**毫考试名家指导** 

MBA 联考英语专项训练系列

# 2009版

# 联考英语

100篇精粹

北京大学 曹其军 主编







### MBA 联考英语专项训练系列

# MBA 联考英语阅读理解 100 篇 精 粹

第7版

主 编 曹其军

参 编 瞿应珍 陈本标 李启京

机械工业出版社

本书根据 MBA 最新考试大纲编写,阅读的题型及难度与大纲完全相符。全书选用了 100 篇内容丰富、题材广泛的文章,涵盖了经济、管理、科普、文化、社会和教育等领域。本书侧重于解题技巧,对阅读中的各种难点进行了深入浅出的分析,使得考生易学、易懂、易掌握。本书还增加了长难句解析,使得考生在提高阅读水平的同时也提高了翻译水平。

本书共分为两个部分,各 50 篇文章:"阅读记词"和"阅读解题"。"阅读记词"注重的是精讲精练,以求考生掌握足够的应试技能;而"阅读解题"则注重实战性,以求考生获得足够的临场经验。两个部分的主要目的是力求使考生能够在短期内突破英语阅读的难关,并掌握翻译技巧。

本书可作为 MBA 考生英语备考的自学辅导用书,也可作为 MBA 辅导班的 授课用书。

#### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

MBA 联考英语阅读理解 100 篇精粹/曹其军主编. —7 版. —北京: 机械工业出版社, 2008.4

(MBA 联考英语专项训练系列)

ISBN 978-7-111-14758-9

I.M... II. 曹... III. 英语一阅读教学—研究生—入学考试—自学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2008) 第 055954 号

机械工业出版社(北京市百万庄大街22号 邮政编码100037)

责任编辑: 孟玉琴 责任印制: 邓 博

北京市朝阳展望印刷厂印刷

2008年5月第7版第1次印刷

184mm×260mm • 19.5 印张 • 480 千字

0 001-6 000 册

准标书号: ISBN 978-7-111-14758-9

定价: 39.80 元

凡购本书,如有缺页、倒页、脱页,由本社发行部调换

销售服务热线电话: (010) 68326294

购书热线电话: (010) 88379639 88379641 88379643

编辑热线电话: (010) 68354423

封面无防伪标均为盗版

#### **丛 书 序**

这是一套针对 MBA 联考选拔性应试的必备丛书。

本套丛书由北京大学、清华大学、中国人民大学、北京理工大学、西安交通大学、北京交通大学、上海交通大学、同济大学等几所高校的 MBA 辅导名师和资深命题专家联合编写,分为"MBA 联考英语专项训练系列"、"MBA 联考同步复习指导系列"、"MBA 联考模拟试卷系列"3个系列,共12本。本套丛书具有以下特点:

#### 一、一流的编者队伍

本套丛书的作者均是从全国 MBA 辅导名师中精心挑选的。他们多年来一直从事 MBA 考前辅导和命题研究工作,既能把握考生需求与应试精髓,又能洞穿 MBA 命题规律与趋势。

讲课<del>◆</del>→著书<del>◆</del>→研究,紧密结合,相互推动,在讲课中实践,在著书中提炼,在研究中升华,这是一流应试辅导丛书品质保证的基石。

#### 二、紧扣 MBA 联考最新考试大纲

丛书紧扣最新考试大纲编写,精心研制的例题与习题在难度上等同或略高于真题,在题型设置上与大纲保持一致。其中数学分册中含有许多作者原创性的考试应对技巧和经验介绍。我们不鼓励"题海战术",而是立足于帮助考生在深入研究最新考试大纲和历年试题的基础上,准确把握 MBA 联考的难点、重点和命题趋势。

#### 三、体系明晰,精讲精练,为考生提供标准化解决方案

"MBA 联考英语专项训练系列"包括:《英语词汇实战宝典》、《MBA 联考英语阅读理解 100 篇精粹》、《MBA 联考满分翻译与写作》、《MBA 联考英语历年试题精解(阅读理解、翻译、完形填空)》4 本书。该系列图书实用性强,可以使考生针对英语弱项,进行专项强化提高,快速突破英语难关。

"MBA 联考同步复习指导系列"包括:《英语分册》、《数学分册》、《逻辑分册》、《MBA 逻辑应试教程》、《写作分册》、《面试分册》6 本书。其中逻辑类图书因老师的授课思路、写作风格不同而分为 2 本。该体系与最新考试大纲相配套,精讲精练,突出应考难点与重点,洞穿历年试题,强化训练提高,应试针对性极强。

"MBA 联考模拟试卷系列"包括:《英语分册》、《综合能力分册》2 本书。严格按照 MBA 联考最新考试大纲和命题趋势精心设计,融会了众多作者多年教学、辅导、命题研究的心血和智慧,考点分布合理,试卷难度等同或略高于真题难度,直击 2008 年 MBA 联考真题。

一套好的 MBA 辅导教材,总要具备四个要素:一是看它是否严格遵循最新考试大纲;二是看它是否具有前瞻性,能否针对正式的考试;三是看它的作者是否真正透彻了解 MBA 联考的要求,内容的难度是否与联考试卷相符或略高;四是看该书能否满足考生的需求,是否凸显了为考生备考服务的宗旨。

本套丛书很好地体现了这四个方面的要求,每道试题都是众多辅导名师和专家教学经验

的结晶。往届高分考生的经验说明,"三道题做一遍不如一道题做三遍"、"三本书各读一遍不如一本书读三遍"。通过对本套丛书的认真阅读和演练,相信考生必将会为顺利考入 MBA 名校打下坚实的基础。

希望经过我们不懈的努力和 20 多位 MBA 联考辅导专家的倾情写作,能够为考生顺利 突破 MBA 联考助一臂之力。

丛书编委会

#### 第7版前言

MBA 联考英语单科共考查五个部分:词汇选择,完形填空,阅读理解,英译汉,作文。 本书针对权重最大的阅读和翻译(占 60%)两个部分。

考虑到最近三年的阅读文章均取材于英美原文杂志,时文性很强。本次修订在前五十篇"阅读记词"部分增加了时文阅读。同时,对原来的文章进行了重新编排,尽量把内容相近的文章组合在一起,加强词汇的重现频率、帮助考生记忆单词。

使用本书时请注意以下几点:

- (1) 第一部分的前五篇为自测文章。通过自测,考生可以检查: 一、阅读词汇的数量。如果前五篇文章里的词汇(已在译文中用英文标注)能掌握 70%以上,那么后面四十五篇文章的复习要点就在翻译上。否则,先抓词汇,再练翻译。二、英译汉的能力。如果前五篇文章的翻译比较精确、顺利,那么后四十五篇的复习重点就在长难句上(每篇文章都有详细解释)。上述两项都是阅读的基本功。
- (2) 前五十篇重在基础,包括重点单词和难句的理解和翻译。考生应该尽量做到先自己动手翻译,然后对照参考译文校对检查。同时,应熟读每篇文章,争取在语境中记住词汇。 后五十篇重在做题,考生需注意命题者提问的方式以及选择项的识别。

感谢使用过本书前 6 版的 MBA 联考学员,每年都能向编者指出本书的不足和缺憾,为修订提供了坚实的理由。

本次修订由曹其军、瞿应珍、陈本标、李启京共同完成。前面的几次修订工作主要由章 杰负责,在此一并致谢。

曹其军

2008 年 4 月

### 目 录

#### 丛书序 第7版前言

#### 第一部分 阅读记词

Passage One 1	长难句解析	25
译文 <i>2</i>	Passage Twelve	26
Passage Two3	参考译文及重点词汇	27
译文3	长难句解析	27
Passage Three4	Passage Thirteen	28
译文5	参考译文及重点词汇	29
	长难句解析	30
Passage Four 6	Passage Fourteen	30
译文7	参考译文及重点词汇	
Passage Five8	长难句解析	
译文9	Passage Fifteen	
Passage Six10	参考译文及重点词汇	
参考译文及重点词汇11	长难句解析	
长难句解析12	Passage Sixteen	
Passage Seven	参考译文及重点词汇	
参考译文及重点词汇14	多考样又及里总问在 长难句解析	
长难句解析15		
	Passage Seventeen	
Passage Eight 16	参考译文及重点词汇	
参考译文及重点词汇16	长难句解析	40
长难句解析17	Passage Eighteen	40
Passage Nine	参考译文及重点词汇	41
参考译文及重点词汇18	长难句解析	
长难句解析19	Passage Nineteen	
Passage Ten21	参考译文及重点词汇	
参考译文及重点词汇21	长难句解析	
长难句解析22	Passage Twenty	
Passage Eleven23	参考译文及重点词汇	
参考译文及重点词汇24	长难句解析	

#### MBA 联考英语阅读理解 100 篇精粹

Passage Twenty One47	Passage Thirty Three	77
参考译文及重点词汇48	参考译文及重点词汇	78
长难句解析49	长难句解析	78
Passage Twenty Two49	Passage Thirty Four	79
参考译文及重点词汇50	参考译文及重点词汇	80
长难句解析51	长难句解析	81
Passage Twenty Three52	Passage Thirty Five	82
参考译文及重点词汇53	参考译文及重点词汇	82
长难句解析54	长难句解析	83
Passage Twenty Four54	Passage Thirty Six	84
参考译文及重点词汇55	参考译文及重点词汇	85
长难句解析56	长难句解析	85
Passage Twenty Five57	Passage Thirty Seven	86
参考译文及重点词汇58	参考译文及重点词汇	87
长难句解析59	长难句解析	
Passage Twenty Six60	Passage Thirty Eight	89
参考译文及重点词汇	参考译文及重点词汇	
长难句解析62	长难句解析	91
Passage Twenty Seven62	Passage Thirty Nine	92
参考译文及重点词汇63	参考译文及重点词汇	93
长难句解析64	长难句解析	93
Passage Twenty Eight65	Passage Forty	94
参考译文及重点词汇65	参考译文及重点词汇	95
长难句解析66	长难句解析	95
Passage Twenty Nine67	Passage Forty One	96
参考译文及重点词汇68	参考译文及重点词汇	
长难句解析69	长难句解析	
Passage Thirty69	Passage Forty Two	99
参考译文及重点词汇	参考译文及重点词汇	
长难句解析	长难句解析	
Passage Thirty One	Passage Forty Three	101
参考译文及重点词汇	参考译文及重点词汇	
长难句解析	长难句解析	
Passage Thirty Two	Passage Forty Four	104
参考译文及重点词汇	参考译文及重点词汇	
长难句解析76	长难句解析	

Passage Forty Five	106	Passage Forty Eight	114
参考译文及重点词汇	107	参考译文及重点词汇	115
长难句解析	108	长难句解析	116
Passage Forty Six	109	Passage Forty Nine	117
参考译文及重点词汇	110	参考译文及重点词汇	118
长难句解析	111	长难句解析	118
Passage Forty Seven	112	Passage Fifty	119
参考译文及重点词汇	113	参考译文及重点词汇	120
长难句解析	114	长难句解析	121
	第二部分	阅读解題	
Passage Fifty One	122	Passage Fifty Nine	149
参考译文	123	参考译文	151
参考答案与详解	124	参考答案与详解	152
Passage Fifty Two	125	Passage Sixty	153
参考译文	127	参考译文	154
参考答案与详解	127	参考答案与详解	155
Passage Fifty Three	129	Passage Sixty One	156
参考译文	130	参考译文	158
参考答案与详解	131	参考答案与详解	158
Passage Fifty Four	132	Passage Sixty Two	160
参考译文	133	参考译文	161
参考答案与详解	134	参考答案与详解	162
Passage Fifty Five	135	Passage Sixty Three	163
参考译文	137	参考译文	165
参考答案与详解	137	参考答案与详解	165
Passage Fifty Six	139	Passage Sixty Four	167
参考译文	140	参考译文	168
参考答案与详解	141	参考答案与详解	169
Passage Fifty Seven	142	Passage Sixty Five	170
参考译文	144	参考译文	172
参考答案与详解	145	参考答案与详解	175
Passage Fifty Eight	146	Passage Sixty Six	174
参考译文	147	参考译文	175
参考答案与详解	148	参考答案与详解	176

#### MBA 联考英语阅读理解 100 篇精粹

Passage Sixty Seven178	Passage Seventy Nine	219
参考译文179	参考译文	220
参考答案与详解180	参考答案与详解	221
Passage Sixty Eight181	Passage Eighty	222
参考译文182	参考译文	224
参考答案与详解183	参考答案与详解	224
Passage Sixty Nine	Passage Eighty One	226
参考译文186	参考译文	227
参考答案与详解187	参考答案与详解	228
Passage Seventy	Passage Eighty Two	229
参考译文190	参考译文	230
参考答案与详解190	参考答案与详解	231
Passage Seventy One192	Passage Eighty Three	232
参考译文193	参考译文	234
参考答案与详解194	参考答案与详解	235
Passage Seventy Two195	Passage Eighty Four	237
参考译文197	参考译文	238
参考答案与详解197	参考答案与详解	238
Passage Seventy Three	Passage Eighty Five	240
参考译文200	参考译文	241
参考答案与详解	参考答案与详解	242
Passage Seventy Four202	Passage Eighty Six	243
参考译文203	参考译文	245
参考答案与详解204	参考答案与详解	245
Passage Seventy Five205	Passage Eighty Seven	247
参考译文207	参考译文	249
参考答案与详解	参考答案与详解	249
Passage Seventy Six	Passage Eighty Eight	251
参考译文210	参考译文	253
参考答案与详解	参考答案与详解	253
Passage Seventy Seven212	Passage Eighty Nine	255
参考译文213	参考译文	257
参考答案与详解	参考答案与详解	257
Passage Seventy Eight215	Passage Ninety	259
参考译文217	参考译文	260
参考答案与详解218	参考答案与详解	261

Passage Ninety One262	Passage Ninety Six	281
参考译文264	参考译文	282
参考答案与详解264	参考答案与详解	283
Passage Ninety Two266	Passage Ninety Seven	284
参考译文	参考译文	286
参考答案与详解	参考答案与详解	286
Passage Ninety Three270	Passage Ninety Eight	288
参考译文271	参考译文	289
参考答案与详解272	参考答案与详解	290
Passage Ninety Four273	Passage Ninety Nine	292
参考译文275	参考译文	293
参考答案与详解275	参考答案与详解	294
Passage Ninety Five277	Passage One Hundred	295
参考译文278	参考译文	297
参考答案与详解279	参考答案与详解	298

#### 第一部分 阅读记词

#### 一、自测 五篇

#### Read each passage and try to translate them into Chinese.



Sorry, folks, false alarm. Or at least that seems to be the message after the rumor that United Airlines and Delta Air Lines were in merger talks was quieted with Delta CEO Richard Anderson's testimony before Congress on Thursday. Anderson said that he had not spoken with any high-ranking execs at United Airlines since September, when he returned to the airline industry upon taking the helm of the Atlanta-based carrier. The two airlines had already diffused rumors on Wednesday following afternoon spikes in their share prices.

But while the rumors have fizzled, the promise of consolidation isn't so easy to shake. U.S. Airways turned up the heat by making a hostile bid for Delta during bankruptcy exactly one year ago, which came in the wake of other failed talks, such as those between United and Continental Airlines in 2006 and United and Delta in 2005. Now with industry fragmentation, too many seats and rising jet fuel prices, analysts and industry experts see consolidation as inevitable.

Delta, in fact, is clearly in favor of industry consolidation and has established a committee to review its options for a potential merger but says there are no discussions going on with any carrier at this time. But a source familiar with Delta who spoke on the condition of anonymity says that there has been ongoing talk at the company to work toward announcing a merger and submitting it for review to the Department of Justice before Christmas, because the company wants to take advantage of the current administration before potential changes in the Department of Transportation.

Indeed, airlines have more than enough reasons to follow suit. Jet fuel costs have gone up 38% since spring 2006. Airline profit margins, which used to range between 5% and 7%, are now down to 2%. Merging with another carrier would allow an airline to reevaluate its hubs, reduce overlap in routes, perhaps even cut back on regional flying and decrease capacity in the industry overall. But there are always obstacles. "The two speed bumps to anything are always regulatory issues and labor issues," says Swelbar. He says Delta's "non union environment" might make workforce integration easier for the airline in a merger. But there are also issues such as what to do with code shares, frequent flyer programs and combining computer systems that could also

pose problems.

Ray Neidl, director of U.S. research for airline financier Calyon Securities, says that while consolidation is not imminent, when it comes "it will be fast and furious." In an industry update dated Nov. 7, Neidl wrote that "the most probable kickoff" would be Delta bidding for Anderson's alma mater Northwest Airlines, due to no overlap in routes and a smooth integration of workforce lists. Neidl, like other analysts, says that six major carriers will give way to fewer — probably three — as consolidation begins in two or three quarters, or perhaps longer.

#### → 译文

不好意思,伙计们,警报(alarm)错误。周四 Delta 航空公司总裁 Richard Anderson 在国会作证(testimony),平息(quiet)了美联航和 Delta 航空公司正在协商合并(merger)的谣传(rumor)之后表达出来的信息似乎就是这样。Anderson 表示,自从 9 月份接手(taking the helm of)以 Atlanta 为根据地的 Delta 航空而重返业界(industry)以来,自己并没有同任何美联航的高管(execs)接触。随着周三两家航空公司股(share)价下挫(spikes),均已辟(diffuse)谣。

但是尽管传闻渐渐噤声(fizzle),合并的前景(promise)却不容动摇。 就在一年前,随着(in the wake of)美联航和大陆航空于 2006 年及美联航和 Delta 航空公司于 2005 年等系列谈判破裂(failed),美国航空在 Delta 破产(bankruptcy)期间恶意(hostile)竞标(bid),热潮迭起。现在,行业四分五裂(fragmentation),空座率高,航油(jet fuel)价格上涨,分析家和业界专家均认为合并之路在所难免(inevitable)。

事实上, Delta 显然力举(in favor of)合并,并且设立(establish)了一个专门审查(review)潜在(potential)并购对象的委员会(committee),但他表示,当下并没有同任何航空公司展开谈判。 不过,有熟悉 Delta 的匿名(anonymity)人士(source)称,谈判一直在进行(ongoing),已接近于宣告(announce)合并成功,并将于圣诞节前呈报(submit)司法部审核。 主因则是,公司希望在运输部门出现任何变故之前,充分利用(take advantage of)当前的管理(administration)条例。

其实,其他航空公司有充分的理由跟进(follow suit)。 2006 年春季以来,航油大涨 38%。过去 5%至 7%之间的利润(profit)空间(margin)现在骤降至 2%。合并可以促使公司重估(reevaluate)业务,减少航路重叠(overlap),压缩支线(regional)运输,降低行业运力(capacity)。当然,也存在障碍(obstacle)。Swelbar 指出,"管制(regulatory)及劳工(labor)就是两个棘手(bumps)的问题。"他说,Delta 公司"缺乏工会的环境(environment)"可能使员工的合并容易一些,但是,带来(pose)麻烦的问题更多,比如密码(code)分享、频繁(frequent)飞行计划以及电脑系统的对接(combine)等等。

美国航空金融 Calyon 证券(securities)公司的研究主管 Ray Neidl 指出,尽管合并不会一蹴而就(imminent),但来势迅猛(furious)。在 11 月 7 日的业界快报(update)上,Neidl 撰文称,由于航路不重叠,员工合并顺畅,"最可能的启动(kickoff)"将在 Delta 和 Anderson 的校友(alma mater)西北航空之间出现。和其他专家一道,Neidl 表示,随着合并在两到三个季度(quarter),也许更长的周期内开始,6 家航空公司最终会减少(give way to),可能只剩下 3 家。

# Passage Two

"The word 'protection' is no longer taboo (禁忌语)". This short sentence, uttered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy late last month, may have launched a new era in economic history. Why? For decades, Western leaders have believed that lowering trade barriers and tariffs was a natural good. Doing so, they reasoned, would lead to greater economic efficiency and productivity, which in turn would improve human welfare. Championing free trade thus became a moral, not just an economic cause.

These leaders, of course, weren't acting out of unselfishness. They knew their economies were the most competitive, so they'd profit most form liberalization. And developing countries feared that their economies would be swamped by superior Western productivity. Today, however, the tables have turned—though few acknowledge it. The West continues to preach free trade, but practices it less and less. Asia, meanwhile, continues to plead for special protection but practices more and more free trade.

That's why Sarkozy's words were so important: he finally injected some honesty into the trade debate. The truth is that large parts of the West are losing faith in free trade, though few leaders admit it. Some economists are more honest. Paul Krugman is one of the few willing to acknowledge that protectionist arguments are returning. In the short run, there will be winners and losers under free trade. This, of course, is what capitalism is all about. But more and more of these losers will be in the West. Economists in the developed world used to love quoting Joseph Schumpeter, who said that "creative destruction" was an essential part of capitalist growth. But they always assumed that destruction would happen over there. When western workers began losing jobs, suddenly their leaders began to lose faith in their principles. Things have yet to reverse completely. But there's clearly a negative trend in Western theory and practice.

A little hypocrisy (虚伪) is not in itself a serious problem. The real problem is that Western governments continue to insist that they retain control of the key global economic and financial institutions while drifting away from global liberalization. Look at what's happening at the IMF (International Monetary Fund). The Europeans have demanded that they keep the post of managing director. But all too often, Western officials put their own interests above everyone else's when they dominate these global institutions.

The time has therefore come for the Asians—who are clearly the new winners in today's global economy—to provide more intellectual leadership in supporting free trade. Sadly, they have yet to do so. Unless Asians speak out, however, there's real danger that Adam Smith's principles, which have brought so much good to the world, could gradually die. And that would leave all of us worse off, in one way or another.



<sup>&</sup>quot;'保护'(protection)这个字再不犯忌(taboo)了。" 上月末法国总统 Nicolas Sarkozy

说出的短短一句话可能推动(launch)经济史上一个新时代(era)的到来。原因何在?几十年(decades)来,西方领导人相信,降低(lower)贸易关税(tariff)和壁垒(barrier)是顺应天意(natural)。他们觉得(reason),关税和壁垒降低会增加经济效率(efficiency)、发展生产力(productivity),这些均有助于改善(improve)人类福利(welfare)。因此,捍卫(champion)自由贸易不仅是一种经济需求,也是一种道义(moral cause)。

当然,这些领导人的做法并非出于大公无私(unselfishness)。他们知道自己国家的经济方面竞争力(competitive)强,可以从自由贸易(liberalization)中获得最大利益(profit)。而发展中(developing)国家担心(fear)自己的经济状况遭受西方强势(superior)生产力的淹没(swamp)。不过,虽然人们不想承认(acknowledge),但现在形势发生了逆转(turn)。西方国家继续鼓吹(preach)自由贸易,实践者却寥寥无几。与此同时,亚洲继续诉求(plead)特殊保护政策,却越来越多地实行自由贸易。

Sarkozy 的言论举足轻重(important)道理在此:他终于为贸易争辩(debate)输入(inject)了一些诚实(honesty)的元素。真相就是,西方大多数地区正在对自由贸易失去信心,领导人却不愿承认(admit)。有些经济学家表现得诚实许多。Paul Krugman 就是仅有的几个愿意承认保护主义理由正在回归的学者之一。短期(short run)看,在自由贸易的状态下,有赢家也有输家。当然这也就是资本主义(capitalism)的要义。但是未来越来越多的输家会出现在西方。发达国家的经济学家经常喜欢引用(quote)Joseph Schumpeter 的话,他说"创造性(creative)毁灭(destruction)"是资本主义增长的一个基本(essential)要素。但是他们总是假定(assume),毁灭不会发生在西方。当西方国家的工人开始失业时,他们的领导人就突然开始失去对某些原则(principle)的信心(faith)。情况还没有完全逆转(reverse),但是西方的理论(theory)和实践之间已经存在明显的逆向(negative)趋势(trend)。

些许虚伪本身问题不大。真正的问题在于西方政府继续坚持要求(insist)保持(retain)对全球(global)重大经济金融机构(institution)的控制,尽管他们正在游离(drift)全球自由贸易体系。看看发生在国际货币基金组织的一切吧,欧洲人一直要求担当该组织的运营(managing)主管(director)一职,但是一旦他们主宰(dominate)这些全球性机构之后,他们往往把自身的利益(interest)置于他人之上。

因此,显然成为当今全球经济新赢家的亚洲人应该在支持自由贸易方面发挥(provide)更多知识领导(leadership)的作用。可悲的是,他们还没有做到这一点。但是,除非亚洲人发出自己的声音,否则会产生真正的危险。惠及世界的 Adam Smith 原则逐渐消亡,那将使我们变得更加糟糕(worse off)。

## Passage Three

During the 1936 presidential campaign, the *Chicago Tribune*, under its archconservative owner, Colonel Robert McCormick, wholeheartedly endorsed the candidacy of the Republican Alf Landon. The paper was so vehemently anti-F.D.R. that 10 days before the election, switchboard operators at the newspaper answered the phone by saying "Hello. *Chicago Tribune*. Only 10 days left to save the American way of life."

In the next few weeks, newspapers in Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania will endorse candidates

for President. In fact, most of them will endorse both a Democrat and a Republican. In 2004, presidential candidates were endorsed by 418 newspapers across the country — 29% of all the papers in the U.S.

I confess that I've never quite understood why newspapers endorse presidential candidates. Sure, I know the history and the tradition, the fact that newspapers in the 18th and 19th centuries were often affiliated with political parties, but why do they do it now? Why do it at a time when the credibility and viability of the press are at all-time lows? More important, why do it at a time when readers, especially young readers, question the objectivity of newspapers in particular and the media in general?

Young news consumers are suspicious about traditional authority. They prize objectivity, straightforwardness and transparency. I doubt there's a reader under 30 who gets why newspapers endorse presidential candidates — and most of the ones I talk to ask the following: How can a newspaper be objective on the front page when it endorses a candidate on the editorial page? They're dubious about whether the reporter who covers Hillary Clinton can be objective if his newspaper has endorsed Barack Obama — and vice versa. And they're right. At a time when newspapers are trying to ensure their survival by attracting younger readers, the idea of endorsements is both counterproductive and an anachronism. It's certainly the prerogative of newspapers and their owners to endorse candidates, but in doing so they are undermining the verybasis for their business, which is impartiality. It's a recipe for having less influence, not more.

I want our writers and reporters to express a point of view in their stories. They're experts, they've done their homework, and I think it's fair for writers to suggest that after thoroughly reviewing the candidates' policies on health care, they find one more practical than another. That's transparency. Media outlets should publish editorials and take positions, but the vote for President is the most personal decision we make as citizens. No one wants to be told how to vote — and we make all kinds of judgments about the people who do.

Journalists love to cite the fact that the press is the only industry protected by the Constitution. A free press, as Jefferson noted, is part of our system of checks and balances; it is one of the few guarantors of democracy. But for the press to remain free, we need to preserve both the reality and the appearance of that freedom, and endorsements undermine that.

#### → 译文

在 1936 年总统大选(campaign)期间,《芝加哥论坛报(tribune)》在极端保守党(archconservative)老板(owner)Robert McCormick 上校的领导下,全力(wholeheartedly)支持(endorse)共和党候选人(candidacy)Alf Landon。这份报纸激烈(vehemently)反对民主党人 F.D.罗斯福,结果在大选(election)前十天,报社的总机(switchboard)接线员(operator)回答电话时总说"你好!这里是《芝加哥论坛报》。要挽救美国的生活方式仅剩十天了。"

接下来几周,Ohio 和 Texas and Pennsylvania 几个州的报纸纷纷表达对总统候选人的支持。事实上,其中大多数报纸既支持民主党(democrat)又支持共和党(republican)。在 2004 年,总统候选人受到 418 家报纸的公开支持,占据全美报业的 29%。

我承认(confess),我从来没搞明白报纸支持总统候选人的理由。当然,我了解历史和传统(tradition),即 18 和 19 世纪的报纸往往依附(affiliate)于政党。可是现在他们有什么理由这样做呢?现在报业的可信度(credibility)及影响力(viability)处于历史的低谷,为什么还要这样做呢?更加重要的是,读者,尤其是年轻的读者在质疑(question)某些报纸的客观性(objectivity)还有大众媒介(media)的客观性时,为什么要这样做呢?

年轻的新闻消费者(consumer)对传统权威(authority)持怀疑(suspicious)态度。他们赞赏(prize)客观、直率、透明(transparency)。我怀疑是否存在着明白报纸支持总统候选人的 30 岁以下的读者。我访谈过的大多数人都会问: 一份报纸在社论部分(editorial)表达对候选者的支持,它怎么可以在头版(front)保持客观呢? 他们怀疑(dubious)一份支持 Barack Obama 的报纸在报道(cover)Hillary Clinton 时能否保持客观性。反之亦然(vice versa)。他们的怀疑有道理。现在报纸正在通过吸引(attract)年轻读者确保(ensure)生存(survival),支持候选人的做法既有违生产力(counterproductive),又不合时宜(anachronism)。当然,报纸和它的老板有权(prerogative)支持候选人,但是这种做法正在削弱(undermine)报业的根基——公正性(impartiality)。这是削弱而非增强影响力(influence)的一剂偏方(recipe)。

我希望我们的作者们和记者们(reporter)在报道中表达一种观点。他们是专家,他们完成了自己的任务(homework)。在充分检讨(review)候选人关于医疗保险(health care)的政策之后,发现一个人的政策比另外一个更加切实可行(practical)。作者表达这种看法应该说是公平的(fair),也是透明的。媒体应该发表(publish)社论,选择立场(position),但是给总统投票(vote)是作为公民的私人(personal)决定。 没人喜欢被告知如何投票,我们对自己选择的人有自己的评判(judgement)。

记者们(journalist)喜欢引用(cite)一个事实:报业(press)是受宪法(constitution)保护的唯一行业。正如 Jefferson 所指出(note)的,新闻自由是我们监督(check)制衡(balance)制度的组成部分,是少数几个民主的守护神(guarantor)之一。但是为了报纸的自由,我们需要保护(preserve)那种自由的现实(reality)和表现(appearance),而公开支持的做法(endorsements)则起反作用。

# Passage Four

All nations made up of a diversity of religions face the same dilemma: do they officially ignore those traditions that differentiate people in favor of accentuating only shared secular traditions, or do they embrace and celebrate the diversity in their midst? One answer may be found in the news that a school district in the Chicago suburbs is contemplating changing the name of Halloween to "Fall Festival" and Christmas to "Winter Festival," to avoid alienating non-Christian students. The area's school board appears to have floated the idea after a Muslim parent had asked that decorations celebrating the Islamic fasting month be put up inside a local school. Education officials refused, arguing that public schools have to remain neutral in respect to religion — doing away with Halloween and Christmas seems to have been a logical extension, as if by simply renaming holidays that Westerners have observed for centuries, they can be stripped of religious significance.