

新世纪大学英语阅读丛书
丛书总主编 宋渭澄

新世纪 大学英语 社科知识阅读

李兆平 主编

北京大学出版社

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总 序

随着改革开放的不断深入和对外交流的进一步扩大,英语在越来越广泛的领域中发挥着重要作用。为适应二十一世纪社会发展和经济建设对各类人才的要求,《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)在重视打好语言基础和语言应用能力培养的同时,对大学英语教学的教学目的和教学要求都提出了更高要求。《新大纲》重视素质教育,在强调加强学生英语语言基础和提高实际应用能力的同时,提出大学英语学习要四年不断线,提倡学生充分利用在校期间的有利条件,有计划、有目的地使英语水平得到稳步提高,以适应社会发展的总要求。

《新世纪大学英语阅读丛书》就是针对《新大纲》的要求编写的一套以巩固大学基础阶段英语学习成果为目的,以扩大学生各种知识面为目标的阅读丛书。该套丛书共五册,包括:《新世纪大学英语高科技知识阅读》(杨智颖主编)、《新世纪大学英语军事知识阅读》(周评主编)、《新世纪大学英语文史知识阅读》(王少琳主编)、《新世纪大学英语社科知识阅读》(李兆平主编)和《新世纪大学英语世界知识阅读》(曲江烨主编)。丛书由南京国际关系学院副院长、博士生导师、全国高校外语专业指导委员会英语专业组委员宋渭澄教授担任总主编,大学英语教学界诸多有名望的教师担任了编委会委员。各分册主编都是一些著名高校的外语教研室主任,编写人员都是长期工作在大学英语教学第一线并具有丰富教学经验的老师们。

这套丛书重点突出“新”和“泛”,总的来说,它有如下特点:一、选材新颖。丛书选编了不同领域的最新文章,能充分体现时代特色,紧跟时代潮流,反映时代精神。二、知识面广。丛书选编的文章涉及到政治、经济、军事、外交、社会、科技、医学、文学、文化、国家概况等诸多方面,覆盖面广,阅读这些文章必能有所收获。三、文章体裁广泛。丛书中编入了各类文体的文章,有利于学生提高和培养阅读能力。四、专业词汇量大。丛书涉及大量相关领域的词汇,并且很多是相关领域的最新词汇,在阅读中不仅能让了解专业知识,提高阅读兴趣,还能扩充专业词汇,适应毕业后的工作需要。

我们诚挚地希望这套丛书能够对繁荣新时期大学英语教学有所裨益,同时让广大学生在阅读过程中得到启迪和收获。

2001年5月

前 言

大量阅读英文书籍是从根本上提高英语学习者英语水平的首选途径。英语阅读能力的培养和形成是英语语音、听说、词汇、语法、写作等一系列语言知识学习和技能训练的最终目的之一。在英语学习的过程中,认识和理解英语文章的基础是词汇和语法,阅读反过来又起着巩固词汇和语法知识的作用;一定的听说能力为阅读理解能力的培养提供了物质基础,而阅读理解能力的培养又巩固了听说训练的成果。另一方面,在阅读过程中,由于词汇、句法等各种知识在阅读材料中都能得以反复交叉出现,大量阅读便可以巩固和加深读者对这些知识的认知,并拓宽与文章相联系的异国文化背景知识。此外,通过大量阅读,读者细致观察语言、假设判断、分析归纳、推理验证和逻辑思维等能力也能得到很好的培养。由此可见英语阅读的重要性。

《新世纪大学英语社科知识阅读》作为《新世纪大学英语阅读丛书》中的一册,旨在通过进一步阅读,巩固大学生基础阶段英语学习。为此,该书精心编写了环境、法律、政治、宗教、经济、英美文化教育与生活、人际关系等社会科学领域的36篇文章。编写体系科学合理,选材新颖精炼,文字流畅易懂,内容贴近生活,信息量大,涵盖面广,语言难度适中,有利于帮助广大学生巩固和扩充英语词汇、进一步提高阅读能力和扩大知识面。

各单元后面都精心设计了若干选择题和思考讨论题,为读者训练和提高英语阅读理解能力提供了不可多得的语言素材,使其在训练和提高英语阅读能力的同时,了解和拓宽社科知识。

由于时间仓促,书中如有疏漏之处,敬请读者指正。

编 者

2001年5月

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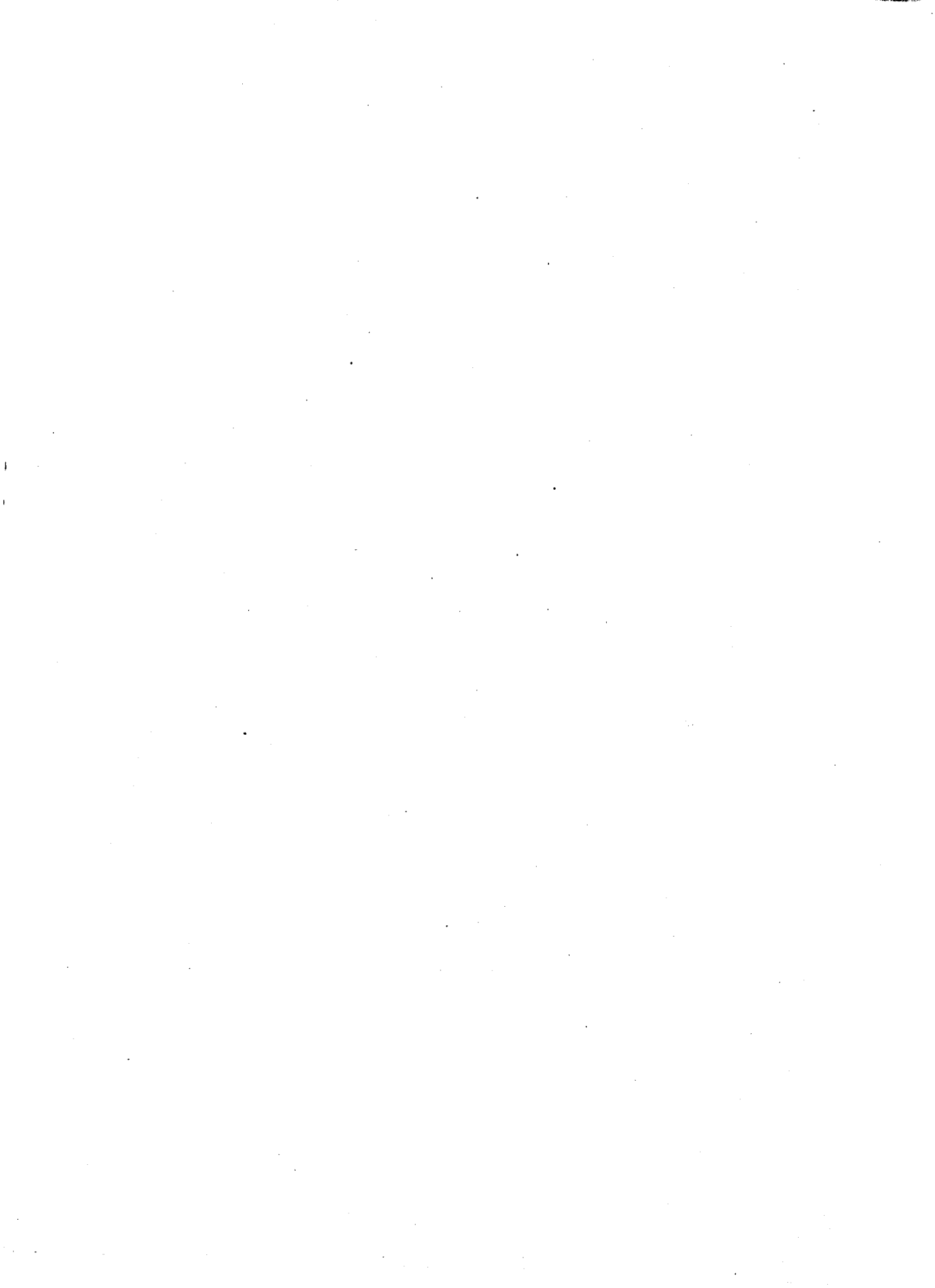
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Part One

Politics and Religion

(政治宗教篇)



Unit 1

The North-South Conflict

【New Words and Expressions】

- hemisphere *n.* (地球或天体的)半球
exclude *v.* 把…排除在外,拒绝接纳(或考虑)
attribute *n.* 特征,品质,属性
dominate *v.* 统治,控制,支配
incredible *a.* 难以置信的,不可相信的,不可思议的,惊人的
diversity *n.* 差异,多样性,变化
objective *n.* 可见的实物目标,宗旨
disparate *a.* 根本不同的,无联系的,不能比拟的
nonalignment *n.* 不结盟
chagrin *n.* 懊恼,悔恨,委屈
terminate *v.* 结束,完结
sovereignty *n.* 主权,统治权,君权
subservience *n.* 依附,从属性,奴性
metropolis *n.* (殖民地的)宗主国
neocolonialism *n.* 新殖民主义
interpretation *n.* 解释,理解
thrust *n.* 趋势,动向
resent *v.* 对…表示忿恨,对…怀恨
promulgate *v.* 散布,传布,公布,颁布
concession *n.* 让步,(进一步)承认
autonomy *n.* 自治,自治权,自治区,自主权
plunder *n.* 劫掠…的财物,掠夺
plight *n.* 困境,境况,苦境
inequity *n.* 不公正(平),偏私
tenet *n.* 原则,信条
pragmatically *ad.* 实际上,事实上
premise *n.* 前提
rhetoric *n.* 花言巧语,辩术
confront *v.* 使…面对,使…面临
unequivocally *ad.* 明确的,不含糊的

thereby *ad.* 因此, 由此, 从而
abyss *n.* 深渊
deprivation *n.* 剥夺, 丧失
immense *a.* 巨大的, 广大的
Cartel 卡特尔(为采取共同行动而结成的政治联盟)
virtual *a.* 实质上的, 实际上的
frustrate *v.* 使...受挫折, 使...失败(或失望)
ideological *n.* 意识形态
goad *v.* 刺激, 唆使
disparity *n.* 不同, 差异, 悬殊, 出入
psyche *n.* 心智, 灵魂
erode *v.* 侵蚀, 腐蚀
scenario *n.* 设计, 方案; 事态, 局面
pose *v.* 造成, 构成; 使...摆好姿势
derive from 源于, 由...而来
lie to 位于
bring about 带来, 造成
on the premise of 在...前提下
in part 在某种程度上, 部分地
be skeptical of 对...表示怀疑
be subjected to 隶属于, 附属于
at one's disposal 由...作主(或支配)

【Text】

Throughout most of the years of the East-West conflict another major conflict also helped shape the international system. Unlike the East-West conflict, it continues today, though at a more subdued level than in the era of the bipolar world. That conflict is the North-South conflict.

The North-South conflict derives its name from the simple fact that, almost without exception, the wealthy nations of the world are in the Northern Hemisphere and the poorer nations lie to their south. Generally speaking, the North consists of the United States, Canada, Europe excluding Albania, Israel, Russia and the other newly independent former Soviet republics (although this is a matter of debate), Japan, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. The remaining states of the world, numbering over 110, are the South.

The South has been and is described by many terms—The Third World, the Developing World, and the Less Developed Countries (LDCs), to name just a few. Again speaking in general terms, the countries of the South share two attributes: (1) they have had a colonial past dominated by European powers, and (2) they are poor.

Although incredible diversity exists within the Developing World states, a sense of community has developed among many of the states of the South, a community brought about by shared history, objectives, and injustice. For states as disparate as those that make up the Developing World, this is a notable achievement. All seek a future of change.

In general, states of the South share three objectives: political-economic independence, political-military nonalignment, and economic-social modernization.¹ And in some ways, these three objectives are interrelated.

Despite obtaining formal independence, many Developing World states have discovered to their chagrin that they remain economically and politically dependent on their former colonial masters. Trade ties and investment patterns established during decades of colonial rule were rarely terminated by the attainment of political sovereignty. From the viewpoint of Developing World countries, this economic dependence carried with it unavoidable political subservience. Thus, even though a Developing World state may have sought to establish its own political-economic independence, it could not.

Such a relationship between former colonial metropolis and their former colonies is termed neocolonialism. Although interpretations of neocolonialism differ on a case-by-case and region-by-region basis, a unifying thrust of the South is to escape this neocolonial relationship.

In part, the Developing World's desire to escape political-economic dependency explains its hostility toward both the West and Western institutions such as the World Bank and multinational corporations. Developing states often resent the World Bank's insistence that they provide full disclosure of financial data, and having had numerous occasions to witness the linkage between economic strength and political power, governments of the less developed states often were skeptical of the claim promulgated by Western state actors and non-state actors alike that no political concessions would be sought if investments opportunities were awarded.

The South, then, was on the horns of a dilemma as it sought to achieve political-economic independence.² Full political and economic independence could be achieved only if Developing World states could strengthen their economic autonomy. In most cases, however, that required increased reliance on external sources of finance and expertise. To many Developing World countries, such external economic reliance implied continued political dependence.

Developing World states pointed particularly to their ongoing debt problem as proof of their continuing neocolonial status. Obviously, when foreign debts make up sizable percentages of gross national products, prospects for repayment are not good. From the perspective of Developing World governments, economic indebtedness and accompanying high interest rates were new ways that the First World had found to continue to plunder what little wealth the Developing World had.

Nevertheless, by the 1990s, most Developing World states concluded that they had no choice other than to seek external investment from multinational corporations and other private and public sources. Political-economic independence remained an objective, but most developing states had not achieved it. And in some Developing World states even the ideal of political-economic indepen-

dence began to fade as the 1990s proceeded. Indeed, by the late 1990s, the reality of global economic interdependence was reflected in the economic policies of many developing states.

Even with the end of the East-West conflict, many Developing World states consider it critically important to maintain political-military nonalignment. This objective flows from one of the same motivations as the Developing Worlds desire to achieve political-economic independence: having achieved political sovereignty, Developing World states do not want to be subjected to another form of external control. Although the role of the nonaligned movement has diminished in world affairs since the Cold War, for years the movement was a major actor in the international community.

Above all else, Developing World countries see their plight of poverty and dependence as the result of past colonial exploitation and current economic inequities in international trade, pricing, and exchange mechanisms. As a result, the South seeks both expanded aid from the North and a restructuring of the existing international economic order. In short, the South desires a New International Economic Order (NIEO).

Not surprisingly, the industrialized North rejects most of the proposed tenets of the NIEO. In the United States, Western Europe, Japan, Australia, Israel, South Africa, and New Zealand, the NIEO is rejected as being economically and politically unrealistic, pragmatically unworkable, and founded on inaccurate economic premises. None of the Developing World states accept the West's rejection of the NIEO, although there is little they can do but argue for additional negotiations.

The North-South conflict, then, is a real conflict. The dangers that it generates are not so readily apparent as those that arose from the East-West conflict. Nevertheless, the dangers are real, and they present challenges to the entire world.

What dangers exist because of real growing differences in the distribution of wealth between North and South? One danger is that North and South may find themselves more deeply entwined in the rhetoric of confrontation and hostility. Do the economically wealthy countries have a duty and responsibility to help less fortunate states improve themselves economically? Developing World states unequivocally answer yes, whereas wealthy states respond hesitatingly and uncertainly on both sides of the question. Even in those instances where the North extends aid, disagreement exists over what development strategy to use. At the same time, the South guards its independence, fearing that economic ties to the North through either state agencies or private firms may increase economic dependence and political subservience. The danger of allowing the current North-South dialogue to move toward confrontation and hostility is that constructive action may end, thereby allowing the South to slip even more deeply into the abyss of poverty and influencing the South to take action with whatever tools it has at its disposal against the North.

Despite its poverty, the South is not without tools. Many of the resources that the industrial North requires are available primarily in the South. Realizing this, the South could turn to a strategy of resource deprivation and price increases in raw materials. So far only OPEC states have employed this strategy successfully, but their impact on the industrialized world has been im-

mense. Although other raw material cartels would not have the same advantages that OPEC enjoyed, cartelization could appear as a useful strategy to Developing World governments. Obviously, the virtual collapse of OPEC that occurred in 1986, bringing with it sizable reductions in oil prices, pointed out that cartelization is not a guaranteed answer to the Developing World's problems. Nevertheless, even with the difficulties inherent in cartelization, it could prove attractive.

Developing World governments, however, need not be the only representatives of the developing World to act because of frustration over the distribution of global wealth. Non-state actors such as terrorist groups or transnational ideological or religious movements may conclude that resorting to violence or terror is the key to goading the North to action or to overturning an unfair international economic system. Given the weaponry available on the international arms market and given the integrated nature of modern industrial society, a small group could terrorize a much larger organization or society.³ With little to lose under current conditions, resort to violence or terror may become a preferred option for some non-governmental actors and perhaps even for some governments. Indeed, in 1990, Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, argued that one of the justifications for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was that it was not proper for Kuwait's people to be rich while many other Arabs are poor.

A more subtle effect of the continued disparity in wealth between North and South is the psychological impact that the effects of that gap may have on the collective psyche of the North, particularly in situations where starvation occurs. Whereas proponents of the "lifeboat theory"⁴ of international relations urge that the North jealously provide only for itself, others have concluded that the industrialized societies are gradually eroding their own humanity by neglecting the needs of the Developing World.

Perceived potential threats, then, are diverse: resource deprivation and price wars through cartelization, violence and terror against North's humanity are three of the scenarios that may happen unless the North-South conflict is improved.⁵ Unless some steps are taken to change a situation where 75 percent of the world's population have only 20 percent of the world's gross national product, the North-South conflict can only pose heightened dangers for the entire global community.

【Notes】

1. In general, states of the South share three objectives: political-economic independence, political-military nonalignment, and economic-social modernization. 大体上,南方国家有三个共同目标:政治经济独立,政治军事不结盟和经济社会现代化。
2. The south, then, was on the horns of a dilemma as it sought to achieve political-economic independence. 因此,南方各国在争取政治经济独立的过程中陷入一种进退两难的境地。
3. Given the weaponry available on the international arms market and given the integrated nature of modern industrial society, a small group could terrorize a much larger organization or society. 考虑到国际武器市场所能提供的武器以及现代各工业国之间相互依存的性质,一个小团体完全可能对一个庞大的组织或国家进行恐怖活动。

4. lifeboat theory: 救生艇理论,指发生危险时,以紧迫性和权宜性来决定处理事情的先后顺序,而不以人道主义或其他道德标准行事。
5. Perceived potential threats, then, are diverse: resource deprivation and price wars through cartelization, violence and terror against North's humanity are three of the scenarios that may happen unless the North-South conflict is improved. 因此,可以预测到的潜在威胁是多种多样的:除非南北冲突有所改善,通过卡特化造成的资源掠夺和价格战,以及暴力和针对北方的恐怖行为就是三种随时可能发生的事情。

【Reading Comprehension】

- What is the conflict between the South and the North?
 - Exploitation of economy by the industrialized.
 - Real and growing differences in the distribution of wealth in the world.
 - Political independence and neocolonialism.
 - Economic support related to full disclosure of financial data.
- Which of the following countries belongs to the less developed world?
 - South Africa.
 - Albania.
 - New Zealand.
 - Canada.
- The objectives that states of the South share does NOT include _____.
 - most of the world's gross national product
 - economic-social modernization
 - political-economic independence
 - political-military nonalignment
- What does the author mean by his assertion that "the South, then, was on the horns of a dilemma as it sought to achieve political-economic independence"?
 - Political independence stems from economic autonomy.
 - Economic independence results from political sovereignty.
 - Strengthening their economic autonomy increasingly can cast off the yoke of neocolonialism.
 - Economic independence excludes political independence.
- We can infer from the passage that _____.
 - the dialogues between the South and the North are constructive
 - the dialogues between the South and the North are controversial
 - the South's economic ties to the North proved to widen the economic gap between the two worlds
 - the South welcomes the aids from the North no matter whether they are expertise or financial aids
- Which of the following statements is true?
 - The developing countries have constituted a variety of raw material cartels to protect themselves effectively.
 - Only OPEC appeared as a successful strategy to the North.

- C. The impact of OPEC on the North has been declining.
 - D. Terror and violence are most likely to be the best option for the less developed countries.
7. Unless the North-South conflict is improved, perceived potential threats that may happen include all the following scenarios except _____.
- A. resource deprivation and price war through cartelization
 - B. violence
 - C. a war between the South and the South.
 - D. terror

【Questions for Discussion】

1. Can the North-South conflict be solved? Why or why not?
2. Why is the conflict between the first and the third world dangerous to the whole world?
3. What caused the poverty and dependence of the developing states?