



A SHORT HISTORY  
OF THE AMERICA

【美】威廉·亨德里克·房龙 著

尹继武 译

# 美国史纲



陕西师范大学出版社

中英对照·图文版



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Chapter I Wanted: More And  
Cheaper Spices

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THE Guild of the Grocers was in dreadful straits.  
Their supply of spices was well-nigh exhausted.  
But the demand surpassed anything that had ever been seen before.  
The Guild of the Grocers was in dreadful straits.  
And thereby hangs a story.

It is a law recognized both by the professors of political economy and the judges of our police courts that those who have for a considerable time dined at the Ritz will not willingly return to Jack Mulhaly's far-famed fish-chowder and beans. Of course, in case of actual need they will content themselves with the simple fare of the excellent John. But before they reach that point of open and avowed defeat, they will fight tooth and nail to maintain the standard of excellence to which they have become accustomed.

1.价廉物美的香料需求量大增

杂货商们陷入了极端的困境。  
他们供应的香料已经销售殆尽。  
然而需求却空前强劲。  
其中必有原因。  
.....

那些经常去豪华的里茨饭店用餐的人,肯定不愿意再到杰克·穆勒利的小酒馆去的,因为他们非常不愿意再去吃那种由鲜鱼、咸肉、洋葱、菜豆做成的大杂烩。这个道理是政治经济学教授和法庭的法官都承认的。当然,在迫不得已的情况下,他们也只好以粗茶淡饭充饥了。然而,他们在绝望之前,还是要竭力保持积习已久的高消费生活习惯。



The barbarians who overran the greater part of western Europe during the first ten centuries of our era were men of simple taste, which usually means men of no taste at all. With them, quantity came before quality, and a continent that had lain practically unscratched since the last great glacial epoch easily satisfied their demands for a wooden bench, a greasy slab of beef and unlimited ale.

Besides, there, was so much to be done and there were so few people to do what needed being done that their surplus energy was entirely exhausted by the chores of every-day life. Roughly speaking, it took them a thousand years to settle down. Then the job was done. Peace and quiet returned to this earth and with peace and quiet on the part of the elders came the Wanderlust of the younger generation.

Ten centuries before that Wanderlust would have led to another outbreak of anarchy. But by now the people of the West once more recognized a single master. He laid no claim to worldly power. His spiritual weapons, however, could annihilate entire battalions of Swiss mercenaries. His paper arrows could pierce the walls of the strongest castles.

His mere displeasure was more



中世纪战乱频仍的欧洲

在公元之初的 10 个世纪里,那些横扫西欧大片领土的野蛮人,饮食非常简单;他们根本就不讲究吃喝。对于他们来说,数量比质量更重要。而西欧自从上次冰河期以来,仍然是一块尚未开垦的处女地,人们轻而易举的就可以弄到一条木凳、一块野兽的肉和甘美的水。

还有许多事情需要做,但是人口数量实在太少了,而需要做的事情却非常多;人们的精力往往都浪费在日常的琐事上了。也就是说,人们用了将近 1000 年的时间才过上安定的生活。西欧重又恢复了和平与安宁。祖辈赢得了和平与安宁;而年轻的一代人则开始了躁动和游荡。

经过 10 个世纪的躁动和游荡,最终导致了另一次动乱。然而这时的西方人又再一次认可了唯一的统治者。他并不想主宰世界,但是他的思想武器却能够歼灭所有的瑞士雇佣兵。他的纸箭却能够穿透最坚固的城堡。



## 1. 价廉物美的香料需求量大增

terrible than a threat of war on the part of emperor or king.

Surrounded by the cleverest of diplomats, the most astute of politicians, he was able to divert the rising tide of unrest into the practical channels of foreign conquest and to bring about that great migration towards the East which ever since has been known as the era of the Crusades. Unfortunately this episode has been so often chosen as a subject for romantic literary rhapsodies that we are apt to forget the true if more prosaic nature of the conflict.

The ancient world was the world of the Mediterranean. He who had command of that vast tract of water could dictate his will to the rest of mankind.

It was an ambitious undertaking, and the small fry of pirates and buccaneers who infested the deep bays of the Spanish and Greek and Italian peninsulas and who lived along the shallow coast of



十字军攻占君士坦丁堡

他的一丝不愉快情绪,对于皇帝或者国王来说就是战争的威胁。

机智的外交家和精明的政治家都在辅佐着他,持续高涨的不安情绪都被引向了切实可行的对外征服,并且引发了后来的十字军东征和向东的大迁徙。然而让人感到遗憾的是,这一历史事件往往会成为传奇文学的叙事主题。我们往往会忽略这些冲突平淡无奇的本质。

古代的世界是以地中海为中心的世界。谁控制了那片广阔的水域,谁就可以将自己的意志强加给在其他地区的人们。

这是一项雄心勃勃的壮举。出没于西班牙半岛、希腊半岛和意大利半岛海湾,以及活跃在摩

Morocco and Tripoli and Egypt could not possibly hope for more than a trifling local success.

Nothing short of “racial groups”—vast agglomerations of people bound together by tens of thousands of years of a common social, economic and religious development were able to handle a problem that must be settled upon so gigantic a scale. They well knew the risk they took, for such quarrels were apt to be quite as disastrous to the victor as to the vanquished.

Only twice before had it come to an open break.

The first time in the fifth century before our era, when Greece as the champion of the West had defeated the invading hordes of the Persians and in a series of brilliant counter-attacks had pursued her enemies as far as the shores of the river Indus.

The second time two hundred years later, when the Romans narrowly averted disaster by such a display of national energy that the state almost perished before the last of the Carthaginian strongholds had been reduced to ashes.

Then, for more than eight centuries, there had been peace.

But in the year 622 Asia, marching under the banner of a brand-new prophet, was once more ready for the unequal struggle. This time the campaign was planned upon a truly gigantic scale. The left wing of the Mohammedan armies took possession of Spain. The right wing meanwhile made for Constantinople by way of Syria and Asia Minor. It was at that moment that the head of the Christian Church took fright and proclaimed a holy war.

洛哥、的黎波里和埃及海岸的海盗们，他们只希望取得一些小规模的胜利。

只有当这些种族群体联合起来——通过千万年社会、经济和宗教的共同发展，形成了一个强大的集合体——才能在广阔的地区横行无忌。这些族群对他们所面临的危险非常清楚：战争同样会给胜利者和失败者造成巨大的损失。

这样的壮举在十字军东征以前只有过两次。

第一次发生在公元前 5 世纪。希腊成为了西方的霸主，并且打败了波斯人，在进行了多次成功的反击之后，最终将敌人驱赶到了印度河畔。

第二次发生在公元 200 年以后。罗马人在民族精神的激励下，竭尽全力击败了迦太基，罗马帝国最终得以保全，保住了他们的家园。

在以后的 800 年时间里，他们安享了 800 多年的和平。

然而，622 年，亚洲出现了一位新的先知，在他的号召下一场非正义的战争正在酝酿。在他的计划中有规模庞大的战斗。穆罕默德的左翼大军占领了西班牙，右翼的军队则通过叙利亚和小亚细亚向君士坦丁堡进军。这个时候，基督教会的教皇刚感到万分恐惧，随即宣布进行圣战。

从军事的角度来看，这场战争是完全失败的；但是这场战争却给社会造成了巨大而深远的影响。罗马帝国崩溃之后，欧洲各国第一次接触到一种在各方面都优于它们的文明。十字军的将



## 1. 价廉物美的香料需求量大增

This war, from a military point of view, was a complete failure. But its social consequences were of great and lasting importance. For the first time since the disappearance of the Roman state the nations of Europe were exposed to a civilization which in almost every respect was higher than their own. They went east to slaughter the infidel and to deprive him of his pagan possessions. They returned home with a new conception of comfort and luxury and with a profound dislike for the crudities of their own barren existence.

This sudden change in the general point of view was soon reflected in the houses of the people of the western mainland, in their clothes, in their manners, in the way they spent their idle hours and in the things they ate and drank.

The older generation (after the habit of all older generations) continued to talk about the simple virtues of the ancestors. The children merely shrugged their shoulders and smiled. They had been to the "big city" and they knew better. Quietly they bided their time, but as soon as the old folks were dead they hastened to upholster the parlor, sent for a couple of outlandish cooks and despatched their sons to the nearby town that there they, might learn how to become bankers or manufacturers and acquire within a single lifetime such wealth which the soil would not surrender in a thousand



伊斯兰教创始人穆罕默德

士到东方去是为了杀戮异教徒、掠夺他们的财物。当他们胜利凯旋的时候却带回了关于舒适、奢华的新观念，他们对自己贫乏、枯燥生活的感到深深的厌恶。

这种观念的转变，不久就在西方大陆人们的住宅、服饰、举止、娱乐方式和饮食上得到了体现。

那些严格遵循祖辈遗留下来的习俗的老一代人，不断地谈论着祖先的原始价值观。而年轻人则只是耸耸肩棒，一笑置之。他们到过“大城市”，所以他们见多识广。他们平静地等待着时机，

years of heart-breaking toil.

The Church grumbled.

This was a consequence she had not quite foreseen.

Alas! the returning heroes were no longer animated with that holy and unquestioning zeal which had been so characteristic of their parents and grandfathers. Familiarity with one's friends may breed contempt. But familiarity with an enemy is apt create mutual respect.

As a result there was a slump in the building of churches. But private palaces and richly adorned municipal buildings were arising on all sides.

I do not say that this was a good thing. I do not say that it was bad. I merely state a fact. If you want to draw any conclusions, go ahead and suit yourself.

Meanwhile on the other shore of the Mediterranean there also had been a considerable decline in the ardor of that strange religious devotion which measured its love by the number of slaughtered captives. In short, both parties had accepted a stalemate and were willing to reach a compromise which meant money in the pockets of their respective merchants.

The ancient trade-routes, trampled down by millions of iron heels and hoofs, were put in a state of repair. Once more the patient camels carried their burdens from Kashgar to Damascus. Again, as in the days of old, the Venetian caravels and the Genoese galleys plied regularly between Alexandria and Famagusta.

等到父母都去世了,就赶忙重新布置家里的客厅,请来外地的厨子,把自己的孩子送到附近的城镇去学习金融和制造业,他们很快就获得了在泥土里辛苦劳动 1000 年也无法获得的财富。

然而,教会却有些不高兴了。

这是它没有料到的结果。

这些凯旋而归的英雄们已经不再具有他们祖先所特有的那种神圣的热情了! 与朋友熟悉之后,就会变得漫不经心;而与敌人熟悉之后,就会相互尊敬。

结果是教堂的建筑物越来越简单,而私人的住宅和市政大楼的装饰则越来越华丽。

我既不能说这是一件好事,也不能说这是一件坏事。我只想把这些事实说出来。如果您由此得出了什么结论,那么这是您的事情。

在地中海的另一边,那种不可思议的宗教狂热(他们以杀戮俘虏来表示对真主的爱)也逐渐降温了。总而言之,双方都已经认识到了所处的困境,所以他们愿意妥协和解;而这种妥协与和解说明双方商人口袋里都有了钱。

被铁蹄践踏过的古老贸易之路又重新得以恢复。能够进行长途跋涉的骆驼再次驮上了货物,往来于卡什加和大马士革之间。威尼斯轻便的小帆船和热那亚的大帆船,又和以前一样定期往返于亚历山大和法马古斯塔之间。



## 1. 价廉物美的香料需求量大增

Wherefore all was well with the world and the rate of interest upon a successful Levantine deal rose rapidly from just exactly nothing to four hundred per cent.

Then one of those insignificant incidents happened which (after the nature of insignificant occurrences) are apt to change the entire aspect of history for all time to come. It was during the middle of the thirteenth century. The dreadful Tartars had just gone on the warpath and from the Amur to the Vistula people were flying in blind panic before this flood of grinning little yellow devils. Among the fugitives was a small group of nomads (two or three hundred families at the most) who since time immemorial had lived peacefully in the heart of Asia. They ran almost as far as the Mediterranean. Then they heard that the danger was past and decided to return home. In order to do this they must cross the river Euphrates. But an accident happened. Their leader slipped off his horse and was drowned. The others who were still on the western bank of the river took fright. They regarded this sudden calamity as a direct warning of Heaven and asked the King of Persia to let them stay where they were.

The rest is a matter of common knowledge. Within less than a hundred years these wandering shepherds had made themselves the masters of the empire that had given them hospitality and one generation afterwards they were the recognized rulers of the Mohammedan world and had started upon that career of conquest which eventually was to carry their horse-tail banners to the gates of Vienna and was to make the mere name of "Turk" a byword for cruelty and bravery for all ages.

因此，世界太平，一次成功的东方贸易之旅所获得的利润，很快就从零上升到了原来的4倍。

然而，一件偶然发生的小事却可能会改变历史的整个面貌。13世纪中叶，可怕的鞑靼人发动了战争；从黑龙江到维斯图拉河，面对如潮水般涌来龇牙咧嘴的小黄鬼，人们惊恐万分，四处逃散。在这些逃命的人中有一支小的游牧部落（最多只有二三百户人家）。这群人很早以前就生活在亚洲的腹地了，他们一直都和平安宁地繁衍生息。他们一直向西跑，就要到达地中海了。这时他们听说危险已经过去，于是他们决定回到故乡。在返回故乡的途中他们必须横渡幼发拉底河。然而，意外发生了。他们的首领坠马溺水而亡。那些仍然滞留在河西岸的人们十分恐慌。他们认为这个突发的事件就是上天的警告，于是他们请求波斯国王让他们留在那里。

后来的事情，大家都知道的。在不到100年的时间里，这个游牧民族成为了曾经友好接待他们的帝国的主人；30年之后，他们成为了伊斯兰世界的统治者，并且开始了征战的历程，最后，他们的马尾战旗插在了维也纳的城门上，而“土耳其人”这个词语也成为了强悍凶蛮的代名词。

如果这种穆斯林的狂热情绪仅仅只是一种政治运动的话，那么也不完全是什么坏事。然而，一场极端宗教的暴风雨却席卷了整个西亚。在穆罕默德死后的6个世纪里，他的信徒们原有的激情已经消退。祖先的“信仰”固然是非常美好的，但是胡椒、桂皮和靛蓝交易所带来的巨额利润

Now if this sudden revival of Moslem fury had been merely a political movement, it would not have been so bad. But a profound spiritual frenzy swept across the plains and hills of western Asia. During the six centuries which had gone by since the death of the Prophet the original ardor of his followers had considerably cooled. The "faith of the fathers" was something very fine but so was the sweet profit derived from the traffic in pepper and cinnamon and indigo. It was unfortunate that this trade forced the true believers to be on amicable terms with the infidel dogs from the other side of the Mediterranean, but you know how it is. Business is business and one cannot draw the line at Christians if one is in trade.

Not so the inhabitants of the villages and the lonely valleys! They took their religion seriously and encouraged by the military and the political success of their Turkish leaders they now decided to bring their erring brethren of the big cities back to the true faith.

Far and wide the Dervishes (the monks of the Mohammedan world) traveled through the realm of the Prophet. Some of them prayed, some of them danced, some of them whirled, some of them howled, But one and all they preached a return to the stern tenets of the original desert creed.

At first the merchants of Bagdad and Damascus laughed. But the "puritans" were in dead earnest. Soon the merchants even ceased to smile. A little later (warned by the fate of their murdered neighbors) they began to restrict their commercial opera-



拥有大量金币的威尼斯商人

同样也是非常诱人的。这种交易促使忠实的信徒与地中海彼岸的异教徒们友好相处。这是非常不幸的，但是事情还是发生了。交易就是交易，一个人在进行交易的时候是不可能将基督徒拒之门外的。

那些生活在穷乡僻壤的人们并不是这样的，他们对自己的宗教十分虔诚。土耳其领导

人的政治、军事成就鼓舞了他们，于是他们决定劝导那些生活在大城市中误入歧途的教友们改邪归正。

伊斯兰僧人的足迹遍布穆罕默德的国土。这些有的做祷告，有的跟着音乐舞蹈，有的人忙忙碌碌，有的人大叫大嚷。但是他们每一个人都在鼓吹回归基本教义。

最初，在巴格达和大马士革从事商业活动的人们对此只是一笑置之。但是这些“极端的宗教





## 1. 价廉物美的香料需求量大增

tions to their own fellow religionists.

And in this way, just when the people of Europe had come to depend upon certain Asiatic goods, the supply was suddenly cut off.

Of course this did not happen in a day or a week or even a single year. But those products which for more than two hundred years had flowed westward in such complete and uninterrupted abundance now began to disappear from the European markets. The available supplies were at once cornered by the speculators. Prices began to soar. Credit was withdrawn and payment had to be made in gold. This was something new in the West. The medieval worlds in its every-day transactions, had never insisted upon ready money. Every one lived within hailing distance of every one else. One man's pork was as good as another man's eggs. The honey of one cloister could readily be exchanged for the vinegar of another.

It is true, foreign trade had always insisted upon a certain amount of gold and silver coin, It had been impossible to satisfy the spice dealers of Calicut with slices of bacon and barrels of salt. Before they authorized their agents in Jidda or Aden to make delivery they had demanded a deposit of Venetian doubloons and pieces-of-eight.

But now the European market began to ask for cash on delivery. That greatly complicated matters.

For gold, the mysterious, yellow substance which seemed to defy the power of State and Church, was another article that had to be imported from abroad. There were a few silver mines in

狂人”却是非常认真的。商人们很快就不再发笑了。没过多久,他们的邻居遭到了谋杀,他们也受到了警告,于是,他们开始只与信奉同一种宗教的人进行贸易活动了。

而在当时,欧洲人早就已经习惯了那些来自亚洲的物品。这样一来,供应也就被迫终止了。

当然,这种情况并不是在一天或者一个星期、一年里发生的事情。但是在这段时间里,那些在过去 200 年时间里一直源源不断地向西输送的物品,逐渐在欧洲的市场上消失了。投机商们开始囤积能够获得的一切物品,物品的价格也开始暴涨。信贷也被撤销了;黄金成为唯一的支付手段。这对于西方人来说是非常新鲜的事情。在中世纪的时候,人们在日常交易中,从来都没有被要求必须支付现金。人们住所之间的距离很近,鸡犬相闻,互相往来。以物易物,是非常自然的事情。这家修道院的蜂蜜完全可以和那家修道院酿造的醋进行交换。

确实是这样,进行贸易就需要大量的金币和银币。几片咸猪肉和几桶盐,已经很难使卡利卡特的香料商们满足了。他们在委托吉达或亚丁的代理商发货之前,必须支付威尼斯金币或者银币。

而欧洲的市场上现在也已经实行银货两讫的方式了。这样一来就会产生非常大的问题。

黄金这种神秘的、黄灿灿的东西似乎超越了国家和教会,也必须从海外进口。欧洲有一些银矿,但是奥地利、萨克森和西班牙山间发现的那一点点黄金,根本就不能满足投机商们日益活跃



Europe but the small amount of gold that was found in the mountains of Austria, Saxony and Spain was by no means sufficient to finance the ever-increasing operations of the speculators and the legitimate spice dealers.

Here was as pretty a vicious circle as the world had ever seen. A public ready and eager to buy—a decreasing amount of supplies—a rapid increase in prices—a general demand for bullion—a decrease in the available supply of gold—one country of western Asia and northern Africa after another falling into the hands of the relentless heathen—one caravan road after the other closed for an indefinite space of time and the young and lusty capitalistic system of Europe fighting for its life.

The capitalistic system (using this term in the sense in which it is understood or misunderstood by most of our contemporaries) has been accused of many and highly diversified crimes. But even its worst enemies cannot accuse it of laziness or deny that in times of a crisis it is able to develop an almost supernatural energy. It was just such a crisis which now threatened to ruin the western com-



14 世纪的欧洲社会

的投机行为和香料交易。

世界上出现了空前的、难以遏制的恶性循环。人们的购买欲望极度高涨——供应量的下降——物价的急剧上涨——普遍需要金、银货币——而可以供应的黄金却越来越少——西亚和北非国家接二连三的落入了凶残异教徒的手中——一条又一条商路被无限期的关闭——新兴的、非常具有活力的欧洲资本主义制度为了自身的发展而挣扎着。

资本主义制度(当代大多数人对它的内涵都有误解)被指责犯有多种罪行。然而即使是它的