

美国总统

汉 英 对 照



Selected Humorous

美国总统
演说文库

Remarks of

The American Presidents



幽默演说精选



王建华 / 主编



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美国历届总统像

序言

王建华

本书是《美国总统演说文库》的第八卷。承蒙江西人民出版社余晖女士提议,本书采用了英汉对照的形式,献给广大的演说爱好者、英语学习者、美国问题研究者和所有的幽默“粉丝们”。

幽默是一种精神现象和审美形式,是人类文化的结晶。幽默来自对世事的悟彻,表明一种积极的人生态度,是个人魅力、活力、能力、教养的一个标志。无论在东方抑或西方,追求并崇尚幽默都很普遍,因为人类需要对客观世界采取一种内庄外谐的态度,需要轻松而又严肃地对待生活。美国第34任总统艾森豪威尔就说过:“幽默感是领导艺术的一部分,它帮助你待人接物,成就事业。”

与其他各类演说相比,幽默演说具有特殊的审美情

Introduction

by Wang Jianhua

This book is the 8th volume in *Treasury of Famous Speeches by the American Presidents*. Thanks to the proposal of Ms. Yu Hui, an outstanding editor of Jiangxi People's Publishing House, it is an English-Chinese bilingual edition dedicated to a larger audience—speech hunters, English learners, U. S. researchers, and humour fans.

Humour is an intellectual phenomenon, an aesthetic mode, and the crystallization of human culture. It stems from a thorough understanding of worldly affairs, manifesting a positive attitude toward life, and symbolizing one's charm, vitality, competence and upbringing. Pursuing and upholding humour is very common both in the East and in the West, for humans need to take an inwardly solemn and outwardly humorous attitude toward the objective world, they need to embrace life lightheartedly but seriously. The 34th President of the U.S.A. Dwight Eisenhower said: "A sense of humour is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done."

Compared with other kinds of speeches, the humorous remarks boast special aesthetic taste and

趣。演说者往往沿用“理性倒错”的概念,遵循“制造悬念——着意渲染——峰回路转——和盘托出”四个步骤,并借助对比、讽喻、夸张、引申、双关、反语或自嘲等修辞手法,促使听众通过联想和会意,把“倒错”重新颠倒过来,从而领悟演说的真实含义,发出会心的微笑,进入幽默特有的耐人寻味的美学意境。

本书选译了自林肯以来 16 位美国总统的轻松诙谐的演说共 42 篇——其中大多数是在总统的任内发表的——供广大读者在茶余饭后,在学习、工作的间歇浏览、品味。从这些演说中可以看到,美利坚文化怎样哺育了美国总统独特的幽默性情。无论是颁奖、剪彩、揭幕、祝酒,还是竞选、签署法案、迎送告别,无论是面对天真烂漫的学生、德高望重的老人、满腹经纶的学者,还是面对耀眼的影星、球星或挑剔的记者,演说者凭借着娴熟的语言技巧,总能一语解颐,不失时机地“幽上一默”。

纵观全书,幽默之处比比皆是。小布什对报界的挖苦作出回应,拿自己的英语“开涮”,堪称自我解嘲之最;而老布什在看望驻华使馆人员时,感叹他的来访给大家带

appeal. Based on a concept of "rational inversion" and following the steps of "creating suspense—intensifying hype—making abrupt transition—coming clean," by drawing on such rhetorical means as contrast, parable, hyperbole, extension, pun, irony and self-ridicule, the speakers often inspire the audience to turn the "inverted" upside down through association and understanding, thus comprehend what the speech was driving at, give an understanding smile and get into a thought-provoking aesthetic ambience peculiar to humour.

This book presents the readers, for their browsing and pondering at their leisure, with 42 pieces of carefree and humorous remarks of 16 U.S. presidents since Abraham Lincoln—most of the remarks delivered in their tenure of office. From these remarks, we can see how the American culture nurtures U.S. presidents' unique humorous temperament. Whatever the occasion it might be—giving out awards, ribbon-cutting, inauguration, proposing a toast, running for presidency, signing bills, or attending to work of reception, whatever listeners it might be—the innocent and lively students, the old people enjoying moral eminence and high esteem, scholars of great learning and wisdom, or dazzling film stars, ball players and captious journalists, the speakers rely on well-versed linguistic skills, usually make you smile with a single comment, bringing about humorous remarks at the right time.

Reading through the pages, we can observe humour here, there and everywhere. In response to the sarcastic remarks of the press, George Bush, Jr., made great fun of his own English, thus he might be rated as a consummate master of finding excuses to console oneself. When George Bush, Sr., visited the U.S. Embassy in

来了“一场浩劫”，则是夸张手法的极致。“无忧总统”卡特在回顾中美关系时讲了一个关于“狡猾的”翻译的笑话，其手法与中国相声的“甩包袱”颇为相似；而肯尼迪斗胆出席史密斯纪念宴会，与中国的鸿门宴也有相通之处。自称“不是林肯牌而是福特牌”的福特总统，一直耿耿于怀自己是“第一个经第 25 条修正案确定的副总统”，他嘲讽说，“没有什么比做副总统更令人自卑的了”，他讲了一段关于副总统不如酒店副总的轶事，把积压在心头的郁闷一扫而光。至于风度翩翩的克林顿，更是被媒体公认为是开玩笑的高手。在为亚特兰大举行第 26 届奥运会造势时，他说他不能想象胡佛为什么拒绝开奥运会，胡佛未能连任，据史书记载是因为经济萧条而其实是因为奥运会！在赞赏当今的英美关系时，他戏谑地回忆起两国兵戎相见的年代，说杰斐逊“缺乏远见地”指责英国是一个没落的罪恶帝国；1814 年英军焚烧了白宫，为

Beijing, he regretted that he caused inconvenience because he knew something about "surviving a visit from a President," thereby he displayed the utmost hyperbole. Jimmy Carter, employing similar techniques as in Chinese cross-talk, reviewed Sino-American relations and then told a joke about his "sly" interpreter; while John Kennedy, by venturing to go to Smith Memorial Dinner, suggests a historical event well known in China: the banquet at Hongmen^①. Assuming himself "not as a Lincoln but a Ford," Gerald Ford always kept in mind he was "the first Vice President to be confirmed under the 25th Amendment." He declared: "There's nothing like the Vice Presidency to keep a man humble." Then he let off all his complaints by telling a story that a Vice President of the United States was not so important as a Vice President of the Hotel. Bill Clinton is admittedly a master hand in cracking jokes. In his promotion for the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta, he said he could not imagine why Herbert Hoover refused to hold Olympics. The reason why Hoover failed in his reelection, Clinton continued, was due to Depression according to historical records, but in fact it was because of Olympics! In his appraisal of the current Anglo-American relations, Clinton banteringly went back to the years when the two countries were at war. He denounced Jefferson as "uncharacteristic myopia" because Jefferson claimed that the United Kingdom was an evil empire. And in 1814, Clinton went on, marauding English soldiers gave new

① Meaning "a feast set up as a trap for the invited." Originally a banquet held at Hongmen in 206 B.C. by Xiang Yu in honor of his rival Liu Bang, at which an attempt was to be made on the latter's life.

“全球变暖”赋予了全新的意义；而麦迪逊幸运地落荒而逃，却由此“磨炼出”加强国防的意识。

不难理解的是，在许多场合，美国总统并不是单纯地为幽默而幽默，而是要在幽默之间或之余，趁机宣传自己的主张。比如里根在摄影记者们乐成一片的时候，提醒大家要特别注意他的“右面”，他“最漂亮的一面”，以期赢得人们对美国右翼的支持。尼克松在调侃和恭维好莱坞演员之后，便以“简短的几句话转向政治领域”，最后又绕到了当年的竞选，其目的不言而喻。柯立芝在亲自出马迎接华盛顿棒球队凯旋之际，反复暗示“美国的事业就是办企业”——这正是他的执政名言。小布什俨然像一个老资格的美式足球球迷，认为防守才是巴尔的摩乌鸦队取胜的关键，他借题发挥说，“我们的盟国需要以巴尔的摩乌鸦队为榜样”，从而巧妙地把体育与国家安全联系了起来。

总之，这些演说作为对现实生活的反映，必然带有美国历史沿革、政治变迁、社会发展和演说者本人的印记。其幽默手法所表现出的直率、辛辣、嘲讽或其他特点，对于喜好温和、委婉和含蓄风格的我国读者来说，有时觉得难以恭维，有时却又感到隐约难察。汉语和英语之间的差

meaning to the term “global warming” when they torched the White House, while James Madison was lucky to escape with “a chastened view” of defense capabilities.

It's not difficult to see that, on many occasions, U.S. presidents do not make humorous remarks for the sake of humour, but seize the opportunity to publicize their own views in or after making humorous remarks. For instance, when the press photographers were overjoyed, Ronald Reagan reminded them to pay attention to his “right side,” his “best side”—in the hope of winning people's support to the right wing. By the same token, it is self-evident that, after soft-soaping the Hollywood entertainers, Richard Nixon would “turn, in conclusion, very briefly, to the field of politics,” and finally refer to the presidential campaign that year. When welcoming home the victorious Washington Baseball Team, Calvin Coolidge repeatedly hinted “America's business is business”—his famous dictum of wielding state power. Commenting solemnly like a veteran rugby fan, George Bush, Jr. held that defense was the key to the Baltimore Ravens' victory, and seizing on the incident to expatiate that “Our allies need to look at the Baltimore Ravens,” thus artfully connected sports to national security.

In short, as a reflection of real life, these speeches are inevitably marked with the characteristics of historical developments, political changes, social progress and the speaker's personal experience. For Chinese readers who are fond of quiet, euphemistic and implicit style, however, the candid, caustic, derisive and other features manifested here by humorous technique, may be deemed scarcely praiseworthy, or faint, and even indiscernible. The difference between Chinese and English may also

异,也会给理解美式幽默带来困惑。所以,为了方便阅读,我们为各篇拟订了篇名,为重要的人物、事件、引语,特别是为隐语和双关语增添了注释。书后的附录列出了参考资料,供读者查考。

英译:何百华教授

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cause perplexities to the understanding of Americanized humour. To facilitate the readers, we wrote introductory note for each president, contrived a title for each piece of speech and added notes to important figures, events, citations, especially insinuations and puns. The appendix listed reference material for readers' research.

Translated by Professor He Baihua

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目录

乔治·W.布什	
我给英语带来了福音	2
在耶鲁大学毕业典礼上的讲话	8
接见2001橄榄球超级杯冠军巴尔的摩乌鸦队	18
在克劳福德社区中心志愿者烧烤会上 的讲话	24
请求火鸡宽恕——在感恩节仪式上的讲话	30
比尔·克林顿	
奥林匹克精神赞	36
祝第一夫人生日快乐	46

CONTENTS

George W. Bush	
I Am a Boon to the English Language	3
Remarks in Commencement Address Yale University	9
Meeting with the 2001 Super Bowl Champion Baltimore Ravens	19
Remarks at the Volunteer Barbecue Lunch, Crawford Community Center	25
Remarks in Ceremonial Pardoning of the National Thanksgiving Turkey	31
Bill Clinton	
The Spirit of Olympics	37
Happy Birthday to Our First Lady	47

英美两国的特殊关系	50
欢迎朱镕基总理	58
乔治·H. 布什	
对美国驻华大使馆工作人员的讲话	64
致西屋科学奖获得者	70
在罗纳德·里根总统及夫人肖像揭幕 仪式上的讲话	80
在全国健康和运动月开幕式上 的讲话	88
在款待英国女王伊丽莎白二世 国宴上的致词	96
罗纳德·里根	
向温斯顿·丘吉尔爵士致敬	102
在莫扎特节日管弦乐队音乐会后 的讲话	108
在“美国牛仔展”开幕式上的 讲话	114
在白宫新闻摄影记者联谊会年度颁奖 宴会上的讲话	120
致NBA总冠军洛杉矶湖人队	126

Highlights of the Special Relationship Between the United States and Great Britain	51
Honoring Premier Zhu Rongji of China	59
George H. Bush	
Remarks to American Embassy Employees in Beijing	65
To the Winners of the Westinghouse Science Talent Search	71
At the Unveiling Ceremony for the Official Portraits of Ronald & Nancy Reagan	81
Remarks on National Physical Fitness and Sports Month	89
Toasts at the State Dinner for Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom	97
Ronald Reagan	
Homage to Sir Winston Churchill	103
Remarks Following a Concert by the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra	109
Remarks at the Opening of "The American Cowboy Exhibit"	115
Remarks at the Annual Awards Dinner of the white House News Photographers Association	121
To the Los Angeles Lakers—The National Basketball Association Champions	127