

NEW

最新 英文报刊 文章选读

胡敏 主编



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for about half the price of competition. Detroit saw red. General Motors and Ford announced they were suspending investments in Indonesia. The U.S. and European Union and World Bank filed complaints with the World Trade Organization. Many Indonesian businessmen made wide-ranging business trips to the First Family, many of them amusing—especially when an Indonesian son, Bambang, was in the war-torn, tax-favored car company too. Wags quipped that the name of the Timor, stood for Tommy Orang Rakus. That's Indonesian for Indeed a Greedy Man."

It was possible to shrug off a bad joke when Indonesia grew at a brisk 8% a year. Now, fading along with Indonesia's economy and the value of the rupiah. Economy in trouble, the government announced a \$23 billion emergency agreement with the International Monetary Fund. The severity of the economic crisis has raised new doubts about the future of the Timor, which has been designated Indonesia's "national car," even though it is imported from South Korea and contains hardly a single bolt made in Indonesia. Besides, its South Korean partner, Kia, has been placed in receivership.

Last week, as the government and the IMF were ironing out details of the aid package, Suharto confidant Mohamad "Bobby" Hasan was reportedly working behind the scenes to ease Tommy out of his main position in the project and to meet with executives from Toyota, Indonesia's leading car company. Hasan took over late last year, claiming that the Timor is being pulled into a bait from the First Family that will help market sentiment," says Jonathan Harris, who heads research at the James Capel in Jakarta.

Those delicate machinations contrast sharply with the nationalistic fanfare that accompanied the Timor's 1996 launch.

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编者：胡敏 承碧如 樊新志

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胡 敏 主编

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前 言

本书所收录的 20 篇文章均选自最近两年美国主要新闻刊物。这些文章内容新颖、题材广泛、体裁多样、可读性强,涉及国际时事、经济文化、社会生活、科学技术、著名人物等各个方面。读者通过本书能一览近期美国著名刊物的热点文章。

本书有如下几个特点:一、对文章中出现的生词与表达作了详尽而准确的释义,为读者阅读时扫清语言障碍提供了最直接、最有效的帮助;二、对文章中的语言难点和背景知识进行了精当的注释,有助于读者扩大知识面和加深对文章的理解;三、每篇文章均附有思考题,便于读者进一步理解和掌握文章的内容,提高英语表达能力。

本书所选文章行文流畅、语言丰富、词汇覆盖面广,适合于大学生、研究生及其他中高级英语水平者阅读,对准备参加 EPT、TOEFL、GRE、GMAT 等各类中高级英语水平考试的人士在短期内提高英语阅读能力、迅速扩大词汇量亦有一定参考价值。

本书由国际关系学院国际新闻系胡敏副教授主编。胡敏负责拟定写作大纲、编写体例、文章选材以及定稿工作。参加本书编写的共有胡敏、承碧如、樊新志 3 位同志。具体分工如下:胡敏:第 1、2、3、4、5、6、7、9、12、13、19 单元;承碧如:第 8、10、11、16、18 单元;樊新志:第 14、15、17、20 单元。

由于时间仓促,加上我们水平有限,难免有疏漏和谬误之处,敬请专家读者匡正。

胡 敏

1997 年 3 月 18 日

国际关系学院

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Unit One

Pandemonium Millennium

By Kevin Phillips

There have been *fin de siècle* jitters in every century since the 1490s. As the countdown for the year 2000 begins, the pace of change can only accelerate. Hold on to your hats.

Washington et no one underestimate the millennial wave¹ that will sweep the West over the next three years. Our coming psycho-voyage to the year 2000 stands to be among the world's most important cultural, economic and political phenomena.²

Plans for jet-setter parties on supersonic aircraft³ following the New Year from time zone to time zone, or to catch the first glimpse of the sun from Mount Hakepa in the Pacific just west of the International Date Line are only the superficial glitz. And the heavy-metal lyrics and art exhibits already symbolizing the millennium with images of imminent apocalypse are more gloomy than rational.⁴ But there is a real significance in psychological attention to the year 2000 already apparent. Precedents suggest that this is a mood in which crises, wars, panics and revolutions could all intensify.

Since at least the 1490s, the ends of centuries have been times of speeded-up history, events and consciousness⁵ in the West, and the added religious and cultural importance of the millennium to Christianity should treble or quadruple the impact in the years just ahead. Belief in a millennial experience that will bring Christ to reign again on Earth, based on the Bible's Book of Revelations,⁶ has recurred in Christianity since the early days, with particular importance in the religious revivals of the English-speaking world. The Catholic Church, in turn, has made 2000 a jubilee year, and the Adventists and several other conservative, evangelical bodies take the occasion even more seriously.

But the larger impact will be in the variable mix of optimism, pessimism, guilt and hedonism that constitutes popular culture. When Dec. 31, 1999 gives way to midnight,⁷ Iceland plans to light bonfires, Britain to have a nationwide pealing of bells and New York to turn Times Square⁸ into an extravaganza of TV screens showing festivities in all 24 time zones. The psychological countdown has already begun not just in the giant digital clock that the Irish have sunk in Dublin's River Liffey,⁹ to set off a giant fireworks display three years hence, but in Western minds and moods.

It stands to reason that January, 1997 not January 1996, would be the jumping-off point, especially in the world's communications nerve-center, the United States. This country, at least, had to get past its quadrennial preoccupation with choosing a president.¹⁰ And anticipation of a millennium was incompatible with serious discussion of whether Bob Dole¹¹

or Lamar Alexander would come in second in New Hampshire or whether Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex)¹² had a national future. Now President Bill Clinton is riding a limited wave of national optimism¹³ — which makes for a perfect transition into the potential importance of the 21st century and the 3rd millennium.

Too much emphasis on the religious side of the event can smack of crackpotism. As the year 1000 rolled around, the bishops and religious leaders who led their flocks to mountain-tops or seashores to await some expected development were disappointed. Presumably, this will also be the fate of preachers and cult leaders who take followers into the Idaho mountains or to the California beaches for the day of judgment three years hence.

What can be predicted is the intensifying recurrence in the next three years of the end-of-the-century pandemonium that has been present on so many dimensions in past "nineties"¹⁴ — from the 1490s down to the 1890s — and which we can already see in our own hurtling decade.

Societies of the '90s become anticipatory — sometimes happily, sometimes not.¹⁵ Countries that have been the dominant global force in the century coming to a close — Spain in the 1590s, Holland in the 1690s, France in the 1790s and Britain in the 1890s — often dwell on the negative, analyzing the social or economic decay apparent and the potential for the next century to bring tougher times.¹⁶ Worried Britons of the 1890s saw their leadership in danger of slipping away, as many Americans do now. From Paris to Vienna, Europe made the term "*fin de siècle*" a synonym for 1890s disillusionment.

Conversely, societies about to shine in the next century begin to taste and anticipate those glories in the '90s.¹⁷ Spain certainly did in the 1490s, when Ferdinand¹⁸ and Isabella¹⁹ completed the reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula²⁰ from the Moors²¹ even as they commissioned Christopher Columbus to explore a new empire in the Western Hemisphere. The United States was in a similar mood of excitement in 1893, when the World Columbian Exposition²² in Chicago, a sort of world's fair, produced an extraordinary surge of national energy, crystallizing Americans' belief that the next century would be an American century — as it was.²³

This accelerating interplay of ambitions and jitters has a record of stimulating wars — and revolutions.²⁴ The French Revolution began in 1789, and by 1800 had turned into the Napoleonic wars.²⁵ The countdown to the wars and revolutions of the early 20th century, from St. Petersburg and Constantinople to Vienna and Berlin, began in the tumult and terrorism of the 1890s.²⁶ Financial chaos often rides along. Back at the turn of this century, the United States was just coming out of one major financial panic, that of 1893, and heading into another big one, in 1906. Instead of signaling an end to business and economic cycles, the "mega-'90s" could easily see an unexpectedly significant upheaval.

The extent to which American culture, too, may now be on the cusp of millennializing — of courting and speeding up economic, cultural and political change — is only an "x factor" rather than a clear map.²⁷ But it does suggest certain possibilities. A surprise reaffir-

mation of America's 21st century vitality is one; but so is the painful emergence of developments that may cloud its future.

One could be the emergence of a war from one of the global hot-spots — the Middle East, Balkans or Far East²⁸ — that have a long history of bloodshed. Such an imbroglio could strain U. S. finances and preparedness — just as the 30 Years War²⁹ did to 17th-century Spain, and the two world wars to 20th-century Britain. A financial crisis is a second possibility. Any replay of the panics of 1893 or 1906 would create a third panic — in the executive suites of mutual funds worried about the trampling effect of a public stampede.³⁰

Still another possibility is that the United States is heading into an era of political upheaval and reform. The 1790s and 1890s both began as conservative periods of government fealty to business and finance. But both concluded amid very different currents: the empowerment of Jeffersonian Democracy in the presidential election of 1800; and the populist-progressive era that followed the late 19th-century Gilded Age.³¹

Few currently see any such era on the U. S. horizon, but circumstances in the other English-speaking countries lend support to the idea of a broader pressure.³² Potential upheaval is everywhere.³³ Canada could break up over independence for Quebec. Australia has been having an off-and-on discussion of shedding the British monarchy and becoming a republic.³⁴ Even the British have growing doubts about the monarchy and could change it — with talk of abolishing the House of Lords in favor of an elected Senate or requiring a nationwide, popular referendum as the vehicle for any such sweeping change.

Could anything like this happen in the United States? Not without a multiple crisis of confidence³⁵ — in the nation's political leadership, its ethics and the current system of elections. But elements of that crisis are already recurrent news headlines.³⁶

If we were simply in the final decade of another century, the chances for the acceleration-of-change consciousness and upheaval over the next several years would be significant enough. But with the added millennial ingredient, the ticking digital clock of history is certain to bring a lot more fireworks than anybody has yet imagined.³⁷

Words & Expressions

pandemonium [ˌpændi'məʊnjəm] *n.* 大混乱, 嘈杂, 喧闹

millennium [mɪ'lɛniəm] *n.* 一千年, 千年期, 千年纪念日

fin de siècle *a.* [法]世纪末的

jitter ['dʒɪtə] *n.* [常用复数]不安

countdown ['kauntdaʊn] *n.* 倒计时

pace [peɪs] *n.* 速度

accelerate [æk'seləreɪt] *v.* 加速

hold on to your hats [口]当心(同 hang on to

your hats)

underestimate [ˌʌndər'estimeɪt] *v.* 低估, 对... 估计不足

millennial [mɪ'lɛniəl] *a.* 一千年的, 美满的, 太平盛世的

stand [stænd] *vi.* 处于特定状态; 定然会

phenomena [fɪ'nɒmɪnə] *n.* (phenomenon 的复数)现象, 迹象, 表现

jet-setter ['dʒet, setə] *n.* 乘喷气式飞机到处旅游的阔佬, 往来各地旅游的富豪

supersonic[ˈsju:pə'sonik] *a.* 超音速的, 超声速的; 超声的
time zone 时区
catch a glimpse of 瞥见, 看看
Mount Hakepa 哈凯帕山(太平洋上国际日期变更线西面不远处)
International Date Line 国际日期变更线
superficial[ˌsju:pə'fiʃəl] *a.* 表面的, 外部的
glitz[glɪts] *n.* 耀眼, 浮华
lyric[ˈlɪrɪk] *n.* [复数](流行歌曲的)歌词; 抒情诗, 抒情作品
heavy metal [主美](强节奏、大音量的)“重金属”电子摇滚乐
imminent[ˈɪmɪnənt] *a.* 临近的, 即将发生的
apocalypse[ə'pɒklɪps] *n.* 大动乱, 大灾变, 善恶的决战
gloomy[ˈɡluːmi] *a.* 情绪低落的, 忧伤的, 悲观的; 昏暗的
rational[ˈræʃənəl] *a.* 理性的, 理智的; 合理的
precedent[ˈprezɪdənt] *n.* 先例; 惯例
panic[ˈpænik] *n.* 恐慌, 惊恐
intensify[ɪn'tensɪfaɪ] *v.* 加剧
Christianity[ˌkrɪstɪ'ænəti] *n.* 基督教; 基督教教义; [总称]基督教徒
treble[ˈtrebl] *v.* 使成三倍, 使增加两倍
quadruple[ˈkwɒdrʊpl] *v.* 使成四倍, 使增加三倍
impact[ˈɪmpækt] *n.* 影响, 作用
in the years just ahead 即将到来的年头
recur[ri'kəː] *v.* 再发生
religious revival 宗教复兴
reign[reɪn] *v.* 主宰, 盛行
Catholic Church 全体基督教徒
in turn 轮流; 反过来
jubilee[ˈdʒuːbɪliː] *n.* 纪念大庆, 狂欢
Adventist[ˈædvəntɪst] *n.* 基督复临派
evangelical[ˌiːvæŋ'dʒelɪkəl] *a.* 主张“因信称义”的基督教新教的; 狂热的
body[ˈbɒdi] *n.* 团体
take ... seriously 认真对待...
guilt[gɪlt] *n.* 内疚
hedonism[ˈhiːdənɪzəm] *n.* 享乐主义, 追求享乐
popular culture 通俗文化
to give way to ... 让位于
bonfire[ˈbɒn,faɪə] *n.* 篝火
pealing[ˈpiːlɪŋ] *n.* (大钟)鸣响
turn ... into ... 把...变成...
extravaganza[eks,trævə'gænzə] *n.* 异乎寻常的东西; 铺张华丽的演出

festivity[fes'tɪvəti] *n.* 庆祝活动; 节日
digital[ˈdɪdʒɪtl] *a.* 数字的, 数字式的
set off 开始; 出发
fireworks[ˈfaɪəwɜːks] *n.* 烟火(如爆竹, 花炮等)
hence[hens] *ad.* 从现在, 从今以后; 将来; 因此, 由此
to stand to reason that ... 是合乎情理的
jumping-off point 起点
nerve-center 神经中枢
to get past 经过, 通过
quadrennial[kwɔ'dreniəl] *a.* 四年一次的
preoccupation[pri(:),ɒkjʊ'peɪʃən] *n.* 全神贯注, 专心致志
to be incompatible with ... 与...不相容, 与...不一致
make for 有利于; 朝...前进
transition[træn'sɪʒən] *n.* 过渡
potential[pə'tenʃəl] *a.* 潜在的, 可能的
smack (of)[smæk] *v.* 含有特定意味, 带有特定迹象
crackpotism[ˈkrækpɒtɪzəm] *n.* 想入非非, 不切实际
roll around 到来
bishop[ˈbɪʃəp] *n.* 主教
flock[floʊk] *n.* (某人带领下的)一大群人
presumably[pri'zju:məbli] *ad.* 据推测, 大概
preacher[ˈpri:tʃə] *n.* 牧师, 传道士; 鼓吹者, 宣传者
cult[kʌlt] *n.* 教派; 异教, 邪教; 异教徒
dimension[di'menʃən] *n.* (常作复数)程度, 规模; 方面; 面积
hurtling[ˈhɜːtlɪŋ] *a.* 急行的, 猛冲的, 飞快的
anticipatory[æn'tɪsɪpeɪtəri] *a.* 预期的, 期望着的
to come to a close 结束, 终止
dwell on 老是想; 详述, 强调
negative[ˈnegətɪv] *a.* 消极的; 相反的; 否定的; 阴性的
decay[di'keɪ] *n.* 衰退
tough[tʌf] *a.* 艰苦的; 强硬的
slip away 不知不觉地失去, 溜走
term[tɜːm] *n.* 词; 术语
synonym[ˈsɪnənim] *n.* 同义词
disillusionment[ˌdɪsɪ'luːʒənmənt] *n.* 幻想(理想)破灭; 醒悟
conversely[kən'vesli] *ad.* 相反
reconquest[ˌriː'kɒŋkwɛst] *v.* 再征服, 再攻克
commission[kə'mɪʃən] *v.* 委任, 委托
empire[ˈempaɪə] *n.* 帝国; 最高统治权, 君权

Western Hemisphere 西半球

in a mood of ... 处于...情绪中

a sort of 一种

world's fair 世界博览会

surge[sə:dʒ] *n.* 巨浪,汹涌,奔腾

crystallize['kristəlaiz] *v.* 使成形,使具体化;
使结晶

accelerating[æk'seləreitiŋ] *a.* 促进的,加速
的,加快的

interplay['intə(:)'plei] *n.* 相互作用

stimulate['stimjuleit] *vt.* 激起,引起

St. Petersburg 圣彼得堡(俄罗斯城市,前苏联时
期名为列宁格勒)

Constantinople 君士坦丁堡(土耳其)

tumult['tju:məlt] *n.* 骚乱,骚动,喧哗,吵闹

terrorism['terərizəm] *n.* 恐怖主义,恐怖活动

chaos['keiəs] *n.* 混乱,无秩序

ride along 到来

head into 进入,陷入

overlay[,əuvə'lei] *n.* 覆盖,饰面

mega(构词成分)意思是“强”、“大”

mega-90s 超级90年代

upheaval[ʌp'hi:vəl] *n.* 巨变,动乱,胀起,隆起

cusp[kʌsp] *n.* 尖顶,尖端,尖点

millennialize[mi'leniəlaiz] *v.* 千年更替

court[kɔ:t] *v.* 招致,引诱,追求

“x” factor 未知数,未知因素

reaffirmation['ri:æfə'meiʃən] *n.* 重申,再确
定

vitality[vai'tælitɪ] *n.* 活力,生命力

hot spots 热点地区

bloodshed['blʌdʃed] *n.* 流血,杀戮

imbroglio[im'brəuliəu] *n.* 错综复杂的局面,

纠葛

strain[strein] *v.* 使紧张,使紧缩

replay['ri:'plei] *n.* 重演,重放;重赛

executive suite 经理套房

mutual(funds) 共同(基金)

trampling['træmpliŋ] *a.* 灾难性的

stampede[stæm'pi:d] *n.* 挤兑;蜂拥,冲动行事

fealty['fi:əlti] *n.* 忠诚,效忠,宣誓

empowerment[im'pauəmənt] *n.* 许可,授权

gild[gild] *v.* 给...镀金,使成金色,使生辉

horizon[hə'raizn] *n.* 地平线,眼界,视域;范围

on the horizon 即将来临的,已露端倪的

lend support to 提供支持

break up over ... 因为...而分裂

off-and-on 断断续续的,间歇的,有时

shed[ʃed] *v.* 摒弃,去除,摆脱

monarchy['mənəki] *n.* 君主制,君主政体,君
主国

abolish[ə'bɒliʃ] *v.* 废除

House of Lords 上院(英)

in favor of 赞同,支持;有利于

senate['senit] *n.* 参议院

referendum[,refə'rendəm] *n.* 全民公决,全民
投票

as a vehicle for 作为...的工具

multiple['mʌltipl] *a.* 多重的,多种多样的,复
杂的

ethics['eθiks] *n.* 道德

recurrent[ri'kʌrənt] *a.* 经常发生的

headline['hedlain] *n.* 大字标题

ingredient[in'gri:djənt] *n.* 组成部分;配料

ticking['tikiŋ] *a.* 滴答作响的

Notes

●本文选自1997年1月5日《洛杉矶时报》。

1. the millennial wave (千年庆典浪潮)* 二十世纪即将结束,新的千年行将到来。在新的世纪就要到来的时候,世界各国都在为欢庆这一千载一逢的时刻做准备。然而,二十一世纪究竟始于何时,各国存在分歧。日本等国认为,2000年午夜前仍属本世纪,新的世纪要到2001年的凌晨零分才开始,而美、欧及世界大多数国家则认为二十一世纪实际上从2000年的凌晨就已经开始了。

2. Our coming psycho-voyage to the year 2000 stands to be among the world's most important cultural, economic and political phenomena.

我们即将开始的走向2000年的心理征程势将成为世界最重要的文化、经济和政治现象之一。

3. Plans for jet-setter parties on supersonic aircraft ...

有人计划乘喷气式飞机结伴而行...

4. And the heavy-mental lyrics and art exhibits already symbolizing the millennium with images of imminent apocalypse are more gloomy than rational.

至于已经在用大难临头的形象来象征新的千年的那些重金属抒情歌和画展,那就不能算是理性的东西,而只能算是感世伤怀之作了。

5. ... the ends of centuries have been times of speeded-up history, events and consciousness ...

...每逢世纪之末,历史进程就会加快,各种事件就会增多,人们就会更加觉醒。

6. Belief in a millennial experience that bring Christ to reign again on Earth, based on the Bible's Book of Revelations ...

据《圣经》的《启示录》所说,在千年更替之时,耶稣会重新君临地球。

Book of Revelations 《启示录》(基督教《圣经·新约》的末卷,全称 the Revelation of St. John the Divine)

7. to give way to midnight 午夜降临

8. Times Square 时代广场

9. Dublin's River Liffrey 都柏林的利菲河(爱尔兰)

10. This country had to get past its quadrennial preoccupation with choosing a president.

这个国家不得不忙于四年一度的挑选总统的工作。* 美国之所以把千年庆典的起点定在1997年1月,是因为1996年是美国的大选年。开始千年庆典势必会冲淡四年一度的大选竞选气氛,这是日益关注国内问题的美国人所不能接受的。

11. Bob Dole 鲍勃·多尔(美国前参议院多数党领袖,共和党总统候选人,一生三次参加总统竞选,均未获成功。)

12. Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) 得克萨斯州共和党参议员菲尔·格拉姆 * "Sen." 为 "Senator" 的缩写形式, "(R-T)" 指 (Republican-Texas)", 这是新闻稿中美国参、众议员身份的固定表示方法, 如 Rep. xxx (D-N. Y.) 是纽约州民主党众议员 XXX。

13. to ride a limited wave of national optimism

乘着国民乐观情绪的有限浪潮

14. What can be predicted is the intensifying recurrence in the next three years of the end-of-the-century pandemonium that has been present on so many dimensions in past "nineties"--

可以预言的是,今后三年中,以往的每个90年代都在许多层面上有过的那种世纪末的混乱状态将以更加剧烈的形式再度出现。

15. Societies of the '90 become anticipatory—sometimes happily, sometimes not.

90年代的各国社会都在预期一些事情的发生——有时是高兴地期待,有时则不然。

16. Countries ... often dwell on the negative, analyzing the social or economic decay apparent and the potential for the next century to bring tougher times.

...的国家,往往采取消极态度,竭力分析明显的社会或经济的衰退以及下个世纪带来艰难岁月的可能性。

17. Conversely, societies about to shine in the next century begin to taste and anticipate those glories in the '90s.

相反,即将在新世纪中焕发光彩的那些社会却在90年代初尝荣耀的滋味并期待更大的荣耀。

18. Ferdinand 斐迪南二世 (1452 - 1516, 曾任西西里国王、阿拉贡国王、那不勒斯国王和卡斯蒂利亚国王,奠定西班牙统一的基础,支持哥伦布横渡大西洋的航行,推行扩张政策)

19. Isabella 伊莎贝拉一世 (1451 - 1504, 曾任卡斯蒂利亚女王、阿拉贡女王, 与其夫阿拉贡王斐迪南实行联合统治, 使两国合并, 为西班牙统一奠定基础; 曾资助哥伦布航海。)

20. Iberian Peninsula 伊比利亚半岛 (欧洲西南部, 现在的西班牙和葡萄牙)

21. Moors 摩尔人 (指非洲西北部阿拉伯人与柏柏尔人的混血后代, 公元8世纪进入并统治西班牙)

22. World Columbian Exposition in Chicago 芝加哥世界哥伦布博览会 (一次世界性的博览会)

23. as it was 事实也确实如此。

24. This accelerating interplay of ambitions and jitters has a record of stimulating war and revolutions.

雄心和躁动相互作用的结果是引起一些战争和革命。

25. Napoleonic wars 拿破仑战争 (指1799 - 1815年法国在拿破仑一世率领下与英国、普鲁士、俄国、奥地利之间进行的一系列战争)

26. The countdown to the wars and revolutions of the early 20th century ... began in the tumult and terrorism of the 1890s.

二十世纪初期的几场战争和革命...都是在19世纪90年代的骚乱和恐怖中酝酿的。

27. The extent to which American culture, too, may now be on cusp of millennializing — of courting and speeding up economic, cultural and political change — is only an “x factor” rather than a clear map.

如今, 美国文化或许正处于千年之变——即导致并加快经济、文化和政治方面的改革——的顶点。但是, 情况究竟在多大程度上是这样, 还是个未知数, 并非一目了然。

28. the global hot-spots — Middle East, Balkans or Far East

* 目前, 中东、巴尔干地区和远东被西方视为热点地区, 其原因是, 在中东, 以色列仅与约旦和巴勒斯坦签署了和平协议, 并未与叙利亚实现和解。以巴(勒斯坦)虽已签约, 但双方完全履约还很困难。中东爆发新的冲突的可能性依然存在; 在巴尔干地区, 由于北约仍在波黑驻有维和部队, 波黑的局势才得以暂时稳定, 但那里的民族矛盾并未得到根本解决; 在远东, 西方担心朝鲜半岛局势发生动荡。

29. The 30 Years War 三十年战争 (指1618—1648 间在欧洲以德意志为主要战场的国际性战争)

30. Any replay of the panics of 1893 or 1906 would create a third panic — in the executive suites of mutual funds worried about the trampling effect of a public stampede.

1893年和1906年的两次大恐慌无论哪一次重演都将导致出现第三次恐慌——共同基金公司的经理们担心, 公众挤兑可能产生灾难性后果。

31. Gilded Age 镀金时代 (指美国南北战争后35年间的繁荣昌盛期)

32. Few currently see any such era on the U. S. horizon, but circumstances in the other English-speaking countries lend support to the idea of a broader pressure.

眼下没有人认为美国就要出现这样一个时代, 但其他英语国家的情况却以更广泛的压力支持着这种观点。

33. Potential upheaval is everywhere.

潜在的动乱无处不有。

34. Australia has been having an off-and-on discussion of shedding the British monarchy and becoming a republic.

澳大利亚一直在时断时续地讨论是否抛弃英国的君主制而实行共和制的问题。

35. Not without a multiple crisis of confidence

如不出现多重信任危机, 发生那种情况是没有可能的。

36. But elements of that crisis are already recurrent news headlines.

然而,这场危机的一些问题已经多次见诸报纸的大字标题了。

37. But with the added millennial ingredient, the ticking digital clock of history is certain to bring a lot more fireworks than anybody has yet imagined.

而今又加上千年之交这个因素,滴答作响的数字历史时钟放出的焰火的威力肯定会超过任何人的想象。

Questions

1. What does the writer of this article think of people's psycho-voyage to the year 2000?
2. What does Iceland plan to do when the midnight of Dec. 31, 1999 comes?
3. When was the jumping-off point? Why was it reasonable in the United States?
4. Where are the global hot-points in the eyes of Western journalists?
5. What has Australia been discussing off-and-on?
6. Can you imagine what the coming millennium will be?

Unit Two

Russia 1996: The People Choose¹

By *Michael Kramer* MOSCOW

This was clearly not what Boris Yeltsin expected. On May 3, a bright and unseasonably warm day, the President of Russia traveled about 260 km northeast of Moscow to Yaroslavl,² an industrial city known as part of the "golden ring" of ancient fortified towns that formed the historic heart of Russia. Before the 10-hour tour, Yeltsin's campaign handlers described Yaroslavl as "one of the nation's most stable" places, code for an area presumed sympathetic to Yeltsin. Yaroslavl was the first town outside the capital that he visited after the unsuccessful 1993 rebellion³, failed to dislodge him from the Kremlin. Back then, conditions in the city were improving after decades of shortages, but residents still remembered taking the four-hour "sausage train" to Moscow simply to purchase basic foodstuffs, and the old Soviet-era joke was retold regularly: "Do you have meat here?" a customer asks. "No," says the shopkeeper. "Here we don't have fish; it's at the other store that they don't have meat." Yeltsin was nevertheless the triumphant victor over revanchism, and in Yaroslavl that day he was hailed joyously.

Two and a half years later, with the shops well stocked and the streets clean, a fit and rested President assumed that a similar reception awaited him — and with it the chance to demonstrate his appeal beyond the reform-minded enclaves of Moscow and St. Petersburg.⁴ Instead Yeltsin was clobbered. From his first stop until his last, the cries went up — from an old woman wagging her finger in the President's face: "Yes, there's food in the stores, but who can afford it?"; from a young factory worker: "Where are our salaries?"; from a middle-aged electrician: "Our savings are worthless!" More quietly, a well-dressed man said, "All we ever get from you are promises, but nothing ever happens."

Complaints about crime, unemployment, corruption and the growing disparity between haves and have-nots rounded out the chorus of distress.⁵ By day's end Yeltsin appeared tired and beaten. He seemed to have been unaware of the passion of discontent outside Moscow, a city about as representative of Russia as New York is of America. Yeltsin himself is partly to blame for being so out of touch. Suffering from an apparently serious heart ailment, the man many Russians liken to a modern-day czar has for the past two years been a virtual Kremlin recluse. And his inner circle of aides, forever jockeying for position, seem to have concluded long ago that bearing bad news to their boss is the least career-enhancing service they can render.⁶ Given his insularity, the President's wide-eyed wonder at the pounding he took in Yaroslavl was not surprising. "The complaints here," a dejected Yeltsin told a local television interviewer, "they're everywhere. These weren't just single cases. The people complained en masse."

Russia votes on June 16. Eleven candidates are running for President — an office with near absolute power — but most observers view the race as between Yeltsin and his Commu-

nist rival, Gennadi Zyuganov. The stakes are enormous. "Nothing will prevent the forces that are dreaming of the past from introducing their own rules if they gain power," the President said of the Communists recently. That's right, says Valentin Kuptsov,⁷ first deputy chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation: "The choice could not be greater. We will determine whether Russia is turned completely into a Western vassal controlled by the U. S. or reacquires its status as an independent, great power."

This is "one of those rare moments in history when a nation is undergoing a true social revolution," says Michael McFaul, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment Moscow Center. "It is not simply a transition-to-democracy situation, when both sides agree on the ultimate outcome and contest for the right to lead the way there. In Russia today both camps seek a zero-sum victory, with no consensus about or commitment to the new rules of the game in the wake of the ancient regime's collapse. Everything is at stake here, the entire political, economic and societal makeup of the nation."

Recent polls have shown Yeltsin pulling even with Zyuganov, or even slightly ahead,⁹ with the support of about a quarter of the electorate. If no candidate receives more than half the vote on June 16, a run-off between the two top finishers could be held as early as July 7. It is in the second round that Yeltsin hopes to win, as those scared that their past may become their future swallow their misgivings and vote for him. Yet even that mathematically plausible scenario is considered dicey. Talk of postponing the elections is the rage in Moscow, and serious observers wonder whether Yeltsin would — or should — yield power if he loses to Zyuganov.

These speculations gain currency almost daily as Yeltsin reaches for ever more apocalyptic "red scare" metaphors.¹⁰ When the President says, "I cannot let the forces of the past come to power; I will resist their comeback in every way," his aides nod in agreement. "I know what it would mean for your Western view of democracy," says Georgi Satarov, a top Yeltsin aide. "But if there were a chance that Hitler would come to power in America by winning an election, wouldn't you be wondering if it wasn't right to stop that?"

Why would a people so recently freed from totalitarian rule choose a course that could quickly lead to their renewed oppression? Part of the answer can be found in the abuse Yeltsin received in Yaroslavl. "A lot of Russians have come to identify various aspects of what we call reform not with a better future but with hardship," explains U. S. Deputy Secretary of State (and former Time editor at large) Strobe Talbott,¹¹ who oversees the Clinton Administration's Russia policy. "Crime and corruption are both broad based and deeply rooted," Talbott says. "They pose huge obstacles to Russia staying on a reformist course. [So] Russians tend to identify reform not only with hardship but with physical danger and gross inequity."¹²

Besides these concrete problems, there is also the Russians' loss of psychological security. "If you were viewing Russia from Mars," says Yuli Guzman, a former liberal member of Russia's State Duma,¹³ "you would have to say life has got better in the last five years. But if people are living better in objective terms, their subjective sense is that things have got