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倪庆伟 侯雪梅 周淑杰  
(南开大学公共外语部)

# 英语文选

(文科)

# ENGLISH

READINGS

南开大学出版社

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(文科)

**Liberal Arts English Readings**

倪庆伋、侯梅雪、周淑杰 编

南开大学出版社

# 英语文选

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倪庆飧 侯梅雪 周淑杰

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## 编者的话

为配合高等学校非英语专业英语教学，解决学生阅读材料不足的问题，本书选编了三十篇短文，作为高等学校文科非英语专业（公共外语）高年级学生的课外读物，也可供广大英语爱好者自学之用。

这些文章大都选自英美当代报刊、杂志及其他书籍，其中包括政治、经济、历史、地理、社会、哲学、文学、传记、教育、体育等各方面的内容；此外还有一些科普读物。选材由浅入深，内容广泛，文体迥异，适合各类读者的趣味爱好。本书选编的宗旨是帮助读者进一步提高对当代英语的阅读理解能力，增加背景知识，为以后大量阅读英文书籍报刊材料打好基础。为帮助读者阅读理解，每篇文章后附有简要的注释，其中专有名词，除有通译的外，一般不译成中文。作者未作介绍的，因其生平不详。书后附有总词汇表。

参加注释的同志还有：藏树林、颜琳、胡中林、傅善增、吴清心、安珊。本书统一由倪庆旻同志审阅。

限于水平，本书选材或注释中不妥和错误之处在所难免，希望读者批评指正。

编者

1986年11月

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## The Technological Revolution

Carl Becker

We are now living in the second great epoch of discovery and invention. Since the seventeenth century, the discovery of steam power gas, electricity, and radiation have made possible those innumerable tools and appliances, those complicated and powerful machines, and those delicate instruments of precision which elicit our wonder and our admiration. The result has been that the new technology, by giving men unprecedented control over material things, has transformed the relatively simple agricultural communities of the eighteenth century into societies far more complex and impersonal than anything the prophets of liberal-democracy could have imagined-mechanized Leviathans<sup>①</sup> which Thomas Jefferson<sup>②</sup> at least would have regarded as unreal and fantastic and altogether unsuited to the principles of liberty and equality as he understood them.

I need not say that the influence of the technological revolution has not been confined to any particular aspect of social life. On the contrary, it has exerted and still exerts a decisive influence in modifying all the habitual patterns of thought and conduct. But I am here concerned with the influence of the technological revolution in accelerating and intensifying that concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few which the principles of individual freedom in the economic realm would in any case have tended to bring about. *very true. to use.*

The first and most obvious result of the technological revolution has been to increase the amount of wealth in the form of material things which can be produced in a given time by a given population. For example, in 1913 there was produced in Great Britain seven billion yards of cotton cloth for export alone<sup>③</sup>. In 1750 the total population of Great Britain, working with the mechanical appliances then available, could have produced only a small fraction of that amount. A second result of the technological revolution is that, as machines are perfected and become more automatic, man power plays a relatively less important part in the production of a given amount of wealth in a given time. Fifty years ago, when all type was set by hand, the labor



of several men was required to print, fold, and arrange in piles the signatures of a book. Today machines can do it all, and far more rapidly; little man power is required, except that a mechanic, who may pass the time sitting in a chair, must be present in case anything goes wrong with the machine. And finally, a third result of the technological revolution is that, under the system of private property in the means of production and the price system as a method of distributing wealth, the greater part of the wealth produced, since it is produced by the machines, goes to those who own or control the machines, while those who work the machines receive that part only which can be exacted by selling their services in a market where wages are impersonally adjusted to the necessities of the machine process. 不<sub>2</sub> 4 1/2 地

(from Writing Prose)

Notes:

- ① Leviathan 《圣经·旧约全书》中的海中怪兽,引申为庞然大物。
- ② Thomas Jefferson (1743—1826) 托马斯·杰斐逊,美国第三任总统。
- ③ There was seven billion yards of cotton cloth produced  
... alone 表示时间、金钱、距离等的复数名词,在语法上常看作单数,如: Eight hours of sleep is enough. Five thousand miles is too far to travel.

(倪庚汽注)

## Shooting an Elephant

George Orwell<sup>①</sup>

*(Elephants are trained as beasts of  
burden<sup>②</sup> in Burma<sup>③</sup>)*

The orderly came back in a few minutes with a rifle and five cartridges, and meanwhile some Burmans had arrived and told us that the elephant was in the paddy fields below, only a few hundred yards away. As I started forward practically the whole population of the quarter <sup>to</sup> flocked out of the houses and followed me. They had seen the rifle and were all shouting excitedly that I was going to shoot the elephant. They had not shown much interest in the elephant when he was merely ravaging <sup>the</sup> their homes, but it was different now that he was going to be shot. It was a bit of fun to them, as it would be to an English crowd<sup>④</sup>, besides they wanted the meat. It made me vaguely uneasy. I had no intention of shooting the elephant—I had merely sent for the rifle to defend myself if necessary—and it is always unnerving to

have a crowd following you. I marched down the hill, looking and feeling a fool<sup>②</sup>, with the rifle over my shoulder and an ever-growing army of people jostling at my heels. At the bottom, when you got away from the huts, there was a metalled road<sup>③</sup> and beyond that a miry waste of paddy fields a thousand yards across, not yet <sup>挖过</sup>ploughed but soggy, from the first rains and dotted with coarse grass. The elephant was standing eight yards from the road, his left side towards us. He took not the slightest notice of the crowd's approach. He was tearing up bunches of grass, beating them against his knee, to clean them and stuffing them into his mouth.

I had halted <sup>停下来</sup> on the road. As soon as I saw the elephant I knew with perfect certainty that I ought not to shoot him. It is a serious matter to shoot a working elephant—it is comparable to destroying a huge and costly piece of machinery—and obviously one ought not to do it if it can possibly be avoided. And at that distance, peacefully eating, the elephant looked no more dangerous than a cow. I thought then and I think now that his attack of 'must'<sup>④</sup> was already passing off; in which case he would merely wander harmlessly about until the mahout came back and caught him. Moreover, I did not in the least want to shoot him. I decided that I would

watch him for a little while to make sure that he did not turn savage again, and then go home.

But at that moment I glanced round at the crowd that had followed me. It was an immense crowd, two thousand at the least and growing every minute. It blocked the road for a long distance on either side. I looked at the sea of yellow faces above the garish <sup>—黄色の服々々</sup> clothes—faces all happy and excited over this bit of fun, all certain that the elephant was going to be shot. They were watching me as they would watch a <sup>マジック・トリック</sup> conjurer about to perform a trick. They did not like me, but with the magical rifle in my hands I was momentarily worth watching. And suddenly I realized that I should have to shoot the elephant after all. The people expected it of me and I had got to do it; I could feel their two thousand wills pressing me forward, irresistibly. And it was at this moment, as I stood there with the rifle in my hands, that I first grasped the hollowness, the futility of the white man's dominion in the East. Here was I, the white man with his <sup>銃</sup> gun, standing in front of the unarmed crowd—seemingly the leading actor of the piece; but in reality I was only an absurd puppet pushed to and fro by the will of those <sup>—人々</sup> faces behind. I perceived in this moment that when the white man turns tyrant it is his own freedom

that he destroys.

(from Read, Think and Do)

Notes:

- ① George Orwell (1903-1950), 英国小说家和讽刺作家。他的名著有(Animal Farm, 1945)和(Nineteen Eighty Four, 1949)。本篇选自他的(Shooting An Elephant)一文。
- ② beasts of burden 驮兽。
- ③ Burma 缅甸; Burman = Burmese 缅甸的; 缅甸人。
- ④ as it would be to an English crowd 就如同一群英国人会觉得这事有点儿意思一样。此句为含蓄条件句, 用的是虚拟语气, if从句被省略了。
- ⑤ feel a fool 感到自己是个傻瓜。
- ⑥ a metalled road 碎石路。
- ⑦ must = musth (大象等)交尾期的狂暴状态, 交尾期中的大象。

(周淑杰注)

## Lessons From Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson<sup>①</sup>, the third President of the United States, may be less famous than George Washington<sup>②</sup> and Abraham Lincoln<sup>③</sup>, but most people remember at least one fact about him: he wrote the Declaration of Independence<sup>④</sup>. That important document explained why the thirteen American colonies should become free from English rule.

Although Jefferson lived more than 200 years ago, there is much that we can learn from him today. Many of his ideas are especially interesting to modern youth. Here are some of the things he said and wrote:

Go and see. Jefferson believed that a free man obtains knowledge from many sources besides books and that personal investigation is important. When still a young man, he was appointed to a committee to find out whether the South Branch of the James River was deep enough to be used by large boats. While the other members of the committee sat in the state

capitol and studied papers on the subject. Jefferson got into a canoe and made on-the-spot observations.

You can learn from everyone. In 1743 Jefferson was born into wealth. His father was an army colonel; his mother was a member of an old and important family. By birth and by education he belonged to the highest social class. Yet, in a day when few noble persons ever spoke to those of humbler origins except to give an order, Jefferson went out of his way<sup>⑤</sup> to talk with gardeners, servants, and waiters. Making people feel comfortable enough to talk freely is a real art. Jefferson once said to the French nobleman, Lafayette<sup>⑥</sup>, "You must go into the people's homes as I have done, look into their cooking pots and eat their bread. If you will only do this<sup>⑦</sup>, you may find out why people are dissatisfied and understand the revolution that is threatening France."

Today we are surrounded by people who know something worth learning. Jefferson's habit of learning from everyone is worth cultivating.

Judge<sup>11</sup> for yourself. Jefferson refused to accept other people's opinions without careful thought.

"Neither believe nor reject anything," he wrote to his nephew, "because any other person has rejected or believed<sup>12</sup> it. Heaven has given you a mind for

judging truth and error. Use it."

Jefferson's statements about allowing expression of opinion have long been America's guide. He felt that the people "may safely be trusted to hear everything true and false, and to form a correct judgment. Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.®"

Do what you believe is right. In a free country there will always be conflicting ideas, and this is a source of strength. It is conflict and not unquestioning agreement that keeps freedom alive. Though Jefferson was for many years the object of strong criticism, he never answered his critics. He expressed his philosophy in letters to his friend, General George Rogers Clark®, who was also being unfairly criticized: "If you want to escape unfriendly comment, you should have remained within the sleepy line of regular duty®. There are two sides to every question. If you take one side with decision and act on it with effect, those who take the other side will of course resent your action."

Trust the future, trust the young. Jefferson felt that the present should never be chained to customs which have lost their usefulness. "No society," he



said, "can make a perpetual constitution, or even a perpetual law. The earth belongs to the living generation." He did not fear new ideas, nor did he fear the future. "How much pain," he remarked, "has been caused by evils which have never happened! I expect the best, not the worst. I steer my ship with hope, leaving fear behind."

Jefferson's courage and idealism were based on knowledge. He probably knew more than any other man of his age. In the breadth of his interests, he was as amazing as Leonardo da Vinci<sup>®</sup>. When he was in his thirties, someone wrote that he could explain the movement of the sun and stars, draw plans for a house, train a horse, and play the violin.

Out of his tremendous energy came inventions, books, new ideas, and new starts in every field of human endeavor. He was an expert in agriculture, archeology, and medicine. He practiced crop rotation and soil conservation a century before these became standard practice, and he invented a plow superior to any other in existence. He influenced architecture throughout America, and he was constantly producing devices for making the tasks of ordinary life easier to perform. Many of these gadgets are still remembered—a machine for copying important papers, an instrument that indicated the