

ENGLISH

现代



经典英文散文选

Modern Prose Classics in English

高级阅读精选

编注
颜元叔



广东人民出版社

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序

颜 平

这一套散文选的英文书名 ~~Modern~~ *Classics in English*。英文书名应可显示，这是一套用英文写的散文，而不一定说作者全是英美母语人士。英文已成为世界语，用英文写作的非英语母语人士越来越多；而其中英文写得好的人也越来越多。所以，我这一套选文中有一些非英语母语人士的作品——当然，还是以母语作者为大宗。

其次，书名的“现代”二字指选文都出自 20 世纪作者或作家之手。英文文体随着时代变化甚快，20 世纪以前如 19 世纪末的英文文体，如今读来已很“古老”；对于培养现代读者的英文阅读能力，无直接帮助。只有读现代人的作品才能直接培养现代英文的阅读力。

书名中的“经典”两字，也许有人会误解，以为指的是“古典”或“古早”的东西。其实，Classics 一字除指时间上为“古典”者之外，也可指“优秀”之作品，尤指大家肯定为“优秀”或“不朽”的作品。因此，海明威的作品可以称之为 Modern Classics（现代经典）。此处就是采这个意思。我这里所选的文章，不敢说篇篇都是，至少极大多数都是现代不朽的散文作品。不仅是文章不朽，而义理也是不朽的——至少是很值得思索的有价值的义理。

我自从二十多年前策划编选台大大一英文选“20 世纪英文选”以来，我的主张一直是必须培养全面或多样性的英语阅读能

力——不可只偏限于读文学性作品。所以，在“20 世纪英文选”中，我在台湾首创涵盖四方面的文选：文学、人文学、社会科学与自然科学。各科所选当然不是太专门性的，而是浅近的介绍性文章。这种编法后来传开在各大学文选之间，今则已成大学文选的当然策略。那么，这一套《现代英文经典散文选》的文章，也可说五花八门，从文学到政治，从小品文到科学家的文章，乃至社会科学家的文章，可说一应俱全：其目的就在于培养一个阅读力广泛或全面的英文读者——打开《时代周刊》，哪一个专栏你都能涉略，这就是一个比较全面的读者。

最后，这一系列，从前以《大中英文》的书名出现过，“中”者中学生也；后来我发现中学生要读这套书还是太难。如今经过重新整编，加多注释，特别是分段附上汉译，程度好的高中学生应可读懂乃至欣赏吧。主要的读者群，我还是属意大专学生与类似程度的社会人士；这个层次的读者最需要在阅读能力上作最后也是最大的突破，以期自此可自力更生而成为有独立阅读力的读者。这个系列便是为这个突破之攻坚而设计的——剩下的，就是你自己的努力了。

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NATIONAL MORALE AND WORLD TRANQUILLITY (民族精神与世界和平)

Sun Yat - sen [孙逸仙]

作者与大意

孙中山先生的这篇文章被收在《世界伟大演说集》(*The World's Great Speeches*, ed. Copeland & Lamm, Dover Publications Inc., New York, 1973), 其主旨在于迎头赶上西方科技, 配合我国精神文明, 建设中国, 保卫弱小民族, 促进世界和平, 而这一切都待我们发挥民族精神, 重振国运。按: 世界和平, 今日通作 world peace, 而不作 world tranquillity, 想为当日某译家之措辞。

Although we are behind the foreigners in scientific achievement, our native ability¹ is adequate to² the construction of a great material civilization, which is proved by the concrete evidence of past achievements. We invented the compass, printing, porcelain, gunpowder, and the curinh of tea³ and weaving of silk⁴. Foreigners have made good use of⁵ these inventions. For example, modern ocean transportation would be impossible if there were no compass⁶. The fast printing machine, which turns out⁷ tens of thousands of copies per hour, had its origin in China. Foreign military greatness comes from gunpowder, which was first used by the Chinese. Furthermore, many of the latest inventions⁸ in architecture in the West

have been practiced⁹ in the East for thousands of years. This genius of our race for material inventions seems now to be lost; and so our greatness has become but¹⁰ the history of bygone glories.¹¹

虽然我们在科学成就上落在外国人后面,我们的天赋才能却足堪从事伟大物质文明的建设,这一点已由过往成就的具体证据证明了。我们曾发明了罗盘、印刷术、瓷器、火药,以及制茶与制丝。外国人大加利用了这些发明。例如,若没有罗盘,近代的海洋运输就不可能了。每小时可印出数以万计份数的快速印刷机,最初就是发源于中国。外国的军事威力是因火药而来,火药最初就是被中国人使用的。此外,西方世界许多建筑方面的新近发明,在东方已被实用过几千年之久。我们民族这种物质发明的天才现在似乎丧失了;因此我们的伟大仅仅成为昔日荣誉的历史了。

注解 ¹ 天赋才能。 ² **adequate to** 足够从事。 ³ **curing of tea** 制茶术。 ⁴ **weaving of silk** 制丝术。 ⁵ **made good use of** 善加利用。 ⁶ 此处为现在时虚拟语气, 意谓“倘若没有罗盘, 则海洋运输为不可能”。 ⁷ 印成, **turns out** 亦可意谓“变成”。 ⁸ 最近发明的东西, 也意为复数。**invention** “发明”, **discovery** “发现”。 ⁹ 现在完成时被动语气, “已经实施”。 ¹⁰ **but** 此处用为副词, 意为 **only**。

¹¹ 昔日荣誉。

I believe that we have many things to learn from the west, and that we can learn them. Many Westerners maintain that the hardest thing to learn is aerial science;¹² already many Chinese have become skillful aviators, if aeronautics can be learned, I believe everything

can be learned by our people. Science is only three hundred years old, and it was not highly developed until fifty years ago. Formerly coal was used as the source of energy; now the age of coal has given place to¹³ the age of electricity.

我相信我们有许多要向西方学的事，而我们能够学会。许多西方人认为最难学的事物是航空科学；却有许多中国人已经成为技术精良的飞行者。如果航空学能被学得会，我相信什么事都能被我国人学会。科学只不过有 300 年历史，它是在 50 年前才开始有高度发展。以前煤被用作能源，现在煤的时代已经让位给电的时代了。

注解 ¹²科学是 17 世纪文艺复兴末期的产物，故称“仅 300 年历史”。 ¹³**give place to** 让位给……。

When we learn from the West, it is evident that we should learn the latest inventions instead of¹⁴ repeating the different steps of development. In the case of the power-house, we may well learn to adopt the centralized plan of producing electricity, and need not follow the old plan of using coal to produce energy. In this way we can easily within ten years catch up¹⁵ with the West in material achievement.

我们向西方学习的时候，显然应该学最新的发明，而不是去重复发展的不同步骤。以发电厂为例，我们不妨学习采用集中式的发电计划，而不需要依循使用煤来制造能的旧方法。这样，我们可以轻易地在十年内在物质成就方面追上西方。

注解 ¹⁴全句意为“学习最新发明而不要(**instead of**——短语介词)重复西方科学发展的历史过程”。想即“迎头赶上”之意。¹⁵**catch up**赶上。

The time is critical. We have no time to waste, and we ought to take the latest and the best that¹⁶ the West can offer. Our intelligence is by no means inferior to¹⁷ that of the Japanese. With our historical background and our natural and human resources, it should be easier for us than it was for Japan to rise to the place of a first class Power by a partial adaptation of Western civilization. We ought to be ten times stronger than Japan because our country is more than ten times bigger and richer than Japan. China is potentially equal to ten Powers. When China becomes strong, she can easily win first place in the Council of Nations.¹⁸

是关键的时刻了。我们不能浪费时间了，我们应当汲取西方所能提供最新最好的。我们的智力决不低于日本人。有了我们的历史背景和我们的自然与人力资源，借着部分采用西方文明而提升至一流强国的地位，对我们而言应比日本做来容易。我们应当比日本强十倍，因为我们的国家比日本大而且强十倍以上。中国在潜能上是与十强相等的。等中国变强大的时候，她可轻易在国际联盟里争得第一。

注解 ¹⁶ **that** 是关系代词 (**relative pronoun**)，先行词为 **the latest** 与 **the best**。 ¹⁷ **by no means** 决不；**inferior to** 低于。 ¹⁸ 国际联盟。

Now the question is: How can we become a first class Power? Our ancestors adopted a policy of “helping the weak and curbing the strong”:¹⁹ a policy of international justice resting upon a sound moral foundation. As a result, the small nations in Asia, including Annam, Burmah, Korea and Siam²⁰ enjoyed peace, freedom, and independence for thousands of years. As soon as China became weak, these small nations were annexed by the Powers, and so they lost their liberty and independence. When China becomes strong again, it will be our duty to help these nations win back their freedom.²¹ This is a great responsibility! If we cannot fulfill this great responsibility, what is the use²² of China being strong and powerful?

现在的问题是：我们如何才能成为一流强国呢？我们的祖先采行了“济弱抑强”的政策：一个以健全道德基础为依据的国际公理政策。因此之故，包括安南、缅甸、韩国、泰国在内的亚洲诸小国得享和平、自由、独立有数千年之久。中国一旦衰弱，这些小国就遭强国并吞，因此它们丧失了自由与独立。等中国再强大起来，帮这些国家争回自由将是我们的责任。这是个重大的责任！我们若是不能实践这个重任，中国强大有力又有什么用处？

注解 ¹⁹济弱抑强。 ²⁰ Annam 即 Vietnam, Siam 即 Thailand。

²¹ freedom 指特定之自由，如 freedom of speech（言论自由）；Liberty 泛指一切自由，如 give me liberty or give me death（不自由毋宁死）。但两字亦可互换，如言论自由亦可作 liberty of speech，惟通常仍用 freedom of speech。 ²²有什么用处。

Again, if China follows at the heels of²³ the imperialistic and militaristic nations, China's ascendancy to power, would not only be useless, but harmful to humanity. The only glorious and honorable path for us to pursue is to maintain in full force the old policy of "helping the weak and curbing the strong."

再者，如果中国紧跟在帝国主义与军国主义国家后面走，中国之晋升为强国不但是无益，而且会对人类有害。我们该走的惟一光明正大的途径就是以全力维持“济弱抑强”的政策。

注解 ²³ at the heels of 紧跟着。

Gentlemen, we ought to decide at this hour what is to be the fundamental policy for which the nation is to stand²⁴, and where our hope and our greatness lie²⁵. When the days of our prosperity come, we must not forget the pain and misery which we are now suffering from the pressure of economic and political forces of the Powers. When our country becomes powerful, we should assume the responsibility of delivering those nations which suffer in the same way as we do now. This is what the *Ta Hsueh* means by "securing world tranquillity" (*P'ing t'ien hsia*). The way to proceed is to revive our spirit of nationalism²⁶ and to restore²⁷ our country to its original position of a "Single Power."²⁸ We should use our old moral values and our love of peace as the foundation of national reconstruc-