. The final decision now lay in the main with President Truman, who had the weapon; but I never doubted what it would be, nor have I ever doubted since that he was right. The historic fact remains, and must be judged in the after-time, that the decision whether or not to use the atomic bomb to compel the surrender of Japan was never even an issue. There was unanimous, automatic, unquestioned agreement around our table; nor did I ever hear the slightest suggestion that we should do otherwise.

A more intricate question was what to tell Stalin. The President and I no longer felt that we needed his aid to conquer Japan. His word had been given at *Teheran*<sup>10</sup> and *Yalta*<sup>11</sup> that Soviet Russia would attack Japan as soon as the German Army was defeated, and in fulfilment of this a continuous movement of Russian troops to the Far East had been in progress over the Siberian Railway since the beginning of May. In our opinion they were not likely to be needed, and Stalin's bargaining power, which he had used with effect upon the Americans at Yalta, was therefore gone. Still, he had been a magnificent ally in the war against Hitler, and we both felt that he must be informed of the great New Fact which now dominated the scene, but not of any particulars. How should this news be imparted to him? Should it be in writing or by word of mouth? Should it be at a formal and special meeting, or in the course of our

daily conferences, or after one of them? The conclusion which the President came to was the last of these alternatives. "I think," he said, "I had best just tell him after one of our meetings that we have an entirely novel form of bomb, something quite out of the ordinary, which we think will have decisive effects upon the Japanese will to continue the war." I agreed to this procedure.



Meanwhile the devastating attack on Japan had continued from the air and the sea. By the end of July the Japanese Navy had virtually ceased to exist. The homeland was in chaos and on the verge of collapse. The professional diplomats were convinced that only immediate surrender under the authority of the Emperor could save Japan from complete disintegration, but power still lay almost entirely in the hands of a military clique determined to commit the nation to mass suicide rather than accept defeat. The appalling destruction confronting them made no impression on this fanatical hierarchy, who continued to profess belief in some miracle which would turn the scale in their favour.

In several lengthy talks with the President alone, or with his advisers present. I discussed what to do. I dwelt upon the tremendous cost in American and to a smaller extent in British life if we enforced "unconditional surrender" upon the Japanese. It was for him to consider whether this might not be expressed in some other way, so that we got all the essentials for future peace and security and yet left them some show of saving their military honour and some assurance of their national existence, after they had complied with all safeguards necessary for the conqueror. The President replied bluntly that he did not think the Japanese had any military honour after *Pearl Harbour*.<sup>12</sup> I contented myself with saying that at any rate they had something for which they were ready to face certain death in very large numbers, and this might not be so im-

portant to us as it was to them. He then became quite sympathetic, and spoke, as had Mr. Stimson, of the terrible responsibilities that rested upon him for the unlimited effusion of American blood.

Eventually it was decided to send an ultimatum calling for an immediate unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Japan. This document was published on July 26. Its terms were rejected by the military rulers of Japan, and the United States Air Force made its plans accordingly to cast one atomic bomb on *Hiroshima*<sup>13</sup> and one on *Nagasaki*.<sup>14</sup> We agreed to give every chance to the inhabitants. The procedure was developed in detail. In order to minimise the loss of life eleven Japanese cities were warned by leaflets on July 27 that they would be subjected to intensive air bombardment. Next day six of them were attacked. Twelve more were warned on July 31, and four were bombed on August 1. The last warning was given on August 5. By then the Superfortresses claimed to have dropped a million and a half leaflets every day and three million copies of the ultimatum. The first atomic bomb was not cast till August 6.

On August 9 the Hiroshima bomb was followed by a second, this time on the city of Nagasaki. Next day, despite an insurrection by some military extremists, the Japanese Government agreed to accept the ultimatum, provided this did not prejudice the prerogative of the Emperor as a sovereign ruler. The Allied Fleets entered *Tokyo Bay*,<sup>15</sup> and on the morning of September 2 the formal instrument of surrender was signed on board the United States battleship *Missouri*. Russia had declared war on August 8, only a week before the enemy's collapse. None the less she claimed her full rights as a belligerent.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the fate of Japan was settled by the atomic bomb. Her defeat was certain before the first bomb fell, and was brought about by overwhelming maritime power. This alone had made it possible to seize ocean bases from which to launch the final attack and force her metropolitan Army to capitulate without striking a blow. Her shipping had been destroyed. She

had entered the war with over five and a half million tons, later much augmented by captures and new construction, but her convoy system and escorts were inadequate and ill-organised. Over eight and a half million tons of Japanese shipping were sunk, of which five million fell to submarines. We, an island Power, equally dependent on the sea, can read the lesson and understand our own fate had we failed to master the U-boats.

## Notes

Sir Winston Leonard Spenser Churchill (1874-1965), British statesman, soldier and historian. He served in the army in Cuba, India, Egypt and South Africa before he held important positions in the Cabinet. Churchill first became prime minister in 1940. During the Second World War he worked ceaselessly to unite the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain in the Grand Alliance. The general election of 1945 put him out of office but he returned to power as prime minister again in 1951. His publications include *A World Crisis*, 4 vols., 1932-29; *The Second World War*, 6 vols., 1948-54; *A History of the English-speaking Peoples*, 4 vols., 1956-58.

1. President Truman (1884-1972), 33rd President of the United States (1949-1953). During his administration, the world saw the end of World War I, the founding of the United Nations, the implementation of the program of economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey usually called the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan, the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the outbreak of the Korean War which ended in 1953.
2. the Chancellery; the office or position of the chief minister of state in Germany.
3. the Nuremberg criminals; referring to the trial of 24 leading Nazis in Nuremberg, Germany, from November 20, 1945 to October 1, 1946, for crimes against humanity and for violating the established laws of war.
4. Henry Lewis Stimson (1867-1950), American lawyer and statesman. He was appointed secretary of war (1911-1913) in President Taft's administration,

and again in President Roosevelt's administration (1940-1945). He was secretary of state under president Herbert Hoover. He served as chief presidential advisor on atomic policy, and in 1945 he made the ultimate recommendation to President Truman to drop the atomic bomb on Japan.

5. General Marshall (1880-1959), American general of the army, chief of staff, secretary of state and secretary of defence. He headed (1939-1945) the army as chief of staff, becoming general of the army in December 1944. Helping to direct Allied strategy in World War I, Marshall advocated the conquest of Germany through France. Many of his wartime tasks were diplomatic; he attended important conferences of the Allies. When he retired as chief of staff in late November 1945 he was appointed ambassador to China by President Truman, and was recalled in January, 1947 to be made secretary of state. He integrated the European Recovery Program to foster postwar economic recovery in Europe. The program was usually called the Marshall Plan.
6. Admiral Leahy (1875-1959), American Admiral of the fleet and diplomat. He served in both the world wars. In 1927, he became chief of naval operations and he was appointed as ambassador to Vichy France from 1940 to 42. Then he was made an admiral of the fleet when he was chief of staff. He attended the summit conferences of the Allies with Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.
7. Samurai devotion; Samurai were warriors of feudal Japan. They formed the leading class in Japanese society. From the beginning of the 17th century it was followed in order of precedence by those of the farmer, the artisan, and trader. They were warriors who owed loyalty and service to a feudal superior. Their code of behavior is known as "Bushido".
8. Okinawa Island; an island in the western Pacific Ocean, between the East China Sea and the Philippine Sea. Okinawa was the scene of the last great U. S. amphibious campaign in World War I. The U. S. army and marine forces landed there on April 1, 1945 and fought one of the bloodiest campaigns of the war, while the navy offshore suffered heavy damages in resisting attacks by suicide planes, known as Kamikaze suicide raids. Total American casualties were about 12,000 killed and 35,000 wounded; Japanese losses approached 100,000 killed.

9. the rite of hara-kiri; a form of suicide practiced by the Japanese from ancient times. The term means "belly-cutting." It was long performed by honor-conscious warriors before witnesses to avoid capture by enemies.
10. Teheran; referring to the Teheran Conference, a meeting of U. S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin in Teheran, Iran, from November 28 to December 1, 1943. Agreement was reached that the United States and Britain would invade France in May or June 1944, and Stalin reaffirmed his promise that the USSR would enter the war against Japan after the defeat of Germany.
11. Yalta; referring to the Yalta Conference held at Yalta, Crimea, USSR from February 4 to 11, 1945. It was a meeting of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, U. S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. Most of the important decisions made remained secret until the end of World War II for military or political reasons; the complete text of all agreements was not disclosed until 1947. Among the issues discussed was that the USSR agreed to enter the war against Japan within three months of Germany's surrender.
12. Pearl Harbour; an inlet on the southern coast of the island of Oahu, Hawaii. It was primarily a U. S. naval base with many U. S. military installations in the area. On December 7, 1941 while negotiations were going on with Japanese representatives in Washington, Japanese aircraft consisting of 150 to 200 fighting, bombing and torpedo planes made a surprise attack on the bulk of the U. S. fleet. Nineteen naval vessels, including eight battleships were sunk or severely damaged; 188 U. S. aircraft were destroyed. Military casualties were 2,280 killed and about 1,100 wounded. On December 8, the United States declared war on Japan.
13. Hiroshima; a city which lies on a delta at the head of Hiroshima Bay, an arm of the Inland Sea. By the beginning of World War II it was the seventh-largest city in Japan. During the war it was a regional army headquarters as well as a major rail center and producer of war materials.

The first atomic bomb was exploded over a point near the center of Hiroshima at 8 : 15 on August 6, 1945, destroying almost everything within a radius of 6,000 to 8,000 feet. Over 71,000 were killed and many more later

died of injuries and the effects of radiation.

14. Nagasaki: a historic seaport which lies at the head of a deep narrow inlet, with an excellent natural harbor on the northwest coast of Kyushu Island. On August 9, 1945 the U. S. forces dropped the second atomic bomb on the city killing 73,000 people.
15. Tokyo Bay: an inlet of the Pacific Ocean south of Tokyo Honshu Island, connected with the Sagami Bay through Uraga Strait. The industrial complex of Tokyo-Kawasaki-Yokohama lies on its western shore.

## Exercises

### I . Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer to each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the essay.

1. What had happened to Hitler when Churchill and Truman came to Berlin?
  - a. He had been captured and sent to an island.
  - \*b. He was dead.
  - c. He had left Berlin, and was organizing an underground force.
  - d. He was kept in prison.
2. In the sentence "My hate had died with their surrender and I was much moved by their demonstrations, and also by their haggard looks", their demonstrations mean
  - a. mass protest demonstrations.
  - b. political demonstrations against Churchill's visit to Berlin.
  - c. demonstrations of the Germans against the occupation of Berlin by the Allied forces.
  - d. people were cheerful to see Churchill except for one old man.
3. What did Churchill mean by saying that "The course Hitler had taken was much more convenient for us than the one I had feared."
  - a. Hitler should have been put to death.
  - ⑨ b. Hitler would have been put on trial.

- c. To commit suicide was the only way out for Hitler.
  - d. Hitler should have been sentenced to life imprisonment.
4. Which of the following statements about the "experiment in the Mexican desert" is not true?
- a. The pylon at the top of which the atomic bomb was detonated was 100 feet high.
  - b. People had been told to go away for ten miles around.
  - c. Scientists and the staffs remained behind massive concrete shields and shelters inside a one-mile circle.
  - d. An enormous column of flame and smoke shot up to the fringe of the atmosphere of the earth.
5. Why had the American and British military leaders thought that they would have to make an assault on the homeland of Japan by terrific air bombing and by the invasion of very large armies, up to the moment they met in Berlin? Because
- a. they were not quite sure that the atomic bomb would be powerful enough to bring an end to the war.
  - b. the spectacle of Okinawa island was so frightening that they were scared.
  - c. the Japanese military forces would put up a desperate resistance fighting to the death with Samurai devotion in every cave and dug-out.
  - d. the Japanese armed forces would perform the rite of hara-kiri on the battlefields.
6. "At any rate there never was a moment's discussion as to whether the atomic bomb should be used or not." It means that
- a. the Americans did not like the British to join them in the decision-making.
  - b. both sides felt sure that they were going to use it. In fact, Britain had given its consent to the use of the weapon.
  - c. they were afraid of using it for they were not quite sure of its immediate military consequences.



- d. the Americans would like to keep it a secret and did not like to discuss it with the British side.
7. How were Truman and Churchill to inform Stalin of the news about the atomic bomb?
- a. They would write him a letter.
  - b. They would hold a formal and special meeting.
  - c. Truman would tell him after one of their meetings.
  - d. They would tell him in the course of their daily conferences.
8. Who held power in Japan when a complete destruction confronted the country?
- a. The Emperor.
  - b. The military clique.
  - c. The prime minister.
  - d. The Cabinet.
9. How many Japanese cities were warned by the American and British side before the dropping of the atomic bombs? And how were they warned?
- a. 17 cities were warned by millions of leaflets and copies of the ultimatum, and 10 of the cities warned were actually bombed.
  - b. 23 cities were warned by millions of leaflets and copies of the ultimatum and 10 of the cities warned were actually bombed.
  - c. 18 cities were warned by 3 millions of leaflets and copies of the ultimatum and 6 of the cities were actually bombed.
  - d. 18 cities were warned by 4 millions of leaflets and 4 of the cities were bombed the day of the warning.
10. Which of the following statements is not true?
- a. The Japanese government agreed to accept the ultimatum after a second atomic bomb fell on Nagasaki.
  - b. Japan was compelled to accept the ultimatum, and as a result, the Emperor was deprived of his privileges as a sovereign ruler.
  - c. Japan surrendered unconditionally although some military ex-