

“话说美国”英语阅读系列之三

# Stories of American Society



## 美国性格：人物与趣闻

主编 陈立凯



南京大學出版社

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国性格:人物与趣闻:英文/陈立凯主编. —南京:  
南京大学出版社, 2007. 4

(“话说美国”英语阅读系列)

ISBN 978-7-305-05029-9

I. 美… II. 陈… III. ①英语—语言读物②社  
会生活—概况—美国 IV. H319.4;D

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2007)第 047118 号

出 版 者 南京大学出版社  
社 址 南京市汉口路 22 号 邮 编 210093  
网 址 <http://press.nju.edu.cn>  
出 版 人 左 健

丛 书 名 “话说美国”英语阅读系列  
书 名 美国性格:人物与趣闻  
主 编 陈立凯  
责任编辑 蒋桂琴 编辑热线 025-83592123

照 排 南京南琳图文制作有限公司  
印 刷 南京紫藤制版印务中心  
开 本 787×960 1/16 印张 11.75 字数 247 千  
版 次 2007 年 4 月第 1 版 2007 年 4 月第 1 次印刷  
ISBN 978-7-305-05029-9  
定 价 16.00 元

发行热线 025-83592169 025-83592317  
电子邮件 [sales@press.nju.edu.cn](mailto:sales@press.nju.edu.cn)(销售部)  
[nupress1@public1.ptt.js.cn](mailto:nupress1@public1.ptt.js.cn)

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## 序

这套“话说美国”英语阅读系列共有三册，内容选自美国国会图书馆“美国故事”栏目。该栏目载有近千篇关于美国历史、社会、文化的小故事。我们征得该栏目负责人 Guy Lamolinara 允许，选用了其中一部分故事加以整理、改编、注释，编辑成本套丛书。

本套丛书第一册是《美国往事：记忆与历史》，第二册是《美国风情：地理与文化》，第三册是《美国性格：人物与趣闻》，分别选编了“美国故事”的部分内容，向读者介绍美国历史、社会、文化、工业、农业、少数民族等美国历史和社会发展中的人和事。故事的篇幅短小精悍，内容丰富、语言简单、生动易懂，是我们进一步认识美国、了解美国的有益读物。

本套丛书提供了一般的教科书上所没有的知识和逸闻趣事，注释详细、客观。它既适合作为大学英语专业低年级学生的课外读物，也可以作为同等英语水平的读者学习英语的材料。另外，建议读者朋友将本套丛书参照来读，因为许多篇章都是相互联系的。

在编辑过程中有些故事的注释参考了公开发表的著作中的内容。在此，特向有关作者表示感谢。注释中另有许多句子的译文都是注释者自己的个人翻译，错误在所难免，欢迎读者朋友提出批评指正。

编 者

二〇〇六年十二月

## 前 言

《美国性格：人物与趣闻》是这套“话说美国”英语注释读物系列的第三本。它分为三个部分，从不同侧面分别讲述了美国社会的一些奇闻逸事。第一部分“美国社会公众人物”里面有国家领导人、政治家、社会改革家、冒险家、艺术家、文学家、科学家、工业大亨、体育界人物等等。第二部分“美国人的消遣活动”则介绍了美国的“国球”——棒球等各项消遣活动。第三部分“美国社会发展中的趣闻逸事”则介绍了美国社会进程中的一些插曲，如电影事业之一的动画片的发展、儿童歌曲、西部牧场牧人的工作等等，对于我们进一步了解美国社会发展过程中的一些事件很有帮助。

本书共有小故事 150 篇左右，篇数较少，但篇幅较长，从 200 多字到 400 多字不等，内容丰富、语言简单，涉及到美国历史上有代表性的人物、美国普通民众的闲暇娱乐和美国社会进程中的一些真实故事，是我们进一步了解美国社会与文化的有用材料。另外，这些故事和本套丛书的另外两本互为参照，内容相连。

本书仍采用注释的方式，对每篇故事里涉及到的知识性的难点尽可能地提供了详尽的介绍，以帮助读者在欣赏美文的过程中更深入地了解美国人民的文化。另外，注释中还对个别的词句作了注解，为个别句子提供了译文。当然这只是注释者个人的理解，难免有误，敬请读者朋友提出批评指正。

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**Part One Popular Figures of American Society**

**美国社会公众人物**



President and Mrs.  
Theodore Roosevelt  
seated on lawn,  
surrounded by their  
family, 1903.



## I. Leaders &amp; Statesmen 领导人与政治家

They led this country to greatness in many ways.

## 1. William Jennings Bryan 威廉·詹宁斯·布赖恩

Born on March 19, 1860, William Jennings Bryan was a gifted speaker, lawyer, three-time presidential candidate, and **devout Protestant**.<sup>1</sup> Although he was born in **Salem**,<sup>2</sup> Illinois, Bryan made his career in Nebraska politics. **He won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1890**.<sup>3</sup> A tireless defender of the small farmer and laborer, Bryan worked closely with **the Populist Party**,<sup>4</sup> a group of poor Midwestern and Southern farmers who suffered economically due to low prices for their crops, **which they blamed on Northeastern business interests**.<sup>5</sup> Bryan's efforts **on behalf of**<sup>6</sup> farmers and laborers (the so-called "common" people) earned him the title the "Great Commoner". He died on July 26, 1925.

1. 虔诚的新教徒
2. 萨勒姆市
3. 1890 年被选为美国众议院议员。
4. 人民党 ①: 美国 19 世纪出现的一个短暂的政党。在美国 1873 年的经济大萧条以后, 人民党首先出现在美国西部。它自称是代表着广大美国农民的利益, 为农民说话。
5. 他们将此归咎于东北部的利益集团。
6. 代表……的利益

## 1) William Jennings Bryan Supported Many Causes

After William Jennings Bryan **resigned**<sup>1</sup> as President Wilson's **secretary of state**,<sup>2</sup> he **resumed**<sup>3</sup> his place as one of the most important members of the Democratic Party. **He strongly advocated women's suffrage**.<sup>4</sup> His efforts, as well as others, led to the passage of the 19th Amendment,

1. v. 辞职
2. 国务卿
3. v. 重新开始
4. 他坚定地倡导妇女投票权。

which guaranteed women a vote in elections. Do you know when women finally got this right?

Not until 1920 did all women have the right to vote. Bryan also worked on other issues important to him during his lifetime. **He championed such causes as the popular election of senators,<sup>5</sup> an income tax<sup>6</sup> in which the rich pay more than the poor, the creation of a U. S. Department of Labor,<sup>7</sup> and the prohibition of the production and sale of alcoholic beverages.<sup>8</sup>** He also fought for the farmers of America. What effect do you think Bryan's efforts had on America?

Bryan's efforts had a **lasting influence<sup>9</sup>**, even after he was no longer active in the Democratic Party. His belief in the power of the government to **right wrongs and injustices<sup>10</sup>** and to guarantee the rights of all Americans is seen in programs like **Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives.<sup>11</sup>** This program helped lift the country out of **the Great Depression<sup>12</sup>** that followed the stock market crash of 1929.

5. 他支持像参议员普选……这样的事业。
6. 所得税
7. 美国劳工部
8. 酒精饮料
9. 持久的影响
10. 纠正错误和不公正的行为
11. 富兰克林·德拉诺·罗斯福总统新政的创新
12. (指美国上个世纪 30 年代的)大萧条

## 2) William Jennings Bryan and the Free Silver Movement

William Jennings Bryan was **a determined man.<sup>1</sup>** He **ran for the presidency<sup>2</sup>** three times as the Democratic Party candidate—in 1896, 1900 and 1908—and lost all three times. **Nevertheless, many of his ideas have taken hold.<sup>3</sup>** Why? In many cases, it was because of Bryan's skills as an orator, or public speaker.

Bryan had the ability to persuade people to think as

1. 一个意志坚定的人
2. 他竞选总统职位……
3. 可是,他的很多主意被采纳。

he did. In 1896 Bryan was able to persuade the Democrats that **paper currency**<sup>4</sup>, money, did not need to be **"backed"**<sup>5</sup> by gold.

What exactly did he mean that money did not need to be "backed" by gold? Bryan did not think it was necessary for the United States to hold in **reserve**<sup>6</sup> an amount of gold equal in value to all the paper money in **circulation**.<sup>7</sup> Bryan wanted the United States to use silver to **back the dollar at a value that would inflate the prices farmers received for their crops, easing their debt burden**.<sup>8</sup> This position was known as the **Free Silver Movement**.<sup>9</sup>

At the Democratic National Convention in 1896, Bryan not only persuaded his party that he was right, he also secured the Democrats' nomination for the presidency with his skills as a speaker. Can you guess how Bryan's beliefs about money affected his campaign?

Bryan's opponent, Republican William McKinley, **beat Bryan at his own game**.<sup>10</sup> His campaign raised far more money than Bryan's did and he was able to persuade voters that **dropping the "gold standard"**<sup>11</sup> would lead to **inflation**,<sup>12</sup> rising prices for goods and services. McKinley convinced the people that the Free Silver Movement was a bad idea. As a result, McKinley won the election with 7.1 million votes to Bryan's 6.5 million. But that didn't stop cartoonists from drawing pictures in which **Bryan blows away his rival**!<sup>13</sup>

4. 纸币

5. *v.* 支持

6. 储备

7. 在流通中

8. 布赖恩想要美国政府使用银本位来支持美元, 抬升农民获得的农产品的价格, 以缓解他们的债务负担。

9. 自由铸造银币运动

10. 将计就计

beat sb. at his own game: 将计就计地战胜某人

11. 放弃“金本位”

12. *n.* 通货膨胀

13. 布赖恩吹跑了他的对手!

### 3) William Jennings Bryan and His Principles

William Jennings Bryan was **a man who lived by his principles**.<sup>1</sup> He was not afraid to **take an unpopular stand**<sup>2</sup> on an issue. Although Bryan lost three presidential elections, he did become secretary of state in President Woodrow Wilson's administration in 1913. As a peacemaker, he negotiated treaties with 30 nations in which they agreed to investigate all disputes with other nations rather than go to war. Although Bryan did not always **get his way**,<sup>3</sup> he remained firm in what he believed in.

Bryan **strongly opposed imperialism**,<sup>4</sup> the extension of one nation's power over other countries. But President Wilson believed that the United States had interests in Latin America and that American influence over these nations was important to the security of the United States. The president ordered more U. S. **involvement**<sup>5</sup> in Latin America than Bryan believed was necessary. When World War I erupted in Europe in 1914, Bryan faced one of the greatest challenges to his beliefs.

Bryan's beliefs were put to the test when a German submarine sank **the British ship Lusitania**<sup>6</sup> in 1915. More than 100 Americans on board were killed. President Wilson wrote a letter that strongly **condemned**<sup>7</sup> the German attack. Bryan feared that if he signed the letter, it **would provoke war with Germany**.<sup>8</sup> Rather than sign it, he resigned.

1. 靠原则行事的人

2. 采取不受欢迎的立场

3. 想怎样就怎样;随心所欲

4. 强烈反对帝国主义

5. *n.* 卷入

6. 英国邮轮“露茜塔尼亚号”

7. *v.* 谴责

8. 将诱发与德国的战争

**Notes:**

第一次世界大战开始后,英国海军封锁了通往德国和其它轴心国的海上通道。为了打破封锁,德国宣布,凡是通往英国的航道都是战区。所有通往战区的船只,无论是交战国还是中立国的,都将被击沉。1915年5月1日,英国邮船“露茜塔尼亚号”载着1198名乘客离开纽约驶往英国,途中被德国潜艇击沉。船上的乘客大部分是美国人,包括291名妇女和94名儿童,葬身大海。这一惨无人道的举动引起了美国舆论的强烈愤怒,敦促美国政府参战的呼声越来越高。

## 2. King Kamehameha I 卡美哈美哈一世王

King Kamehameha I, also known as Kamehameha the Great, was the head of a dynasty (a succession of rulers from the same family) that ruled the Hawaiian islands for more than a century. The exact date of his birth is not yet known, but it is said that he was born between 1740 and 1758. **Legend has it**<sup>1</sup> that he was born at the time of the appearance of **Halley's comet**<sup>2</sup> and that this was a sign that he would **rise to greatness**.<sup>3</sup> The name Kamehameha means “**the one set apart**”.<sup>4</sup> He died on May 8, 1819.

1. 据传说……
2. 哈雷彗星
3. 成为大人物
4. 与众不同

### 1) King of All Hawaii

King Kamehameha I was an **autocratic**<sup>1</sup> ruler, one who rules without any limits to his or her power. In America, the system of rule is democratic, the people

1. *adj.* 独裁的

rule through their elected representatives. Although Kamehameha **answered to**<sup>2</sup> no one, he did establish a system of governors for each of Hawaii's islands.

Kamehameha maintained Hawaii's harsh system of laws, called *kapu*, but he also established another system to protect his people. It was called *mamalahoe kanawai*, or the "**Law of the Splintered Paddle**".<sup>3</sup> This law protected the common people from the **brutality**<sup>4</sup> of other chiefs. **The King also outlawed a cruel ritual that was practiced at the time.**<sup>5</sup>

The ritual was **human sacrifice**<sup>6</sup> and it was performed in Hawaii to honor the king by increasing his *mana*, or **sacred power**.<sup>7</sup> Kamehameha I is considered to be Hawaii's strongest ruler and truly **deserving of**<sup>8</sup> the title Kamehameha the Great.

## 2. 服从

3. “碎桨法律” 注：夏威夷王卡美哈美哈制订的法律的中心内容，即：“让每一名老年人、妇女、儿童安全地躺在大路边”。

4. *n.* 残酷，暴行

5. 国王还宣布当时实行的一种残忍的仪式为非法。

6. 活人献祭

7. 神圣的权力

8. 应得……的

## 2) The Dynasty of Kamehameha

King Kamehameha I was a smart ruler **who amassed a fortune and made Hawaii a desirable prize for foreign explorers.**<sup>1</sup> He was the one who united all the Hawaiian islands and founded the **royal dynasty**<sup>2</sup> that ruled them for years. He established a government monopoly in the **sandalwood**<sup>3</sup> trade, and he **collected duties**<sup>4</sup> (charges) from visiting ships. Kamehameha was a strong and able king, but his **successors**<sup>5</sup> were not as strong as him and ultimately were not able to resist European efforts to control the islands

Kamehameha II, the second king in the Kamehameha

1. 他积聚了大量财富，并使夏威夷成为外国探险者们的垂涎之地。

2. 王朝

3. *n.* 檀香木

4. 征税

5. *n.* 继任者

line, gave much of the responsibility for ruling Hawaii to one of his father's wives, **Kaahumanu**.<sup>6</sup> **He abolished the harsh system of government rule and allowed American missionaries on the islands.**<sup>7</sup> When he died in 1824, his younger brother, **Kamehameha III**, succeeded him at the age of only 11. What would it be like to be a king at the age of 11?

For the first seven years of his rule, most of Kamehameha III's duties as King were carried out by his father's wife, Kaahumanu. Once Kaahumanu died, in 1832, Kamehameha III went on to rule until 1854. **He introduced a constitutional form of government and adopted Hawaii's first written constitution in 1840.**<sup>8</sup>

Two other kings, called Kamehameha IV and V, succeeded the boy king, followed by two other royal rulers who were not part of the Kamehameha family. The last royal ruler of Hawaii was Queen Liliuokalani, who died in 1917. In 1898, the United States acquired Hawaii, and in 1959 it became the 50th state.

### 3) A Boy Becomes a King

Hawaii is the only state in America that was once ruled by a king who was also a native. The most famous of these kings was Kamehameha I, also known as Kamehameha the Great. Shortly after Kamehameha was born, a priest warned his grandfather, **King Alapai**,<sup>1</sup> of the birth of a "rebel infant" who would be a **slayer**<sup>2</sup> of chiefs. Taking the priest's advice, the King ordered that

6. 卡阿乎玛奴 (卡) 卡美哈美哈国王的宠妾

7. 他废除了政府的严厉统治,并允许美国传教士们留在岛上。

8. 他引进了宪法形式的政府体系,并于 1840 年采用了夏威夷第一部成文宪法。

1. 阿拉帕国王

2. n. 杀人者



his grandchild be killed upon birth. Instead, priests hid the King's grandson, the infant Kamehameha, in a cave, and he was raised in secret by a childless couple

After a few years, King Alapai found out that the child had been saved and he allowed the young Kamehameha to return to court. By the 1780s, Kamehameha was an important chief. He served as an **aide**<sup>3</sup> to his uncle, **King Kalaniopuu**,<sup>4</sup> who died in 1782. At the time, the island of Hawaii (the largest of the islands that make up the state of Hawaii today) was divided between Kamehameha and King Kalaniopuu's son, **Kiwalao**.<sup>5</sup> War broke out between supporters of the two men, and Kiwalao was killed. Kamehameha was victorious.

Kamehameha also won wars on the other Hawaiian islands, and by 1810, he had united all of the islands. Two of his sons succeeded him after his death in 1819. These sons became Kamehameha II and Kamehameha III.

3. n. 副官, 随从

4. 卡拉尼欧普国王

5. 基瓦拉欧

### 3. George Catlett Marshall 乔治·卡特利特·马歇尔

Born in Pennsylvania, on December 31, 1880, George Catlett Marshall was a soldier best remembered for what he did for peace. Marshall developed his leadership skills at the **Virginia Military Institute**<sup>1</sup> in Lexington, Virginia. As a junior Army officer, Marshall earned a reputation for blunt honesty and brilliant problem-solving.<sup>2</sup> He held important posts during World War I, and in World War II, Marshall

1. 弗吉尼亚军事学院

2. 他还是个初级军官的时候,就以坦率、诚实和出色地解决问题的能力赢得了声誉。



became head of the Army. After the war, Marshall put his problem-solving skills to an even more important use. As secretary of state, he convinced Congress to give Europe \$13 billion to help rebuild. This very popular “**Marshall Plan**”<sup>3</sup> brought hope and peace to many nations. For his great achievement, Marshall received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. He died on October 16, 1959.

3. 马歇尔计划 ④: 第二次世界大战后美国援助欧洲复兴计划的通称。1947年6月5日, 美国国务卿马歇尔在哈佛大学发表演说时首先提出援助欧洲经济复兴的方案, 因此称为“马歇尔计划”。

### 1) George Marshall and the Marshall Plan

After World War II, George Marshall thought his service to his country was over. He was wrong. The day after his retirement in 1945, **President Harry S. Truman**<sup>1</sup> asked Marshall to go to China for a **diplomatic mission**,<sup>2</sup> and in January 1947, the Truman appointed Marshall as secretary of state. In this new job, **Marshall toured war-torn Europe that winter and was shocked by what he discovered.**<sup>3</sup>

In Europe, Marshall saw families and children who had no shelter, no food, and no hope. The terrible fighting had ended, but the **devastation**<sup>4</sup> of war remained. Marshall was a student of history. **He knew desperate people often do desperate things.**<sup>5</sup> He knew the United States had to act quickly to prevent another war. But what could the country do?

Marshall returned to the United States with a bold new idea. In a speech at Harvard University, he urged Americans to help the people of Europe. He then worked

1. 哈里·杜鲁门总统 ④: (1884—1972), 美国第三十三任总统(1945—1953)。
2. 一项外交使命
3. 那年冬天, 马歇尔游历了饱受战争摧残的欧洲, 对其发现感到震惊。
4. 破坏
5. 他明白绝境中的人们经常干出铤而走险的事情来。