

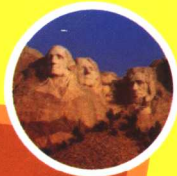


英语教学节目丛书

王少如 高 路 主编

SPECIAL  
ENGLISH

美国之音  
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# The Making of a Nation & Education Report

## 建国史话·教育漫谈

与VOA最受欢迎的英语教学节目同步，原声播音地道美语

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王少如 高路 主编

# 建国史话 ● 教育漫谈

江苏工业学院图书馆

藏书章

THE MAKING OF A NATION  
EDUCATION REPORT

世界图书出版公司

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王少如 高路 主编

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June 30, 2004

Shanghai World Publishing Corporation  
1704, Tower B  
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Shanghai, China

Dear Sirs:

Congratulations on publishing scripts of the Voice of America's Mandarin Service radio programs *Popular English* and *Words and Idioms*. I would like to express my most sincere thanks to the Shanghai World Publishing Corporation's cooperation with the Voice of America to put these two popular English-language teaching programs into print. As the standards of English teaching and learning rise in China, Chinese students' understanding of American slang and popular phrases is important to advance communication between our peoples, especially the younger generation.

*Popular American* and *Words and Idioms* are now broadcast by dozens of provincial and local radio stations across China. Listeners across China have requested scripts of the programs to enhance their study of English. VOA is proud to work with Shanghai World Publishing Corporation to assist the listeners of these programs to more effectively study and comprehend the English language as it is spoken in the United States.

I wish you and your readers the greatest success in learning to communicate effectively in American English.

Sincerely,

David S. Jackson  
Director

330 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 3300, Washington, DC 20237 (202) 519-3375 Fax (202) 260-2228



# 前言

1620年11月,乘坐“五月花”号帆船远渡重洋的102个英国清教徒,历经66天的艰险漂泊,终于踏上了北美大陆。从此,来自欧洲的移民络绎不绝。他们在这块自由的土地上劳作生活,建立殖民地,后来又组成了独立的国家。星移斗转,沧海桑田,如今的美国已跃居世界列强之首。

作为一个移民国家,美国的语言就像它的人种一样,具有“大熔炉”的特点。美式英语兼收并蓄,除了继承原来英国英语的基本内容之外,又混杂了土著印第安人、非洲黑人和欧洲大陆国家的语言,且因地域辽阔而受到一些次文化社会阶层的影响。20世纪以来,随着现代美国的崛起,美式英语的应用已日益广泛。

美国之音(Voice of America, VOA)的英语教学节目,以其流行的美国语言、纯正的美式发音和丰富的教学内容,对中国广大的英语学习者、尤其是青年学生,产生着重要的影响,成为人们学习美式英语、练习听力和口语的有效途径。

奉献给读者的这套《VOA 英语教学节目丛书》,由 AA Culture & Publication Inc(美亚文化出版有限公司)特别策划,经 VOA 授权上海世界图书出版公司出版。

本丛书继《流行美语》和《美国习惯用语》之后,这次又推出 VOA 特别英语节目的学习用书和词汇手册共七种,以后还将陆续推出 VOA 的其他英语教学节目。

美国之音的特别英语节目(VOA Special English),以美国社会生活为题材,通过美国人的文化视野学习美式英语,不仅句子简练,基本词汇约1500余个,而且播送的语速约一分钟90个单词,比正常语速慢三分之

一,因此尤其适合中学生、大专院校低年级学生和广大英语初学者,既可用于英语泛读的课本,又可用作听力训练的教材。

目前,VOA 英语广播节目已是大学英语 4-6 级听力考试的重要内容之一。而这套 VOA 特别英语节目的学习用书,完全按照原节目的 12 个栏目分类,并选取今年最新播出的节目内容,配上 VOA 资深播音员朗读的 MP3 原声光盘,将成为广大 4-6 级应试者迅速提高 VOA 听力的阶梯。

为了便于中学英语程度的读者阅读和训练听力,这套 VOA 特别英语节目的学习用书除了配有《VOA 特别英语词汇手册》之外,又以 2003 年教育部制订的《普通高中英语课程标准(实验)》为依据,在其词汇表的基础上,适当地加注了一部分中文解释。各书所附 MP3 原声光盘,可以在电脑、MP3 和具有 MP3 功能的手机、DVD 等家用电器上播放学习。

本丛书在出版过程中,承蒙 VOA 台长 David Jackson 来函致贺,并得到 VOA 中文部主任 William Baum (彭慕仁)、中文部节目推广及因特网主任陈光、上海世界图书出版公司总经理冯国雄、副总编辑陆琦及何耀萍、王丹等诸位鼎力相助,在此一并致谢!

愿《VOA 英语教学节目丛书》成为读者学习美式英语的良师益友!

丛书编委会

2004 年 12 月

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# THE MAKING OF A NATION

## 1. James Madison (1)

*The Making of A Nation* — a program in Special English by the Voice of America.

James Madison of Virginia was elected president of the United States in eighteen-oh-eight. He followed Thomas Jefferson in the office and served two terms.

Madison's first four years were not easy. He had to deal with a foreign policy problem that Jefferson was unable to solve: increasingly tense relations with Britain. His second four years were worse. There was war. That is our story.

James Madison was inaugurated<sup>1</sup> in Washington on March Fourth, eighteen-oh-nine. The people of the city were happy with the new president. But the nation was not yet sure what kind of leader he would be.

The French minister to the United States did not think much of him. He said: "Mister Madison is an intelligent man, but weak. He will always see what should be done, but will not do it."

Like the first three American presidents, Madison had a small cabinet<sup>2</sup>. There would be a secretary of state and a secretary of the treasury<sup>3</sup>.

Madison decided to keep Albert Gallatin in the position of treasury secretary. Gallatin probably knew more about the nation's finances than anyone else. The choice for secretary of state was political. Madison named Robert Smith, the brother of a senator<sup>4</sup>. The new president was not too concerned about Mister Smith's abilities, because he planned to make foreign policy himself.

Jefferson's biggest foreign policy problem arose from a war between Britain and France. The two nations refused to honor America's neutrality<sup>5</sup>. Each tried to prevent the United States from trading with the other. Both interfered<sup>6</sup> with American shipping. And the British navy sometimes seized American sailors.



James Madison

President Jefferson ordered a ban on trade with Europe. But it failed to end the hostile<sup>7</sup> acts against the United States.

Britain and France were still at war when Madison was elected president. In place of the trade ban, Congress had approved a new law. It was called the Non-Intercourse<sup>8</sup> Act. The law prevented trade with Britain and France. But it gave President Madison the power to re-open trade if either nation stopped interfering with American ships.

Madison hoped the law would force Britain and France to honor American neutrality. He did not want war. But neither did he want to surrender<sup>9</sup> America's rights as an independent nation.

A month after Madison took office, the British minister in Washington, David Erskine, received new orders from his government. He said he had been given the power to settle all differences between the United States

and Britain.

Erskine said Britain would stop seizing American ships if the United States would end the Non-Intercourse law. He did not make clear that the British government demanded several conditions before an agreement could be reached.

One condition was that the United States continue the law against trade with France. Another was that Britain be permitted to capture<sup>10</sup> American ships that violated the law. Erskine called the conditions, "proposals"<sup>11</sup>. He did not force the United States to accept them.

On April nineteenth, President Madison announced that an agreement had been reached. He said the United States would re-open trade with Britain. The American people welcomed the agreement. It appeared that—after less than two months as president—Madison had been able to remove the threat<sup>12</sup> of war.

The United States began trading again with Britain on June Tenth, as agreed. Hundreds of ships left American ports. Relations with Britain seemed to have returned to normal.

President Madison decided to spend the summer of eighteen-oh-nine at his home in the hills of Virginia. Soon after he arrived, he received surprising news. The British government had rejected the agreement he had reached with Erskine.

A British newspaper said the agreement was not what Britain wanted. It said Erskine had violated his orders and was being called back to London. A new minister, Francis James Jackson, would take his place.

Madison returned to Washington in the autumn, about a month after the new British minister arrived. He learned that Secretary of State Smith had



made no progress in talks with him. So the president decided to deal with him directly. He wanted to know exactly why Britain had rejected the agreement. Madison ordered that all communications between the two sides be written. There would be no more talks. Letters were exchanged. But the British minister failed to explain satisfactorily what had happened. And his letters seemed to charge that the United States had not negotiated honestly. Madison finally broke off all communications, and the British minister left Washington.

America's policy of trade with Britain and France continued to be a serious issue. In the early days of eighteen-ten, Congress began to consider a new law to control such trade. After several weeks of debate, the two houses of Congress approved a compromise bill.

The bill ended the Non-Intercourse Act against Britain and France. It permitted trade with any nation. But it gave the president the power to declare non-intercourse again with either Britain or France separately. President Madison signed the bill into law.

Relations between the United States and Britain did not improve during the year. And President Madison once again declared non-intercourse against Britain. Trade between the two countries was stopped at the beginning of March, eighteen-eleven.

Trade was not the only problem, however. A growing number of Americans believed that the British were helping some Native American Indians to fight the United States.

As the people of the United States began to move to the northern and western territories<sup>13</sup>, the government made treaties<sup>14</sup> with the different Indian tribes<sup>15</sup>. The treaties explained which land belonged to the Indians... and which land could be settled by the white men. The settlers did not

always honor the treaties.

A leader of the Shawnee Indian tribe, Tecumseh, decided to take action. He started a campaign to unite all Indians and to help them defend against the white men.

Throughout the west, many Americans believed that the British in Canada were responsible for Tecumseh's efforts to unite the Indians. They demanded war with Britain to destroy the power of the tribes.

In Washington, a new Congress was meeting. Some of the new members were very different from the men who had controlled Congress before. They were less willing to compromise...and more willing to go to war to defend America's interests. They soon got the name "War Hawks".

The new Congress quickly approved several measures to prepare the United States for war. One bill increased the size of the army by twenty-five-thousand regular soldiers and fifty-thousand volunteers.

At the same time, America had a new secretary of state. President Madison had not been pleased with the work of Robert Smith. Nor did he trust Smith. The president could not be sure of Smith's support for administration proposals.

Madison wanted his close friend, James Monroe, to be secretary of state. Monroe was then governor of Virginia. He agreed to take the new job.

What the United States did not have at that troubled time was a representative in Britain. When Madison broke off communications with British minister Jackson in Washington, Jackson returned to London. And the American minister in London, William Pinkney, sailed home.

There was no official in either capital to report what was happening. And

the two countries were moving closer to war. That will be our story next week.

### Note

1. inaugurate: 举行就职典礼
2. cabinet: 内阁
3. treasury: 财政部
4. senator: 参议员
5. neutrality: 中立
6. interfere: 干涉, 干预
7. hostile: 敌对的
8. intercourse: 交往, 交流
9. surrender: 放弃, 投降
10. capture: 捕获, 俘获
11. proposal: 建议, 提议
12. threat: 威胁, 恐吓
13. territory: 地域, 领土
14. treaty: 条约, 谈判
15. tribe: 部落, 部族



## 2. James Madison (2)

*The Making of A Nation*—a program in Special English.

The United States and Britain were moving closer to war in the spring of eighteen-twelve. Congress had approved a ninety-day embargo<sup>1</sup> on American ships. None of these ships was to leave home. And American ships in foreign ports and at sea were ordered to return to the United States. President Madison requested the embargo to prevent the capture of these ships when war started.

The president was sure there would be war. He had seen the instructions from London to British minister Augustus Foster. The British foreign minister warned Foster to say nothing about any compromise. He wanted the United States to see how firmly Britain would continue its orders against neutral trade with the enemies of Britain.

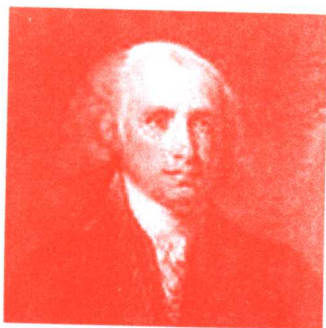
President Madison had hoped for some sign of compromise. But there was none. Congress continued to prepare the nation for war. Lawmakers voted to increase the size of the army and to borrow money to pay for things the larger army would need.

But not all members of Congress wanted war with Britain. Many Federalists<sup>2</sup>, especially, opposed it. Some of them tried to end the embargo only a month after it began.

Congressman Hermanus Bleecker showed the House a list of hundreds of



names from his area of New York. He said all these people opposed the embargo and the idea of war with Britain. "It is impossible," he said, "that we can go to war when the embargo ends, sixty days from now. Where are our armies? Our navy? Have we the money to fight a war? Why, it would be treason<sup>3</sup> to go to war this soon...so poorly prepared."



James Madison

Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin was having a difficult time finding money to borrow. He could get almost no money at all from Federalist New England banks. Congress had approved borrowing eleven-million dollars. But Gallatin found the banks would lend only six-million to the United States government.

The Federalists charged that Gallatin's difficulties showed the people did not want war, especially the people of New England. If the people of the West and the South wanted to fight, then let them pay for the war.

Republican John Randolph also spoke against the war: "How could the administration speak of war when it did not even have the courage to order taxes to raise money? Are we to go to war without money, without men, without a navy? The people will not believe it."

John C. Calhoun answered Randolph. "So far from being unprepared, Sir, I believe that four weeks from the time war is declared, we will have captured much of British Canada."

Sure that Britain would not change its hostile policies, President Madison sent a secret message to Congress on June first, proposing that war be declared. Madison listed the reasons for war: