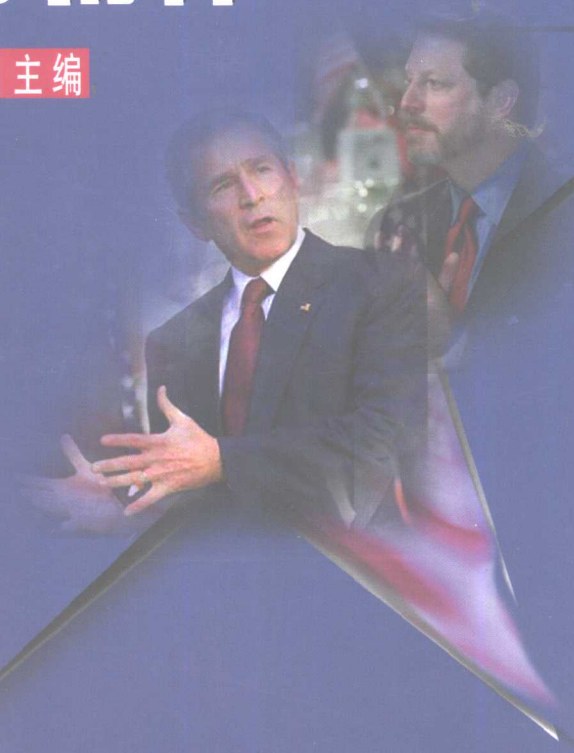


American Presidential Debates

美国总统大选 辩论精粹

李月菊 主编



北京大学出版社



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前言

《美国总统大选辩论精粹》是根据 2000 年美国总统大选中民主党候选人、副总统戈尔与共和党候选人、得克萨斯州州长布什的公开辩论编写而成。

辩论的内容涉及到新一届政府内政外交的各个方面：减税、教育、能源、军事、环保、死刑、同性恋、社会保障、种族歧视、控制枪支、老年医疗保健、对中东的政策、海外出兵等，其中争论的焦点是与选民切身利益相关的国内事务——教育、减税、老年医疗保健、社会保障等。两位候选人竞相宣传自己的主张和见解，积极争取那些犹豫不定的选民站到自己的一边。

在短短的几十分钟的辩论过程中，两位候选人就主持人所提的问题进行陈述或反驳，双方你来我往，唇枪舌剑。公开辩论不仅是两大执政党方针政策的较量，也是两位候选人口才的交锋、语言艺术的展示。戈尔从政多年，有丰富的演讲和辩论经验；布什机智灵活，风趣幽默。两位候选人不是在空洞地、抽象地谈论治国之道，而是用大量的事实、具体的数据、活生生的现实等来说明自己的观点。双方还大量使用修辞手法来增强说服力。

本书在语言上的特色是通俗易懂，生动形象，用词精辟。为便于读者理解，编者对辩论中常用的单词和短语都给出了详细的注释，对相关社会文化背景也做了注解说明。

本书为读者提供了标准的美国口语和高超的英语辩论技巧，也是了解美国、研究美国的重要文献。

本书配有四盒高质量的实况录音原声带。

由于编者水平有限，书中疏漏、错误在所难免，恳请广大读者批评指正。

编者
2001 年 8 月

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Part 1 First Debate

Unit 1 Introduction

Mr. Lehrer: Good evening from the Clark Athletic Center at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. I'm Jim Lehrer of "The News Hour" on PBS and I welcome you to the first of three 90-minute debates between the Democratic candidate for president, Vice President Al Gore, and the Republican candidate, Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

The debates are sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates and they will be conducted within formats and rules agreed to by the commission and the two campaigns. Tonight's will have the candidates at podiums. No answer to a question can exceed two minutes, rebuttals are limited to one minute. But as moderator, I have the option to follow up and to extend any particular give and take another three and a half minutes. But even then no single answer can exceed two minutes.

The candidates under their rules may not question each other directly. There will be no opening statements but each candidate may have up to two minutes for a closing statement.

The questions and the subjects were chosen by me alone. I have told no one from the two campaigns or the commission or any one else involved what they are.

There's a small audience in the hall tonight. They are not here to participate, only to listen. I have asked and they have agreed to remain silent for the next 90 minutes except for right now when they will applaud as we welcome the two candidates, Governor Bush and Vice President Gore.

Words and Phrases

athletic *a.* 体育的, 运动的, 运动员的

debate *n.* 辩论, 辩论会, 辩论赛

vice President 副总统

Democratic *a.* (美国)民主党的

Democratic Party (美国)民主党

Republican *a.* (美国)共和党的

Republican Party (美国)共和党

candidate *n.* 候选人

Gov. (Governor 的缩写) 州长

conduct *v.* 进行, 主持

format *n.* 方式, 安排

sponsor *v.* 资助, 赞助

n. 资助人, 赞助人

commission *n.* 委员会

podium *n.* 讲台, 讲坛

exceed	v.	超过, 越过
rebuttal	n.	反驳, 反证
moderator	n.	主持人
option	n.	选择权, 选择自由, 选择
follow up		进一步谈, 进一步辩论
extend	v.	延长, 使展期
up to		到……为止, 直到
involve	v.	与……直接有关, 使参与, 忙于
audience	n.	听众, 观众
participate	v.	参加, 参与
applaud	v.	鼓掌

Notes

1. Part 1 is the first presidential debate between Gov. George W. Bush of Texas and Vice President Al Gore in Boston in 2000.
2. Jim Lehrer, the news anchor (新闻主播) for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), was the moderator(主持人) of the presidential debate between Gov. George W. Bush of Texas and Vice President Al Gore.
3. PBS, Public Broadcasting Service 的缩写。
4. Political parties in America: There are two major political parties, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Other parties have occasionally challenged these two but without permanent success. The two major parties tend to be moderate in their programs, and there is often little difference between them. The national parties sometimes seem to exist mainly to contest presi-

dential elections every four years, and, in between their quadrennial(每四年一次的) national conventions(大会), they are often little more than loose alliances of state and local party organizations.

In elections for President, voters actually choose among electors committed to the support of a particular candidate. Each state is allotted one electoral vote for each senator and representative in Congress. This is called the electoral-college system.

At the state level, political parties reflect the diversity of the population. Large urban centers are likely to support a Democratic ticket, whereas rural areas, small cities, and suburban areas tend to vote Republican.

5. The Commission on Presidential Debates was established in 1987 to ensure that debates, as a permanent part of every general election, provide the best possible information to viewers and listeners. Its primary purpose is to sponsor and produce debates for the United States leading presidential and vice presidential candidates and to undertake research and educational activities relating to the debates. The organization, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation, sponsored all the general election debates in 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000.

Exercises

1. Who is the moderator of this debate?
2. Who chose the questions and subjects for this debate?

3. How long can an answer last?
4. Rebuttals are limited within two minutes, aren't they?
5. Can the two candidates ask each other questions during the debate?
6. Are there any opening statements?

Unit 2 Different Proposals

Section 1

Mr. Lehrer: And now the first question. As determined by a flip of a coin it goes to Vice President Gore. Vice President Gore, you have questioned whether Governor Bush has the experience to be President of the United States. What exactly do you mean?

Mr. Gore: Well, Jim, first of all, I would like to thank the sponsors of this debate and the people of Boston for hosting the debate. I'd like to thank Governor Bush for participating and I'd like to say that I'm happy to be with Tipper and our family.

I have actually not questioned Governor Bush's experience. I have questioned his proposals and here's why. I think this is a very important moment for our country. We have achieved extraordinary prosperity and in this election America has to make an important choice: will we use our prosperity to enrich not just the few, but all of our families? I believe we have to make the right and responsible choices.

If I'm entrusted with the presidency here are the choices that I will make: I'll balance the budget every year. I will pay down the national debt. I will put Medicare and Social Security in a lock box and protect them. And I will cut taxes for middle-class families.

I believe it's important to resist the temptation to squander our surplus. If we make the right choices, we can have a prosperity that endures and enriches all of our people. If I'm entrusted with the presidency, I will help parents and strengthen families because, you know, if we have prosperity that grows and grows, we still won't be successful unless we strengthen families by, for example, insuring that children can always go to schools that are safe, by giving parents the tools to protect their children against cultural pollution. I will make sure that we invest in our country and our families and I mean investing in education, health care, the environment and — and middle-class tax cuts and retirement security. That's my agenda and that's why I think that it's not just a question of experience.

Mr. Lehrer: Governor Bush, one minute rebuttal.

Mr. Bush: Well, we do come from different places. I come from West Texas, I've been a Governor. A Governor is the chief executive officer and learns how to set agendas.

And I think you're going to find the difference reflected in our budgets. I want to take one-half of the surplus and dedicate it to Social Security, one-quarter of the surplus for important projects and I want to send one-quarter of the surplus back to the people who pay the bills. I want everybody who pays taxes to have their tax rates cut.

And that stands in contrast to my worthy opponent's

plan, which will increase the size of government dramatically. His plan is three times larger than President Clinton's proposed plan eight years ago. It's a plan that will have 200 new programs as well or expanded programs. It will create 20,000 new bureaucrats.

In other words, it empowers Washington. And tonight you're going to hear that my passion and my vision is to empower Americans to be able to make decisions for themselves and their own lives.

Section 2

Mr. Lehrer: So I take it by your answer then, Mr. Vice President, that in your interview recently with The New York Times when you said that you question whether or not Governor Bush was experienced enough to be President, you were talking about strictly policy differences.

Mr. Gore: Yes, Jim. I said that his tax cut plan, for example, raises the question of whether it's the right choice for the country and let me give you an example of what I mean. Under Governor Bush's tax cut proposal, he would spend more money on tax cuts for the wealthiest one percent than all of the new spending that he proposes for education, health care, prescription drugs and national defense all combined. Now I think those are the wrong priorities.

Now under my proposal, for every dollar that I propose

in spending for things like education and health care, I will put another dollar into middle-class tax cuts. And for every dollar that I spend in those two categories, I'll put two dollars toward paying down the national debt. I think it's very important to keep the debt going down and completely eliminate it.

And I also think it's very important to go to the next stage of welfare reform. Our country has cut the welfare rolls in half. I've fought hard from my days in the Senate and as Vice President to cut the welfare rolls and we've moved millions of people in America into good jobs. But it's now time for the next stage of welfare reform and include fathers and not only mothers.

Mr. Lehrer: We're going to get to a lot of those issues — yes, go ahead, Governor.

Mr. Bush: Well let me just say that, obviously, tonight we're going to hear some phony numbers about what I think and what we ought to do.

People need to know that over the next 10 years there's going to be \$ 25 trillion of revenue that comes into our treasury. And we anticipate spending \$ 21 trillion. And my plan says why don't we pass 1.3 trillion of that back to the people who pay the bills. Surely we can afford 5 percent of the \$ 25 trillion that are coming to the treasury to the hard-working people who pay the bills. There's a difference of opinion.

My opponent thinks the government — the surplus is the government's money. That's now what I think. I think it's the hard-working people in America's money and I want to share some of that money with you.

So you've got more money to build and save and dream for your families. It's a difference of opinion. It's the difference between government making decisions for you and you getting more of your money to make decisions for yourself.

Mr. Gore: Jim.

Mr. Lehrer: Let me just follow up. One quick question. When you hear Vice President Gore question your experience, do you read it the same way? That he's talking about policy differences only?

Mr. Bush: Yes. I take him for his word. I mean, I — Look, I fully recognize I'm not of Washington. I'm from Texas. And he's got a lot of experience. But so do I. And I've been the chief executive officer of the second biggest state in the union. I've had a proud record of working with both Republicans and Democrats, which is what our nation needs. We need somebody who can come up to Washington and say: "Look, let's forget all the politics and all the finger pointing and get some positive things done on Medicare and prescription drugs and Social Security." And so I take him for his word.

Mr. Gore: Jim, if I could just respond —