

PATHS TO THE PRESENT

by Arthur M. Schlesinger

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· 金帶文學名著譯萃叢書 ·

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中英對照

法用書本

閱讀中英對照的書籍，有好些方法。這裏是其中一種。

先將中文譯文從頭至尾讀一遍，由於我們所選的每一本書，不但故事有趣，而且可以幫助你立身處世，獲得許多別處得不到的益處，所以這種閱讀本身便可以對你產生很實際的幫助。

讀過中文後，對故事已經有了概念，再回過來讀英文。我們在每頁下端都留有足夠的空白。除了若干必要的註釋外，是用來給你記下英文生字與詞語以及它們的中文意義的。如果地位不夠。本書後面還有好些空白頁。可供你使用。

你每一頁對照地讀下去。因為有中文的幫助。你不難把纏住英文每一句話和每一個字的意思與用法。你可以一天背幾行唸幾頁，慢慢地但須有恆地修習。自生而熟，由緩而速。在不知不覺間，你的閱讀與寫作的力量會有很大的進步。把這套「金帶文學名著譯萃叢書」一本書閣讀下去，你的語言將跟着豐富起來。看書寫文將一天容易過一天。

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中 對
英 照



PATHS TO THE PRESENT

One National Traits

“What Then Is the American, This New Man?”

The question which forms this title has never stopped being interesting since Crèvecoeur asked it in the last years of the Revolution. If we can learn why the American has come to be what he is, how he is unlike other peoples, we shall have gained a deep understanding of the causes for national behavior. Crèvecoeur’s own answer, the considered opinion of a Frenchman who lived long in the New World, may still be read with profit. The American, he said, “is either an European, or the descendant of an European, so there is a mixed blood you will find in no other country.”





源遠流長

一 國 民 性

「那麼美國人這個新人物是怎樣的呢？」

自從克瑞夫谷爾在獨立革命末期間過這句話以來，這個形成本書書名的問題，迄今引人入勝，從未間斷。如果我們能懂得美國人之所以成為美國人，與別的民族不同，我們對於美國民族行爲的種種原則必定會得到一個深刻的了解。克瑞夫谷爾本人的答案，一個在新大陸居住多年的法國人的審慎意見，現在讀來，仍可獲益。他說美國人「不是歐洲人，就是歐洲人的後裔，因此在任何別的國家裡你找不到這種混血的情形。」

I.

Crevecoeur, of course, was one of a long line of Europeans who has tried to describe the American. Their writings, though of varying merit, have the common advantage of presenting an outsider's point of view. Viewing the scene from a different background, they see national differences of which the native-born may be unaware. What they have noted most frequently is: a belief in the universal obligation to work; the urge to move from place to place; a high standard of average comfort; faith in progress; the eternal pursuing of material gain; an absence of permanent class lines; a neglect of philosophy and art; a deep respect for womanhood; the great number of spoiled children; the general restlessness and hurry of life always illustrated by the practice of fast eating; and other things such as overheated houses.

But this list is incomplete and includes matters that have little importance. The judgment of outsiders leaves much room for the student of United States history to venture his own answer to Crevecoeur's question.

II.

What then is the American from a historian's point of view? The answer is simple. This "new man" is the product of Old World influences and New World conditions. It has been observed that plants and animals change when removed from Europe

一

當然克瑞夫谷爾是許多一直設法要說明美國人的歐洲人之一。他們的著作雖然成就不同，却有代表局外人觀點的共同長處。他們從不同的背景來觀察美國的情形，所看到的民族差異或許是本地出生的人所覺察不出的。他們最常常注意到的是：相信工作是普遍應盡的義務；喜歡一再遷移；一般的享受水準很高；對進步有信心；永遠追求物質上的收穫；沒有永久的階級劃分；忽畧哲學和藝術；對女性深為尊重；縱壞了的兒童為數甚多；一般人坐立不定，生活忙迫，總是由飯吃得很快這個習慣上看得出來；還有其他像房屋弄得太暖之類的事情。

不過這張一覽表還不完全，所包括的事並不太重要。局外人的判斷留下了很大的餘地，讓研究美國史的人去冒險說明他自己對克瑞夫谷爾的問題的答案。

二

那麼，從史學家的觀點看來，美國人是怎樣的呢？答案很簡單。這個「新人物」是「舊世界」的影響和「新世界」的環境之產物。照一向觀察所得，動植物從歐洲移到了美洲都產生

to America. These changes arise from differences in climate and the nature of the country. But other things as well influence transported people. The act of leaving a familiar existence for a strange and dangerous new one demands strength, courage and imagination. Once the ocean is crossed, the distance from the old country and the challenge of new experiences weakens the bonds of custom and awakens new capacities.

The new continent was undeveloped. Farming was the principal occupation, but agriculture in the New World differed from agriculture in the Old. Thickly forested land had to be cleared, the wildness cleared from the soil; knowledge of native plants and the best way to grow them had to be learned.

Accustomed in the old country to simple comforts and useful devices in the home and about the farm, the settler copied these in the new land. The farmer became a Jack-of-all-trades—he made almost everything for himself.

III.

What elements of the national character come from this long-time farming background? First is the habit of work. For the colonial farmer, ceaseless labor was the price of staying alive; every member of the community had to be up and working. They were the hardest working people on earth, their only rest being the observance of the Sabbath, as demanded by church and state.

變化。這些變化是由這個國家的氣候和自然環境產生的。不過別的事情也影響移居過來的人民。離開熟悉的環境而到一個既陌生、又危險的新環境，這舉動就需要力量、勇敢和想像力。一旦橫渡了大洋，遠離故國，加上新經驗的要求，就會削減習慣的約束，並喚醒新的能力。

新大陸是未經開發的。耕田是主要的職業，不過新世界的農業和舊世界的農業不同。濃密的森林地面必得要開墾出來，荒蕪要從土地清除出去；有關當地植物的知識和最好的種植方法，必須學會。

在移民舊國家裏習慣了簡單的享受，和家庭裏、田裏有用的器械，在新國家中就仿製起來。農夫變成了萬能先生——他享用的件件東西都是自己做的。

三

從這個長期務農的背景產生的國民性，其特點是什麼呢？第一是工作的習慣。就殖民地務農的人說來，生存的代價便是不停的苦幹；社團裏每一個成員必得振作、做工。這些人是世界上最苦幹的人，唯一的休息是守安息日，這是教會和國家規定的。

Probably nothing handed down by these early settlers has entered more deeply into the national way of life. If an American has no purposeful work on hand, the fever in his blood drives him nevertheless to some visible form of activity. Indeed the worship of work has made it difficult for Americans to learn how to play: they play games not for fun, but to win. The importance attached to useful labor had the further effect of helping to make "this new man" indifferent to beauty and art. Travellers used to the loveliness and charm of Old World cities have long noted the sameness and ugliness of American cities.

IV.

On the other hand, the complicated nature of the farmer's job gave him unrivaled training in invention and practical skill with tools and machines. As population increased and manufacturing developed on a commercial scale, men merely turned to new purposes the abilities that, by then, had become second nature to them.

Meanwhile, the tradition of wasteful farming, of taking up new land instead of making the most of the old, was accustoming Americans to wasteful ways in public as well as private life.

Toward women, the American male early acquired an attitude which also sharply distinguished him from his brother in the Old World. As in every new country, women had the value of being scarce. They were in demand as sweethearts

大約這些早期移居過來的人流傳下來的影響，再沒有比這一件更深入國民的生活方式了。如果一個美國人手上沒有固定目標的工作，他血液中的熱狂就會驅使他去找一些有形可見的活動。的確，對工作的重視使得美國人難以學會怎樣去遊戲：美國人玩遊戲不是爲了尋樂趣，而是好勝。隨着有用的勞動俱來的重要性，便是它有幫忙促成這位「新人物」對美觀和藝術漠不關心的更進一步影響。看慣舊世界城市可愛迷人之處的旅客，早已看出美國城市的千篇一律和醜陋了。

四

另一方面，農夫那份工作的繁複，給了他在發明和實際使用器具與機械方面無比的訓練。當人口增加、製造生產向商業規模上發展時，人僅僅乎把那時成了第二天性的種種能力用在種種新用途上面去。

在這時期中，擴展新土地而不儘量利用原有的土地那種浪費的農業傳統，影响着美國人，在公私生活方面也養成了浪費的習慣。

對於女性，美國男子很早就有了和舊世界的弟兄顯然不同的態度。在任何新國家中，女子總是物稀爲貴。女性做情人和



and as wives, and they performed endless work about the house and helped with the heavy farm labor. "The cry is everywhere for girls; girls, and more girls!" wrote a traveller in 1866. In these circumstances men placed women on a higher level than in European societies.

V.

Since the agriculturalist thought of his farm only as a place to live for a limited time, he soon learned to be always on the move. As the nation grew older, the habit continued. With the coming of the low-priced automobile, the number of cars by 1925 became so great that everyone in the country could, if he wished, spend his entire time in motion.

But this movement from place to place was a less important aspect of American life than constant upward movement in society. There was belief in equality of opportunity, the right of all men to a free and fair start, a view which led to the establishment of free tax-supported schools. To benefit from equality of opportunity, a man had to be equal to his opportunities under a government which did not have too many rules. The result was an idea of democracy strongly qualified by individualism.

This individualism sometimes assumed forms that ignored government. The colonists often took the law into their own hands. This tendency led to a violence which has continued

妻子是十分需要的，供不應求。她們在家無了無休地工作，還幫着做煩重的農務。一八六六年一個旅客寫道：「到處都需要女子；要女子、要更多的女子！」在這種情形之下，男人比在歐洲的社會裏把女人看得更高一等。

五

既然務農的人把農場只當作在有限期間暫時居住的處所，不久他就學會了時時在移動。雖然立國日久，這一習慣仍然存在。自從廉價汽車問世，到了一九二五年車輛的數量變得很大，以致全國每一個人只要他願意，就能把全部時間都花在移動不停上。

不過美國生活中這種從甲地搬到乙地的遷移，比起社會中不斷向上的移動來，其重要性還在其次。美國人相信機會均等，也就是人人都有自由和公平的出發點的權利，這一觀點促成了由稅收維持的免費學校制度。一個人要想得到機會均等的利益，必得在一個法規不繁的政府之下配得上他的機會。其結果產生了個人主義成份極重的民主觀念。

這種個人主義有時採取了不理會政府的態度。殖民的人常常自己擅行執法。這一趨勢導向現在仍繼續存在的一種激烈的

