

5

74315.4: C955.71

The Xenophobe's Guide to The Americans

美国人

斯蒂芬尼·福勒 著
(Stephanie Faul)
韩颖译

外 文 出 版 社
Foreign Languages Press

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国人:英汉对照/(美)福勒(Faul, S.)著;韩颖译.

——北京:外文出版社,2001.1

ISBN 7-119-02755-7

I. 美… II. ①福…②韩… III. 英语-对照读物-英、汉
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 77984 号

外文出版社网址:

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

外文出版社电子信箱:

info@flp.com.cn

sales@flp.com.cn

著作权合同登记图字: 01-2000-1655

“本书原由三联书店(香港)有限公司以书名《美国人!》出版

©1999 Joint Publishing (H.K.) Co. Ltd.

经由原出版公司授权外文出版社在中国内地出版发行。”

美国人

作者 斯蒂芬尼·福勒

译者 韩颖

责任编辑 刘明珍

封面设计 唐少文

出版发行 外文出版社

社址 北京市百万庄大街 24 号

邮政编码 100037

电话 (010) 68996075 (编辑部)

(010) 68329514/68327211 (推广发行部)

印刷 北京顺义振华印刷厂

经销 新华书店/外文书店

开本 36 开

字数 100 千字

印数 00001—10000 册

印张 5.25

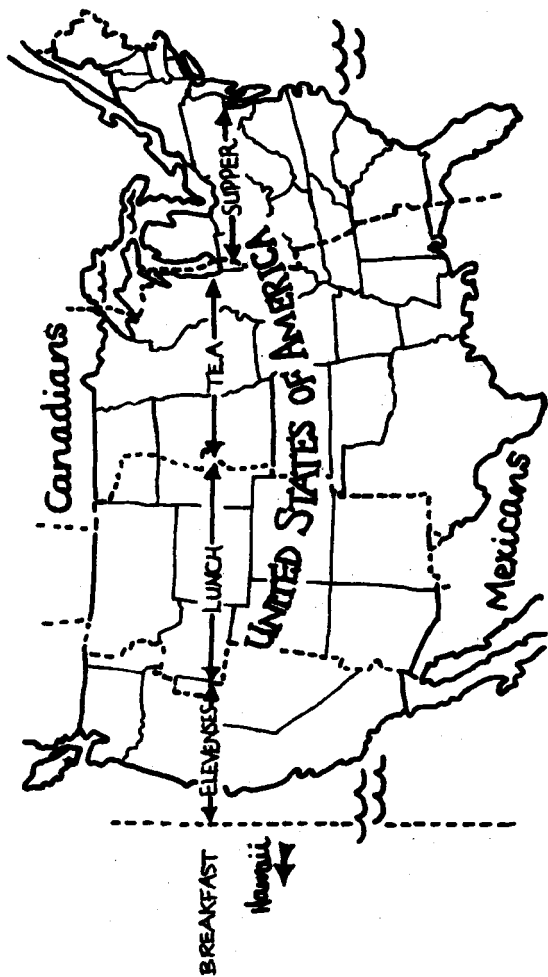
版次 2001 年 2 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷

装别 平装

书号 ISBN 7-119-02755-7/Z·602(外)

定价 8.00 元

版权所有 侵权必究



The American population is 268 million (compared with 29 million Canadians; 48 million English; 92 million Mexicans; 125 million Japanese; 144 million Russians; and 1.2 billion Chinese).

Nationalism and Identity

Forewarned is Forearmed

Americans are like children: noisy, curious, unable to keep a secret, not given to subtlety, and prone to misbehave in public. Once one accepts the Americans' basically adolescent nature, the rest of their culture falls into place, and what at first seemed thoughtless and silly appears charming and energetic.

Visitors may be overwhelmed by the sheer exuberant friendliness of Americans, especially in the central and southern parts of the country. Sit next to an American on an airplane and he will immediately address you by your first name, ask "So - how do you like it in the States?", explain his recent divorce in intimate detail, invite you home for dinner, offer to lend you money, and wrap you in a warm hug on parting.

This does not necessarily mean he will remember your name the next day. Americans are friendly because they just can't help it; they like to be neighbourly and want to be liked. However, a wise traveller realises that a few happy moments with an American do not translate into a permanent commitment of any kind. Indeed, permanent commitments are what Americans fear the most. This is a nation whose most fundamental social relationship is the

民族性和特性

预先警告就是预先准备

美国人就像孩子似的：吵吵闹闹，好奇，不能保守秘密，体会不到微妙之处，在公共场所还常常举止不当。一旦你接受了美国人这种基本的青少年天性，对他们的其他文化也就一目了然了。那些当初看上去欠考虑或者愚蠢的事，现在却变得迷人，而且充满活力。

美国人热情似火，尤其是中部和南部的美国人，可能会让来访者受不了。在飞机上，若你的邻座是个美国人，他会马上用名字来称呼你，并且问“那么——你在美国感觉怎么样？”他还会详细地告诉你最近他为什么离婚了，邀请你去他家吃饭，提出要借给你钱，分别时还会热烈地拥抱你。

这并不一定意味着第二天他还会记得你的名字。美国人友好，是因为他们没办法不友好；他们希望能和别人搞好关系，希望别人能喜欢他们。不过，一个明智的旅行者会意识到，与美国人融洽地呆上一段时间，并不会转化成什么永久的承诺。的确，永久的承诺正是美国人最害怕的。在这个国家，最基本的社会

casual acquaintance.

How They See Themselves

As befits a nation originally settled by misfits, convicts, adventurers, and religious fanatics (a demographic mix that has changed hardly at all in nearly 400 years), the United States retains a strong flavour of intransigent noncooperation. Americans are proud to be American – it's the best country in the world – but each individual will explain that he, personally, is not like the other Americans. He is better. Americans are proud to be different from each other, and from the world. The only visual difference between Americans and other nationalities is that Americans are taller and have straight teeth.

There's no such thing as a plain American, anyway. Every American is a hyphenated-American. The original 'melting pot' has crystallised out into a zillion ethnic splinters: Croatian-Americans, Irish-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and so on. A typical American might introduce him or herself as Patrick Ng, Octavio Rosenberg, or Ilse-Marie Nugumbwele.

An American will say "I'm Polish" or "I'm Italian" because his great-grandparents were born in Poland or Italy. It doesn't matter that he speaks not a word of any language besides English and has never been farther east than New York City or farther west than

关系是偶然相识的人。

他们如何看待自己

最初来到这片土地的是一些不适应环境的人、罪犯、冒险家和宗教狂热分子（将近四百年来，这种群体构成几乎没有什么变化）。与此相应，美国有一种强烈的绝不合作的气氛。美国人为自己是美国人而骄傲——这是世界上最好的国家——但每个人都会说他与其他美国人不同。他更好。美国人以彼此不同、与其他国家的人也不同而感到骄傲。美国人与其他国家的人之间唯一一点可见的区别是，美国人更高，而且牙齿整齐。

无论怎样，没有什么纯粹的美国人。每个美国人都是归化的美国人。最初的“熔化锅”，已经具体化为无数个种族派别：克罗地亚裔美国人、爱尔兰裔美国人、日裔美国人、墨西哥裔美国人等等。典型的美国人在介绍自己时可能会自称为帕特里克·吴，奥克塔维欧·罗森伯格，或者艾尔斯—玛利·努甘伯维尔。

美国人可能会说“我是波兰人”或者“我是意大利人”，因为他的曾祖父母出生在波兰或者意大利，而他自己，除了英语什么语言都不会说，所去过的地方，东不过纽约城，西不过芝加哥。他知道怎么做果酱小

Chicago. He knows how to make kolatches (if he's Polish) or cannelloni (if he's Italian), and that's what counts.

A spirit of rugged individualism pervades virtually every aspect of American life. Americans' heroes are outlaws, like wild west gunfighter Jesse James, or entrepreneurs, like Sam Walton, founder of the Wal-Mart chain of superstores. Their ogres are totalitarians of every stripe, including communists, presidents of major corporations, law officers, and politicians. Every American worker has fantasies of one day going into business for himself. Individualism extends even to matters domestic: nearly one-third of American households consist of only one person.

How They See Others

Only 10% of Americans own passports. They don't need them. An American can travel for a week and still be on home turf. The fact that everyone who lives within 3,000 miles of an American is also an American gives the average citizen a seriously provincial point of view. Because Americans visit foreign countries relatively seldom^①, they assume that people all over the world are just like themselves, except for not speaking English or having decent showers.

① Canada doesn't count.

圆面包（如果他是波兰人），或者茄汁肉卷（如果他是意大利人），这就行了。

事实上，严格的个人主义精神渗透到了美国生活的各个方面。美国英雄是不法之徒，就像狂野的西部枪手杰西·詹姆斯，或者是像萨姆·沃尔顿那样的企业家和沃尔-玛特连锁型超级市场的创办者。他们所痛恨的恶魔是各类独裁者，包括一些专制的政党、大公司的总裁、执法官员和政客。每个美国工人都幻想着某一天能够自己开业。个人主义甚至渗透到了家务事上：几乎三分之一的美国家庭只由一个人组成。

他们怎样看别人

只有 10% 的美国人拥有护照，人们不需要。美国人可以旅行一个星期，还是在他自己的国土上。美国人周围方圆 3000 英里生活的也是美国人这一事实，使普通的美国人有一种严重的地方主义观点。因为美国人相对来说很少出国^①，所以他们以为全世界的人都像他们一样，只是不会说英语，或者不像他们那样经常洗澡。

① 作者注：加拿大不算在内。

Some Americans believe that foreign natives really do speak English (they study it in school, you know), but refuse to do so out of prejudice. The delusion that 'they're just like us except for their language, food, and clothing' comes from the reality that nearly all Americans descend from foreign immigrants. Thus people in other countries aren't really aliens, they're just potential Americans, or rather, potential hyphenated-Americans.

Special Relationships

Americans have a special relationship with Canadians with whom they share the world's longest undefended border. In fact, most Americans aren't fully aware that Canada is a separate sovereign nation. Canadians look and talk like Americans, and the Toronto Blue Jays won the World Series baseball championship. Any champion baseball team must be from the United States, no matter what its supporters think.

Europe is not very well differentiated in the American mind. American travellers on guided tours happily swing through five countries in seven days, returning home with the vague notion that the Eiffel Tower is somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Tower of Pisa – which, by American standards, it is. The distance from London to Istanbul is less than the distance between Pittsburgh and Phoenix and only two-thirds the mileage from Maine to Miami.

有些美国人相信外国人的确会说英语（要知道，他们在学校里是学英语的），他们之所以不说是出于偏见。美国人认为“除了语言、食物和服装外，他们和我们一样”，这种谬论源于几乎所有美国人都是移民后代这一事实。因此，其他国家的人并非真的是外国人，他们只是潜在的美国人，或者说，是潜在的归化的美国人。

特殊关系

美国人与加拿大人有一种特殊的关系。美加两国的边界是世界上最长的不设防边界。事实上，大多数美国人并没有完全意识到加拿大是一个独立的主权国家。加拿大人和美国人长得像，说话也像，而且多伦多“蓝鸟”队赢得了世界职业棒球锦标赛。所有赢得冠军的棒球队必定来自美国，不论其支持者怎样想。

在美国人的头脑里，欧洲各国间没什么区别。美国人在导游的带领下，愉快地在欧洲五国旅行七天后，回到家里也只是模糊地记得埃菲尔铁塔是在比萨斜塔附近——以美国人的标准来看，就是这样。伦敦到伊斯坦布尔的距离还没有匹兹堡到凤凰城远，只是从缅因州到迈阿密路程的三分之二。

Americans feel sentimental about England. They import much of their decent literature and most of their better television programmes from Britain, and anyone over 40 worships the country that produced the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. There's also the Royal Family element: lacking a domestic equivalent, Americans lap up the latest imported blue-blooded scandals. Royal weddings attract huge American audiences, who sigh at the glorious un-American pomp of it all.

Americans distrust the Japanese because they are everything the Americans are not: group-oriented, sexist, conformist, and ethnically monotonous. They claim that the fact that the Japanese are richer than they are doesn't bother them at all.

美国人对英国人挺有感情。他们从英国引进了许多高雅的文学和大部分优秀的电视节目，而且四十岁以上的人都崇敬产生了“披头士”和“滚石”乐队的国家。此外还有皇室因素：由于国内没有身份相应的人，美国人贪婪地享受着最近引进的贵族丑闻。皇家婚礼吸引了大批的美国人，面对那些非美国式的富丽堂皇，他们也只能叹息。

美国人不相信日本人，因为后者和他们截然不同：集体倾向、性别歧视、规规矩矩、种族单一。美国人声称，他们对日本人比他们富有丝毫也不在意。

Character

Like every other nation, America knows that it's the best country in the world. The difference is that Americans have proof: people from all over the globe really do make enormous sacrifices to come to the United States, often risking their lives in the process. What more evidence is needed?

Being Number One is very important to an American. In the United States, it's definitely not how you play the game that matters. It isn't even really whether you win or lose. It's whether you look like you win or lose – more specifically, win.

Winning is central to the American psyche. As American football coach Vince Lombardi put it, "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing." Virtually every event in American life, from school graduation to marriage to buying an automobile, is structured so that one party wins, or at least comes out looking better than any of the other participants.

What is more, Americans believe themselves to be the only nation that is truly capable of winning. They are always being called in at the last minute to bail some backwater nation out of the soup. Having God on your side in a fight is good. Having the United States on your side is better. To an American, they're the same thing.

Once the battle is over and negotiations begin,

性 格

就像其他国家一样，美国人认为美国是世界上最好的国家。区别在于美国人有证据：全球的人为了能到美国来的确做出了很大的牺牲，甚至常常要冒生命危险。还需要其他证据吗？

名列第一对美国人极其重要。在美国，重要的绝对不是如何行事，甚至不是成功或者失败，而是你看上去是成功还是失败——更确切的说，是成功。

成功对美国人的心理是至关重要的。正如美国橄榄球队教练文斯·隆巴底所说：“成功不是一切。成功是唯一。”事实上，美国生活中的任何事，从学校毕业到结婚，乃至购买一辆汽车，都被设计为要有一方获胜，或者至少有一方看起来比其他参与者更好。

再者，美国人相信他们的国家是唯一真正有能力取胜的国家。总有一些落后的国家会在最后一分钟请美国帮忙把他们救出困境。打仗时有上帝帮忙不错，有美国帮忙更好。对美国人来说，这是一样的。

可是一旦战争胜利，谈判开始，美国人就从斗士变

however, Americans change from warriors into wimps. As humourist Will Rogers put it, "America never lost a war and never won a conference in our lives. I believe that we could, without any degree of egotism, single-handedly lick any nation in the world. But we can't confer with Costa Rica and come home with our shirts on."

The Feel-Good Factor

Winning is important to Americans because it makes them feel good, and good is the American thing to feel. Americans spend thousands of dollars on books, drugs, and various forms of psychotherapy in order to feel good. The most widely-prescribed psychiatric drug in the country is an anti-depressant. Americans attend therapy groups, participate in self-discovery retreats, experience 'primal scream therapy' and 're-birthing', and so forth. (Much of this activity takes place in California, the feelgood state.)

The American reaction to any kind of disaster or crisis is to feel good about it. Americans always look at the bright side, whether or not there is one, and if possible accentuate the positive of every disaster. "If life hands you lemons, make lemonade", they'll chirp as they examine the smashed wreck of their car or the earthquake-ravaged ruin of their house; "I always hated that kitchen."

Feel-goodism affects all aspects of private and pub-

成了庸才。正如幽默家威尔·罗杰斯^①所说：“在我们这一生中，美国从未输过一场战争，或者赢一场谈判。不是自我吹嘘，我相信我们可以单枪匹马地打败任何国家。但即令是和哥斯达黎加谈判，我们回家时，身上也会输得连件衬衣都没有。”

感觉良好因素

成功对美国人是重要的，因为这能使他们感觉良好，而良好正是美国人要感觉的。美国人在书籍、药物和各种形式的心理疗法上花了几千美元，就是为了感觉良好。医生最常开的心理药物是抗抑郁药。美国人热衷于参加治疗小组、自我发现庇护所、进行“原始大喊疗法”和“再生”疗法等等。（这些活动很多都是在加利福尼亚举行的，那里是感觉良好州。）

对任何灾难和危机，美国人的反应都是要感觉良好。美国人总看事情光明的一面，不论是否有光明的一面，而且如有可能，就强调每场灾难的积极意义。“如果生活给你柠檬，就做柠檬汁”。当他们检查自己那被撞坏的汽车或者地震破坏的房屋时，会叽叽喳喳不停地说：“我一直就讨厌那个厨房。”

^① 威尔·罗杰斯（1879—1935），美国幽默作家、演员。