

VOICE OF AMERICA

慢速英语的精华

美国风情画

AMERICAN MOSAIC

英汉对照读物



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美国之音慢速英语的精华

美国风情录

(英汉对照)

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AMERICAN MOSAIC

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出版说明

“慢速英语 (Special English)”是“美国之音”开办的一个广播栏目，深受广大英语爱好者的欢迎。蒙美国驻华大使馆同意并提供该栏目的录音带和文字材料，我公司从其 1986-1988 年间的广播节目中选编、录制了由一本英文书和 6 盘磁带组成的《美国风情录》，于 1989 年 1 月出版。该书受到广大读者的青睐，并被一些学校选作辅助教材。

为进一步满足读者的要求，使之更透彻地理解原文并掌握一定的翻译技巧，我们在英文本的基础上出版了这本英汉对照本。对照本原文内容不变，在 33 篇独立的文章中，既有杰克·伦敦、马克·吐温等名家的文学作品，也有从家庭问题到选美大赛的生活掠影；有对 20 年代股市暴跌的回顾，也有 80 年代对外星人的探索；有对家喻户晓的传奇人物海伦·凯勒的特写，也有对风靡全球的摇滚歌星迈克尔·杰克逊的介绍。这套听力材料用生动流畅的文笔、声情并茂的朗读，勾勒出一幅五光十色的美国社会场景，描绘出美国人民所走过的历史道路和他们的喜怒哀乐，不失为一本美国社会的小小百科全书。

这套听力材料对英语爱好者和其他读者学习掌握美式英语的语音语调，增进对美国的了解将大有裨益。这也是我们的出版目的。

编者

1992.10

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美国风情录

1. Asian-Americans

Early this year, the Kuo family of New York City received good news. Sixteen-year-old David Kuo had won honors in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search—the most important science competition for young people in the United States. He had been chosen as one of the top forty young scientists in the country.

Winning in the Westinghouse competition had become a family tradition for the Kuos. David's oldest brother, John, had won top honors in nineteen eighty-five. His next oldest brother, Mark, had won in nineteen eighty-six.

David's prize marked the first time in the history of the competition that children from the same family had won three straight years. David's prize was considered a great success for another reason. The Kuos are immigrants to the United States. They came from Taiwan.

The Kuos are one example of what is often called the Asian-American success story. A great wave of Asian immigrants has arrived in the United States in the last twenty years. Many arrived without much money, and unable to speak English. Yet, as a group, they have done extremely well.

The earnings of Asian-American families are a little higher than those of most other American families. This is partly because, in a larger percentage of Asian-American families, both the husband and wife have jobs.

A higher percent of Asian-Americans complete university study. Only two percent of the people in the United States are

1. 亚裔美国人

今年年初，纽约市的郭家接到喜讯。16 岁的戴维·郭在美国青年最重要的科学竞赛——威斯汀豪斯科学天才发掘赛中得了奖。他已被选为美国最优秀的 40 位青年科学家中的一员。

在威斯汀豪斯科学竞赛中获胜已成了郭家的传统。戴维的大哥约翰在 1985 年赢得头奖。他的二哥马克则在 1986 年获奖。

戴维的获奖，开创了这项竞赛史上，由同一家庭的孩子连续 3 年获胜的先例。他的获奖之所以被视为巨大的成功，还有另一个原因。郭家是移居美国的移民。他们原是台湾人。

郭家是人们常说的亚裔美国人的成功史中的一个范例。近 20 年来，大批的亚洲移民拥入美国。许多人刚来时，既没有多少钱，也不会说英语。然而，作为一个群体，他们干得极为出色。

亚裔美国人的家庭收入比大多数其他美国家庭要略高一些。这在一定程度上因为，亚裔美国人的家庭中，夫妇俩都工作的比例比较高。

亚裔美国人中，完成大学学业的比例也比较高。美国人口中，只有 2% 是亚洲人。然而，在美国的一些一流大学

Asian. Yet as many as twenty percent of first-year students at some of the country's top universities are Asian.

Many Asian-Americans are successful partly because they already had good skills when they came here. They had completed university studies in science, medicine, law or engineering. And they had been successful in their jobs —sometimes for years —in their homelands. A number of Asians who became very successful arrived in the nineteen forties and nineteen fifties. Architect I. M. Pei and computer pioneer An Wang, both Chinese-Americans, are among this group.

Experts say three Asian traditions best explain the success of Asians in the United States, education, hard work, family.

Education is considered the key to success. Asian-American parents expect their children to be the best students. Recent research has found that Asian-American young people spend more time studying than other American students.

Asians are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States. In the last twenty-two years, their numbers have increased five times. Today, there are more than five-million Asian-Americans. Experts say that number may grow to ten-million by the year two-thousand.

As architect I. M. Pei notes, however, there really is no such person as an Asian-American. He says there are Chinese-Americans, Korean-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Vietnamese-Americans and so on. Pei notes that cultural differences among Asian peoples are often great. He says other Americans should learn more about these different cultures.

Many people already feel thankful for the different

里，高达 20% 的一年级学生是亚洲人。

许多亚裔美国人获得成功的原因之一，是他们来到美国时，已经掌握了熟练的技能。他们早已读完了自然科学、医学、法律或工程方面的大学课程。他们在本国已经干得很有成就——有的干了许多年。不少后来很有成就的亚洲人，是在 20 世纪 40 年代和 50 年代来到美国的。建筑师贝聿铭和计算机的先驱王安(两人都是美籍华人)，就属于这一类。

专家们说，亚洲人有三个传统，最能说明亚洲人为什么在美国获得成功：即教育，苦干，家庭。

教育被视为成功的关键。亚裔美国人做父母的，都期望自己的孩子成为最优秀的学生。最近的调查表明，美国的亚裔青年花在学习上的时间比其他美国学生要多。

在美国，亚裔人是增长最快的少数民族群体。在过去的 22 年中，他们的人数增加了 5 倍。如今，亚裔美国人已经超过 500 万。专家们说，到 2000 年，这个数字可能增加到 1000 万。

然而，正如建筑师贝聿铭所指出的，其实并不存在什么亚裔美国人。他说，只有美籍华人，美籍朝鲜人，美籍日本人，美籍越南人，等等。贝指出，亚洲各民族之间的文化差异往往很大。他说，其他美国人应该多了解这些不同的文化。

已有许多人感到应该感谢来自亚洲的移民，因为他们以

ways in which Asian immigrants have enriched American culture. Asian artists, for example, are bringing new ideas and values to painting, sculpture, architecture and clothing design. And Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese foods have gained wide popularity.

People from China were the first Asian immigrants to come to the United States in large numbers. They arrived more than one hundred years ago to help build the nation's railroads. The Chinese railroad workers were treated badly and lived poorly. But most of them stayed in the United States after the railroads were finished.

The next large group of Asian immigrants came from Japan and Korea. They, too, found life hard in the United States. Laws and unofficial restrictions made it difficult for Asians to become citizens or to own land.

Beginning in the late eighteen-hundreds, many Americans wanted to end Asian immigration. They feared and disliked Asians, because the Asians were a different race. Workers were afraid they would lose their jobs to Asian immigrants who would work for lower wages. So Congress passed laws sharply restricting Asian immigration.

One of the worst periods for Asian-Americans was during World War Two, when the United States was at war with Japan. Then, hundreds of thousands of Japanese-Americans were forced to live in special camps.

In the early nineteen-sixties, the movement to guarantee civil rights for blacks made many Americans see that racial laws and beliefs were wrong. In nineteen sixty-five, Congress passed a reformed immigration law. The new law gave Asians the same rights as other people to immigrate to the United States. The new law resulted in two waves of Asian immigrants in the nineteen seventies.

种种方式丰富了美国的文化。比如，亚裔艺术家给绘画、雕刻、建筑、服装设计带来了新的观念和新的价值。中国、日本、泰国和越南的饭菜受到广泛的欢迎。

中国人大量移居美国的第一批亚洲移民。他们于 100 多年前就来到美国，帮助修筑美国的铁路。中国的筑路工人受尽虐待，生活非常艰苦。但是铁路修成以后，大多数中国人还是留在了美国。

第二批大规模的亚洲移民来自日本和朝鲜。他们同样发觉，在美国谋生非常艰难。由于法律和种种非官方的限制，亚洲人很难成为美国公民或是拥有土地。

自 19 世纪末叶起，许多美国人想要终止从亚洲移民。他们惧怕亚洲人，讨厌亚洲人，因为他们属于不同的种族。面对给低工资也肯干活的亚洲移民，工人们担心失去自己的工作。于是，国会通过法令，严格限制来自亚洲的移民。

亚裔美国人经历过境况最坏的阶段，其中包括第二次世界大战期间。当时，美国在同日本交战，几十万美籍日本人被迫住在特别集中营里。

20 世纪 60 年代初，保障黑人公民权利的运动使许多美国人认识到，种族歧视的法令和种族歧视的信念是错误的。1965 年，国会通过了一项移民修订法。新法令使亚洲人像其他人一样，享有移居美国的同等权利。由于新法的问世，70 年代出现了两次亚洲移民的高潮。

Most of the first group were highly-skilled people from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Many had enough money to buy their own homes and open businesses immediately after arriving in the United States.

The second group of Asian immigrants were refugees from Indo- China. They had been farmers or fishermen. They had few skills and little knowledge of life in a modern, developed country. Social workers say many have had a very difficult time becoming settled. Even so, most of these Southeast Asian refugees use public aid only as a temporary measure.

Like other immigrant groups, most Asian refugees have settled in large cities. They form close communities where little English is spoken. The largest group of Asian-Americans, about thirty-five percent, lives in California. Many new immigrants have also settled in Texas, Louisiana and Massachusetts.

The growing numbers of new immigrants have caused some tensions. Asian- Americans are concerned about a number of anti-Asian incidents in the last five years. Some of the incidents involved racial insults. Some involved violence.

The United States Civil Rights Commission reported last autumn that anti-Asian violence is a national problem. Social experts say some Americans are looking for someone to blame for the country's economic problems. These people believe Japan is responsible for the trade imbalance and loss of industrial jobs. So they blame anyone who, to them, looks Japanese...or simply Asian. This feeling is strongest, experts say, among poorer Americans who are struggling for survival.

Partly because of this problem, Asian-Americans are becoming more politically active. They are speaking out

头一批移民中的大多数人来自日本、朝鲜、台湾、香港，他们都有高度熟练的技能。许多人来到美国后，马上就能花钱购买住房，开业做生意。

第二批亚洲移民是来自印度支那的难民。他们过去都是农民或渔民，没有什么技术，也不了解现代发达国家的生活。社会福利人员说，许多人在定居过程中，遇到了很大的困难。即便如此，这些东南亚难民中的大多数人，也只是把政府救济当作临时措施。

同其他移民群体一样，亚洲难民大多定居在大城市里。他们结成一个个紧密的社团，彼此很少说英语。亚裔美国人的最大群体（约占其总数的 35%）居住在加利福尼亚。还有许多新来的移民则定居在得克萨斯、路易斯安那、马萨诸塞等州。

新移民的日渐增多，造成了一些紧张气氛。使亚裔美国人感到不安的是，过去 5 年中，发生了一系列敌视亚洲人的事件。这些事件中，有的是进行种族凌辱，有的则使用了暴力。

去年秋天，美国公民权利委员会报告说，对亚裔人施行暴力是个全国性的问题。社会问题专家说，有些美国人想为国家的经济问题，找人出出气。这些人认为，日本应该对贸易上的不平衡和产业界许多人失业承担责任。因此，他们看谁像日本人，或者只要像亚洲人，他们就怪罪于谁。专家们说，在那些为生存而挣扎的比较贫困的美国人中间，这种情绪最为强烈。

在一定程度上，正是由于这个问题，亚裔美国人在政治

against anti-Asian violence and against policies based on anti-Asian feelings.

Traditionally, Asians have taken little part in politics in the United States. They put their energy into hard work and taking care of their families. Now, a movement for more political power has begun.

Asian-American politicians say the reason is mainly the desire for political representation. They say all Asian-Americans do not share the same political goals, but share a desire to end all forms of racism. These political leaders would like to see more Asian-Americans in political life. California politician Julie Tang believes that Asian-Americans will become a united political force with their own elected officials. Ms Tang says, "Asians want to be really part of the American system."

by Carolyn Weaver