

美国总统

大餐

主编：王云鹤 孔暄



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前言

英语是世界上应用最广的语言，如果能得心应手地使用英语，对于生活在竞争日益激烈环境中的中国人来说，其重要性是不言而喻的。大量而广泛的阅读是学生掌握语言知识，打好语言基础，获取信息的重要途径。阅读技能是大部分学生今后工作中最需要的语言技能，注重阅读能力的培养与提高是语言学习者必不可少的任务。从语言学习的规律来看，语言应用能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入，尤其是大量阅读的基础之上的。阅读能力的培养仅靠少量的精读材料是不够的，更重要的是要靠大量的泛读材料。学习者通过大量阅读实用性、趣味性、经典性强的读物，培养自己的阅读兴趣与自学能力，既可更有效地获取书面信息，扩大词汇量，丰富语言知识，也可更深刻地了解英语国家的社会文化背景，开阔视野，扩大知识面，提高自身文化素养。

《美国总统大套餐》就是一本专门为广大学生及英语爱好者编写的趣味性和经典性极强的阅读书籍。本书以美国总统这一特定群体的趣闻轶事及讲演为主要内容，努力为英语学习者和爱好者营造一个寓阅读于乐的课外自学环境。全书共分为三个部分，分别是“专题讲演篇”、“就职演说篇”、“总统轶事篇”。书后附“美国总统年表”。所选文章内容具有强烈的时代气息，集趣味性、可读性、实用性及经典性为一体。书中所提供的译文文体优美，文字准确，更利于读者理解和欣赏。对于篇幅过长的文章，本书进行了节选，保留了经典和精彩部分，突出了本书的特色。

本书的编写者均是各高校长期从事一线教学、经验极为丰富的英语教师。主编为王云鹤、孔暄，副主编为刘娜、张育兰，参加编写的人员还有董浩民、许丹、张蓉、王强、陈伟、靳松、张敏、于新等。

本书在编习过程中参考了部分国内书籍，由于我们同原文作者及有关出版社联系有些不便，在此，谨向他们表示诚挚的谢意。同时，也希望同行们对本书提出宝贵意见。

编者

2004年10月

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第一部分

专题讲演篇 (精选片段)





George Washington

1

Farewell Address

September 17, 1796

Friends and fellow-citizens:

The period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me, on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments, which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all-important to the permanency of your felicity as a people.



The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union, to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity, watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a

suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our union, it occurs, as a matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations — Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western — whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart-burnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.

There is an opinion, that parties, in free countries, are useful checks upon the administration of the government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This, within certain limits, is probably true; and, in governments of a monarchical cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking, in a free country, should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department, to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominate in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositaries, and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasion by the other, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern: some of them in our country, and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships and enmities.



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Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own, to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice?

It's our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maximum no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it is unnecessary, and would be unwise, to extend them.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish; that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations! But, if I may even flatter myself, that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit; to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigues; to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated.

乔治·华盛顿

告别演说

1796年9月17日

朋友们，同胞们：

重新选举一位公民来管理美国政府的日期已为期不远，你们必须考虑任命一位能托以重任的人的时刻已经到来。我觉得现在就将谢绝把我置于候选人之列的决心告诉你们是合适的，尤

其是因为这可能有助于公众表达更为明确的声音。

也许我的讲话应该到此为止。但我对你们的幸福的关心,这种关心只有在我生命结束时,才会终止,以及因关心而必然要产生的对危险的担心,促使我在此场合向你们提出一些看法,供你们慎重考虑和经常回顾。这些看法是经过多次思考和慎重观察后才产生的。在我看来,这些看法对你们作为一个民族的永久幸福是十分重要的。

政府的统一使你们组成为一个民族,它对你们是十分珍贵的。这确是如此,因为它是你们真正独立大厦的主要支柱,维护着你们在国内的平静和国外的安宁,保障着你们的安全和各方面的繁荣以及你们如此高度珍视的自由。但是不难预见,总是会有人以种种理由从各个方面,煞费苦心地、不择手段地来动摇你们心中对这一真理的信念。由于它是你们政治堡垒中的要害所在,国内外敌人的矛头便会持续不断并不遗余力地(虽然往往是鬼鬼祟祟、阴险狡诈地)对准着它。因此,极为重要的是,你们应该正当地估计全国性的联合对你们集体和个人幸福的巨大价值,你们应该对它怀有真诚的、经久不变的感情,要习于像对待护佑你们政治上的安全与繁荣的守护神那样想到它或谈到它;要小心翼翼、无微不至地保护它;要驳斥一切抛弃它的想法,即使对它抱有丝毫怀疑亦不允许;要义正词严地反对刚冒头的一切可能使我国的任何部分与其他部分疏远并削弱连接全国各地的神圣纽带的种种企图。

在考虑到可能扰乱我们联邦的各种原因的同时,有一件亟须严重关注的事情,即地理差别居然成为区别党派的特点的根据,如北方的和南方的,大西洋的和西部地区的;而诡谲之徒可能能力图煽动人们相信,地方利益和观点的确存在差异。党派在特定区域内获得势力的手段之一,乃是将其他地区的意见和目的加以歪曲。你们应尽量提高警惕,克制由此种歪曲所引起的妒忌与不满。妒忌与不满易使本应亲如手足般地聚集在一起的人们彼此疏远。

有一种意见,认为自由国家的政党对政府的行政机构可起有用的制约作用,并且可用以使自由的精神富有生气。这一点在某种限度内也许是真实的。在一个君主政体型的政府中,爱国主义可以宽容(如果不是赞同)党派性。但是在那些民主型的国家里,在纯粹选举产生的政府里,这是不值得鼓励的一种风气。

同样重要的是,在一个自由的国家里,思考的习惯会使那些受命管理国家的人谨慎从事,不超越宪法规定的他们各自的权限,避免一个部门在行使职权时去侵犯另一个部门的权力。侵犯职权的风气易使各部门的权力集中为一,这样,不管建成何种形式的政府,都会产生一种地道的专制。正确估计支配人类心灵的对权力的迷恋及滥用权力的癖好,就完全可以使我们相信这种情况是真实的。行使政治权时,必须把权力分开并分配给各个不同的受托人以便互相制约,并指定受托人为公众福利的保护人以防他人侵犯。这种相互制约的必要性早已在古代和现代



6 美国总统大套餐

的试验中显示出来。我国也在进行某些试验,而且就在我们自己的眼前。有必要进行这些试验,也有必要继续这些试验。

欧洲有一套基本利益,我们则没有,或关系甚疏远。因此欧洲必定经常忙于争执,其起因实际上与我们的利害无关。因此,在我们这方面通过人为的纽带把自己卷入欧洲政治的诡谲风雨,与欧洲进行友谊的结合或敌对的冲突,都是不明智的。

我国位于隔离的和遥远的位置,这要求我们并使我们追寻另一条不同的道路。如果我们还是一个民族,在一个有效的政府下,则那样一个时代就不会太远了,到那时我们可以避免外来烦扰所造成的物质上的毁坏,并使我们在任何时候决心保持的中立态度会获得严格的尊重。当交战各国无望获得我们的支持,也不敢轻率地冒险向我们挑衅时,我们就可以根据正义所指引的我国利益来选择和平或战争。

为什么摒弃在如此特殊形势下的有利条件呢?为什么离开我们自己的立场而站在外国的立场呢?为什么要把我们的命运与欧洲任何地区的命运交织在一起从而把我们的和平与繁荣陷入欧洲的野心、竞争、利益、好恶或反复无常的罗网里去呢?

我们真正的政策是避开与外界任何部分的永久联盟,我的意思是说我们所做的不应超越我们目前所负的义务。不要把我的话理解为可能赞成不遵守现有的协定(我坚信诚实始终是最上策,这一箴言对公共事务和私人事务都同样地适用)。因此我再重复说一遍,让我们按照那些协议的真正的含义来遵守吧。但依我看来,延长或扩大这些协议是不必要的,也将是不明智的。

同胞们,在向你们提出这些出于一位亲爱的老朋友的忠告时,我不敢希望这些忠告将产生强烈的和持久的印象,但我愿这些忠告会抑制通常产生的感情冲动,或防止我们的国家走上迄今为止留着各国命运印迹的老路。但是如果我竟能希望这些忠告可能产生部分的效益和一些暂时的好处,可以不时提醒你们要避免党派性的泛滥并预防外来的离间阴谋,警惕伪装的爱国主义的欺诈行为,那么,为你们幸福而担忧的心情将得到充分的补偿,这些忠告就是根据这一希望提出的。



Abraham Lincoln

2 A Divided House Cannot Stand

June 17, 1858

Mr. President and gentlemen of the convention:

If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do, and how to do it. We are now far into the fifth year since a policy was initiated with the avowed object, and confident promise, of putting an end to slavery agitation. Under the operation of that policy, that agitation not only has not ceased, but has constantly augmented. In my opinion, it will not cease until a crisis shall have been reached and passed, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect that it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the States, old as well as new, North as well as South. Have we no tendency to the latter condition? Let anyone who doubts carefully contemplate that now almost complete legal combination-piece of machinery, so to speak — compounded of the Nebraska doctrine and the Dred Scott decision. Let him consider not only what work the machinery is adapted to do, and how well adapted, but also let him study the history of its construction, and trace, if he can, or rather fail, if he can, to trace the evidences of design and concert of action among its chief architects from the beginning.

亚伯拉罕·林肯

家和则国立

1858年6月17日

主席先生和代表大会的先生们:

如果我们首先明白自己现在哪里,将去何处,我们就能更好地决定要做什么和怎样去做。