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英语时文

阅读进阶

史地篇



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英语时文阅读进阶

——史地篇

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总序

经过一段时间的充分酝酿和准备,我们的《英语时文阅读进阶》终于和大家见面了。这套丛书共有五册——幽默篇、风土人情篇、史地篇、科技篇和名人演讲篇。这套丛书的目标在于帮助读者通过大量的阅读提高其英语综合运用能力,特别是阅读和翻译能力。这套丛书具有以下几个特点:

一、给读者提供一个较理想的、真实的语言环境。该丛书选文题材广泛、内容丰富、既反映了英语国家的历史传统和文化背景,又包括了当代科学技术的最新发展和应用前景。这样就给读者提供了一个和自己的生活、学习、工作和科学研究有密切关系的、比较真实的语言环境,使读者能够比较轻松自然地进行阅读,在吸收语言的同时也学习进行中外双向交流所必需的文化背景知识,从而增加读者的阅读兴趣,在不知不觉中提高应用语言的能力。

二、给读者提供既地道规范又生动活泼的当代英语。丛书取材于英语国家(特别是美国)在当代有影响的报刊杂志、文学读物、科技报道及各种优秀教材。不仅有较正式的书面语体,还有非正式的口语语体。这样使读者接触到的是富有时代气息的、比较实用的语言形式,从而学到地道规范、恰当得体的当代英语,进而提高对英语的感

悟能力、理解能力和表达能力。同时也可以管窥到一些英语的最新发展趋势。

三、注释翔实、明晰,译文通顺达意。丛书对原文中的难点均做了翔实明确的注释。每篇文章都配有参考译文,译文力求忠实原文,朴实无华,以利读者自学参考。这样不仅有助于提高阅读理解能力,而且通过对照译文,促进翻译能力的提高。

四、既具有针对性、又符合科学性和系统性原则。该丛书大致适合于大学和研究生阶段的学生以及具有同等水平的英语学习者的阅读需要。愿该丛书带您走进一个较理想的英语语言环境,为您开辟一个新的英语世界,帮助您成为既有科学知识,又有较强的英语交际能力的 21 世纪的新型人才。

本书在编写的过程中,参阅了大量的书刊并选编了其中的一些文章。在此对这些文章的作者表示最衷心的感谢。

由于水平有限,其中肯定有不少难尽人意之处,因此我们恳请广大读者不吝赐教,以便我们再版时作进一步的修订,使其更加完美,走进更多读者的心田。

前言

您想了解世界的人文历史吗？您想知道世界上著名的地理风貌吗？那么，请您走进《英语时文阅读进阶——史地篇》。本书是《英语时文阅读进阶》的第三册，精选文章 27 篇。内容主要包括与历史文化、地理环境和名人逸事有关的优秀短文。

任何一种语言都不是孤立的。它必然要受其历史及地理环境的影响。在 21 世纪，随着科学与艺术的高度发展，人们期待着新一代的年轻人不仅在科学技术领域，而且也在艺术文化领域，充分展示他们的才华。随着新世纪中西文化巨流的进一步融汇，我们不但要放眼开放交流的未来，还必须回顾中西文化的源远流长。因为只有具有历史的视野，才能领略和珍惜人类文明的营养精华。

本书旨在让年轻人通过阅读管窥世界各国的历史，地理文化，为他们更好地掌握英语语言打下坚实的基础。

为了便于读者学习，本书对文章的难点和重点部分增加了注释，并赋有参考译文。适合初中级以上英语阶段的学习者。本书也是不错的英语教师教学参考教材。

编写本书的主要参考资料是第一作者新近从国外带回的外文书籍、期刊杂志以及一些新近出版的外文资料。作者既考虑了选材的广泛性，又注意了针对所选择的读者群。作者衷心希望这本小书能带给您知识、智慧！

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1. The Birth of the United States

美国的诞生

原文

❶ They were no longer really colonials^❶, but neither were they yet Americans. As the year 1776 opened, the farmers who had stood against the Redcoats^❷ at Lexington and Concord, the militiamen^❸ who had gone off on a doomed invasion of Canada were balanced precariously^❹ between their ancient loyalty to their sovereign^❺, George III, and, a forthright assertion of separatism. So, too, were the members of the Second Continental Congress sitting in Philadelphia. All through the stirring events of the preceding year the Congress had met, debated, and worried, but had failed to confront the supreme issue: independence. Instead its members had sought conciliation with King and Parliament; but their appeals for compromise^❻ had brought only threats to crush what the monarch^❼ called a “desperate conspiracy^❼”.

译文

❶ 他们不再是殖民地居民，但也还不是美国人。随着 1776 年开始，究竟是一如既往地忠于英国乔治三世呢，还是断然决定分离，那些在列克星敦和康科德抗击英兵的农民和入侵加拿大失败的民兵们仍然举棋不定；而在费城举行第二届大陆会议的代表们也同样地犹豫不决。过去的一年，动荡多事。大陆会议一次次召开、辩论，裹足不前，但未能正视独立这一首要问题。与此相反，代表们还寻求跟英国国王与议会的和解。然而，呼吁和解换来的只不过是对方的恐吓，扬言要粉碎英王称之为“垂死的阴谋”。

- ❶ colonial *n.* 殖民地 ❷ Redcoats *n.* 红袄军, 英军 ❸ militiaman *n.* 民兵, 国民自卫队成员 ❹ precariously *adv.* 不稳定地, 不确定地 ❺ sovereign *n.* 最高统治者 (如皇帝, 国王等) ❻ compromise *n.* 妥协 ❼ monarch *n.* 最高统治者, 国王, 女王
 ❽ conspiracy *n.* 阴谋, 密谋

原文

2 Later in 1775, the King and his ministers engaged 30,000 German soldiers to help suppress^① the colonists. Nothing could have stiffened colonial resistance more than this dispatch of German hirelings^②. Early in 1776 colonial passions were further inflamed by a small pamphlet^③ entitled *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine. Giving Voice to the feelings of thousands, Paine wrote of the American struggle: "The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth... Now is the seedtime of continental union... O ye that love mankind! ... stand forth! ... and prepare ... an asylum for mankind."

3 In a few weeks Paine's broadside found its way to village greens in New England, counting-houses in New York, and plantations in Virginia. Up and down the coast, men discussed his bold call for independence and increasingly found that his sentiments^④ reflected their own. Suddenly the

译文

2 1775 年底,英王与大臣们竟雇佣了三万名德国兵来协助镇压移民。没有什么可比得上调遣德国雇佣兵这一举动更能坚定殖民地人民的反抗意志了。1776 年初,托马斯·佩因一本名叫《常识》的小册子,使殖民地人民的激情进一步高涨。佩因在声援群情时,写到了美洲的斗争:“阳光从未照耀在价值更大的事业上……。现在是美洲大联合的时候了……。啊!热爱人类的人们!……站出来吧!……为了人类准备一个避难所吧!”

3 几个星期之后,佩因的大开本诗册传遍了新英格兰的乡间菜园、纽约的办公室和佛吉尼亚的种植园。沿海各地,人们都在谈论着他大胆发出的关于独立的号召,愈来愈觉得在思想上与他息

① suppress v. 制止,镇压,平定

② hireling n (通常作贬义) 可被雇佣的人

③ pamphlet n. 小册子 (通常指有关时事或政治见解的)

④ sentiments n. (pl). 观点,意见

原文

daring word "independence" was on everyone's lips, and a cause thought radical only a few months earlier had achieved an astounding degree of respectability. By late winter the tide of rebellion turned to full flood after the first great victory of Patriot arms. On March 4, 1776, with 50 or so cannon captured at Ticonderoga and hauled some 3000 miles eastward through heavy snows and across hilly terrain, Gen. George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, fortified Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston. Sir William Howe, the Redcoats' commander inside the city, was faced with choice of attempting a breakthrough in the teeth of Washington's artillery or evacuating his forces by sea. Discretion won over valor; the British abandoned Boston, and on March 17 Continental troops poured into the city without a fight.

译文

息相通。突然间，“独立”这一大胆的词语出现在每一个人的嘴上。几个月前还被人视为激进的奋斗目标，现已得到了广泛的推崇，令人惊叹不已。残冬时节，爱国者武装第一次大获全胜之后，奋起反抗的浪潮汇成了滚滚洪流。1776年3月4日，美洲军总司令华盛顿在泰孔德罗加缴获了五十来门大炮，随后携炮向东推进3000余英里，穿过冰天雪地，翻越群岭，巩固了俯瞰波士顿的多尔切斯特高地。城内英军司令威廉豪爵士面临着抉择——要么突破华盛顿的炮火，要么经海路撤军。终于“谨慎”占了“逞强”的上风，英军放弃了波士顿；3月17日，大陆军士兵不战而胜地开进了该城。

原文

4 In June the rebels scored another victory when a half-hearted British effort to land troops at Charleston, South Carolina, was repulsed^❶. With Patriot arms triumphant North and South, the Continental Congress in early June agreed to debate Richard Henry Lee's resolution that "these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." On June 11 a committee of five was chosen to give formal expression to Lee's initiative^❷, and from this group Virginia's Thomas Jefferson was selected to draft a Declaration of Independence^❸.

5 It was in this declaration that Jefferson asserted the natural rights of all mankind: "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

❶ repulse *v.* 击退(进攻), 驱逐

❷ initiative *n.* 倡议, 提议

❸ Declaration of Independence: 独立宣言

译文

4 6月, 反叛者又获得了胜利, 挫败了英军在南卡罗来纳的查尔斯顿试探性登陆的企图。鉴于爱国武装在北方和南方的节节胜利, 大陆会议于6月上旬同意讨论理查德·亨利·李的决议案: “这些联合的殖民地现在是, 而且理所当然地应该是一些自由而独立的洲。”6月11日, 选举产生了一个五人委员会, 对李的倡议进行正式表述。从这个小组推举佛吉尼亚的托马斯·杰斐逊起草一份独立宣言。

5 正是在这份宣言中, 杰斐逊维护了全人类的天赋人权: “人人生而平等; 造物主赋予他们不可剥夺的权利, 其中包括生存权、自由权和追求幸福的权利。为了保障这些权利, 人类才在他们中间建立政府, 而政府正当的权利是经被统治者的同意才取得的。”

原文

6 On July 4, 1776, after having made several revisions in Jefferson's text, the Congress adopted the declaration. The United States of America was born. The first signature, which is almost as large as that of a motion picture star, is that of a man from Massachusetts, John Hancock, who escaped capture by the British in the first battle of the War of Independence and then had his ship confiscated^① and burned. He wrote his signature in such a way, he said, that "the King of England can read it without his glasses." This whimsical^② act alone made him immortal^③, for an American handing out a contract for signature is apt to ask for "your John Hancock." After Hancock, the Declaration was signed by Franklin; John Adams, a Massachusetts lawyer who was to become the second President of United States, the thirty-three-year-old Jefferson, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut.

译文

6 1776年7月4日,杰斐逊的文稿经过几次修改之后,大陆会议正式通过了独立宣言。美利坚合众国诞生了。宣言上的第一个签名,字体粗大得犹如电影明星的签字,他出自马萨诸塞洲的约翰·汉考克之手。汉考克在独立战争第一战中从英军逃脱出来,随即把所乘之船没收烧毁。用他自己的话说,他之所以用这样的方式签名,乃是“为了使英王不必戴上眼镜就能看清”。这一别开生面的举动本身就足以使他永垂青史。到如今,当一个美国人递过待签合同时,常会以“your John Hancock”(“请用约翰·汉考克式签名”)来要求对方签字。紧随汉考克在宣言上签名的是:富兰克林,约翰·亚当斯,即后来成为美国第二任总统的马萨诸塞洲律师,33岁的杰斐逊和康涅狄格的罗杰·舍曼。

① confiscate *v.* 没收(某人的财产),充公

② whimsical *adj.* 异想天开的,突发奇想的

③ immortal *adj.* 不朽的

2. Lincoln's Death

林肯之死

原文

1 After Lee surrendered^① at Appomattox, Lincoln immediately began efforts toward reuniting the nation. He lifted the blockade^② and urged his Cabinet members to turn their thoughts to peace—and away from further bloodshed and any desire for vengeance^③. The South was not to be treated as conquered territory, and Lincoln refused to consider himself a conqueror. He was, and had been since 1861, President of the United States, and this included the South as well. He had long held the view that the Southern states had never legally seceded^④ from the Union.

2 As early as December, 1863, for example, Lincoln had issued a proclamation^⑤ on the reconstruction of the Southern states. It granted a full pardon to every southern citizen who would take an oath of allegiance^⑥ to the United States, with the exception of^⑦ the civil and military leaders of the Confederacy. It also

译文

1 李将军在阿波马托克斯投降之后，林肯立即着手重新使国家走向统一。他解除了封锁，督促内阁成员把思想转向和平——避免更多的流血，打消报复念头。南方各州不可作为被征服的领土来对待，而且林肯也拒绝把自己看成是征服者。他曾经是、而且自1861年以来一直是美国（这当然也包括南方各州在内）的总统。长期以来他坚持认为南方各州在法律上从未脱离过联邦。

2 例如，早在1863年12月，林肯就发布过一项重建南方各州的公告，准予赦免所有愿意效忠于美国的南方公民（联邦的军政首脑除外）。公告同时规定，任何一州凡在1860年有10%的选民

① surrender *v.* 投降 ② blockade *n.* 障碍，障碍物

③ vengeance *n.* 报复，报仇，复仇

④ secede *v.* 退出，脱离（组织等）

⑤ proclamation *n.* 宣告，公布，声明

⑥ allegiance *n.* （对政府，统治者，事业等的）拥护，忠诚

⑦ with the exception of 除了

原文

provided that when ten percent of the people who had been voters in any state in 1860 had taken the oath to support the Constitution, the laws of Congress, and the proclamation ending slavery, they could organize a government. The President would then recognize this government of the state. Having thus ended its efforts to secede and threaten the life of the Union, the state would be allowed to carry on its affairs as part of the United States as if nothing had happened. Revenge had no part in Lincoln's plans for reconstruction. Indeed, before the end of the war, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Louisiana had set up loyal governments under this generous plan.

3 At the same time, however, the Republicans had split into two groups—the so-called Radicals^❶ and the Conservatives^❷. The Radicals wanted to punish the Southerners, especially the planter—slaveholders who had controlled Southern politics and had led the South into secession^❸. To them, Lincoln's plan was too lenient^❹ and completely

译文

发誓支持宪法、国会和废权宣言,便可以组建一个政府,总统将承认这个政府为该州的合法政府。凡已按此规定停止搞脱离活动和威胁联邦生存的州,将获准作为联邦国家的一部分处理本州事务,既往一概不究。林肯的这些重建计划中不包含任何复仇的内容。在战争结束之前,田纳西、阿肯色和路易斯安那各州就根据这一宽大为怀的计划建立了效忠联邦的政府。

3 与此同时,共和党人却分裂成为两派——所谓的激进派和保守派。激进派想要惩罚南方人,特别是惩罚那些曾经控制南方政治、导致南方脱离联邦的种植园奴隶主。对他们来说,林肯的计划过分宽大,根本不能接受。

❶ radical *n.* 激进派,激进分子

❷ conservative *n.* 保守派,保守分子

❸ secession *n.* 脱离,退出

❹ lenient *adj.* 宽大的,仁慈的

原文

unacceptable. The Conservatives, on the other hand, backed Lincoln, but even they wanted a plan which would adequately protect the rights of the freed Negroes. Moreover, they agreed with the Radicals that Congress, and not the President, should control Reconstruction on the South.

4 Congress, therefore, did not accept Lincoln's ten per cent plan, it even refused to admit into Congress the representatives from the three already reconstructed southern states and ignored their electoral votes in the presidential election of 1864. Instead, it substituted a plan of its own for Reconstruction. This plan required that a majority, rather than just ten per cent, of the voters must take the oath of loyalty. It also boldly stated that the seceded states were no longer part of the Union, and their reconstruction as conquered territories was the sole responsibility of Congress. Lincoln opposed this plan and refused to sign the bill which would have put it into effect. Consequently, the war ended without the government having reached a firm decision on the political status on the South.

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另一方面,保守派支持林肯,但即使是他们,也要求有一项足以保障那些获得自由的黑人的权利的计划的计划。而且他们同意激进派的观点,即南方的重建应该由国会而不是总统来掌握。

4 因此,国会没有接受林肯的百分之十计划,它甚至拒绝接纳南方三个已重建州的代表进入国会,并对这些州在1864年总统选举中的选票予以驳回。国会提出了一个自己的重建计划,该项计划要求有半数选民(而非百分之十)宣誓效忠,并公然声明脱离联邦的各州不再是联邦的组成部分,而是作为被征服的领土,他们的重建将由国会单独负责。林肯反对该项计划,拒绝在使之生效的议案上签字。所以,战争虽然结束了,政府仍未能就南方的政治地位作出果断决定。

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5 The bitterness and strength of congressional resistance to his plan, however, made Lincoln reconsider his position. He realized that he would probably have to accept some of the objections of the Radicals and adopt some of their ideas. No doubt he foresaw a difficult struggle ahead with Congress, but he was nevertheless determined to seek a just peace “with malice^❶ toward none; with charity^❷ for all.” There is a good chance that with his tact^❸ and understanding of human nature, he might have succeeded in guiding the country safely through Reconstruction. Unfortunately for the South as well as for the North, Lincoln was not spared “to bind the nation’s wounds.”

6 On the night of April 14, 1865, five days after Appomattox, Lincoln and his wife, Mary left the White House for a rare evening of relaxation. Free at last from the cares of war, he had told Mary that afternoon, “I never felt so happy in my life.” They went to Ford’s Theater in Washington to see an

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5 然而，国会强烈地抵制林肯的计划，迫使林肯重新考虑自己的立场。他意识到，也许不得不接受激进派的某些异议，采纳他们的某些意见。毫无疑问，他已预见到将会与国会有一场艰巨的斗争，但他决心寻求公正的和平，“对任何人都不存恶意，对所有人宽厚仁爱”。以他的谋略和对人性的领悟，他是有可能成功地领导全国安然渡过重建时期的。对南方和北方来说，遗憾的是，林肯未能活下来“医治民族的创伤”。

6 1865年4月14日，阿波马托克斯受降后的第五天，林肯和夫人玛丽离开白宫，共度一个难得的轻松夜晚。那天下午，林肯终于从战争的忧心忡忡中解脱出来，他告诉玛丽：“我一生中从未感

❶ malice *n.* 恶意, 恶毒

❷ charity *n.* 慈善, 仁爱; 施舍, 慷慨

❸ tact *n.* 战术