

Intermediate

紧缺人才培养工程教学系列丛书

英语中级口译岗位资格证书

考试练习

· 翻译300题

丛书主编 张 曦
主 编 张 曦

练习

上海交通大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书依照上海市英语中级口译岗位资格证书考试要求编写,由资深授课教师精心选材,分英译中、中译英两部分共 300 篇语段,难度和长度均与考试形式相当,目的是帮助读者熟悉题型,集中训练,取得翻译方面的长足进步。

每个单元均由原文和参考译文两部分组成,方便读者对照自查。

本书可供参加中级口译岗位资格证书考试的人员考前复习使用。

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前言

《上海市英语中高级口译岗位资格证书》考试是“上海紧缺人才培养工程”的项目之一,其宗旨是为上海、长三角地区和全国其他省市考核和遴选复合型英语口语人才。自1997年3月开考以来,已进入第13个年头。其间,考试规模不断扩大,累计参考人数已达到32万多人次;考试地区逐步外延,已从最初的上海扩展到南京、苏州、无锡、南通、扬州、青岛、烟台、深圳、武汉、杭州、宁波、南昌等地。目前,该项考试已成为在全国具有重要影响的外语培训考试项目,该考试的资格证书,也成为外资、合资企业,乃至国有大中型企业招聘人才的重要依据。

参加英语中级口译考试,取得其资格证书,除了要参加相应的培训项目、认真学习教材之外,还需要辅之必要的练习,特别是在复习迎考阶段,进行一定量有针对性的练习,更能够巩固学习知识点,理清复习脉络,掌握解题技巧,提高考试成绩。

为了满足广大参加《英语中级口译岗位资格证书》考试的读者的迫切需要,我们约请上海数家著名培训学校的资深老师编写了这套《英语中级口译岗位资格证书考试练习》丛书。本套丛书具有以下三个特点:

第一,按照题型,分门别类。针对英语中级口译岗位资格证书考试的题型,本套丛书分为四本,分别为《阅读300题》、《翻译300题》、《听力300题》和《口译和口语300题》。考生可以针对自己的弱项,强化专项练习,从而提高四个方面的技能,在考试中取得满意的成绩。

第二,题精量大,针对性强。本套丛书中的练习题既包蕴了以往历届考试题的历史轨迹,又反映了近年来乃至今后考试题的命题趋势。本丛书的作者均为长期工作在培训第一线的明星教师,对于考试的要求、考生的弱点、考题的规律了然于胸,题目的选取极具针对性。通过练习,考生将在听、说、读、写、译五个方面都得到明显的提高。

第三,与时俱进,时新实用。本套丛书的材料基本选自近期英语国家主流媒体的时文,结合考试实际,设计相应练习。所有练习题均附参考答案,方便读者自测自查。《听力300题》一书对其中的热门词汇均有注解;《翻译300题》一书每一部分后有翻译技巧小贴士,具有相当的实用价值。

《阅读300题》由林玫主编。全书分政治、经济、健康与社会、自然与科技、文化五大类,每类包含阅读理解和简答两种题型。所有练习题均配答案和讲解。本书的问世,是通力合作的结果。特别要感谢张曦、曹志东、肖翰、刘彦星、张辉、王欣为本书付出的智慧和精力。

《翻译300题》由张曦主编。全书由英译汉和汉译英各150篇组成,分别包括政治外交、经济金融、自然科学、经典散文、名家演说等部分,使读者可以有的放矢、专项突破。本书编写过程中得到了丁汉清、陈琳、李龙帅、杨丹、林玫、王欣的帮助,在此感谢。

《听力300题》由张曦、林玫主编。本书按考试题型专项集中,针对性强:听力翻译题解决笔记问题;听写题解决速记英文词问题;听力理解和新闻解决听力语音、词汇、习语问题。同时对于热词、难词加以注解,给考生带来便利。本书编写过程中得到了丁汉清、陈琳、张曦、杨丹、林玫的鼎力支持,在此表示感谢。

《口译和口语300题》由杨丹主编。本书收录了300个英语口语、口语的段落,涵盖经济工

业、教育科技、文化社会、政策规划、环保卫生等多个领域,同时增添最新时事方面的内容。本书编写中,王早早、王亦舟、宋可如、张曦、刘锦凤给予了鼎力帮助,在此致谢。

企盼本套丛书对于参加《上海市英语中级口译岗位资格证书》培训和考试的读者起到帮助的作用,对于其他英语学习者提高英语综合能力和口译水平也有裨益。

由于编者水平有限,书中疏漏之处在所难免,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2009年7月

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第一部分

英 译 中

1. The first part of the document is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the proceedings. The names are listed in alphabetical order, and each name is followed by a number indicating the page on which the name appears.

政治外交

1

By the middle of this century, some two thirds of the world's nations, with at least five billion people, will enjoy a standard of living which only the advanced economies now have. Some three billion of these people will live in Asia. Collectively, the Asian countries will have a larger economy than the rest of the world put together.

The rest of the world will have to react to this millennial economic shift to Asia, and to the rising power of China. The rest of the world will be divided between the Euro-American countries, and the two big peripheral powers, Japan and Russia. Russia is a huge geographical country, with well educated people, and will eventually recover.

In terms of nations, it will be a world of much greater economic equality. Although there will still be poor countries, most will be quite rich. Inside these nations there will be mass prosperity, but with a large minority in serious poverty, and a small number who are very rich.

【 参考译文 】

到本世纪中叶,世界上约三分之二的国家,至少 50 亿人口将享受到目前只有经济发达国家才拥有的生活水准,其中约 30 亿人生活在亚洲。亚洲国家的整体经济规模将超过世界上其他国家和地区加在一起的经济规模。

在新的千年经济重心将向亚洲转移,中国的力量将日益壮大,世界其他地区将不得不对此做出反应。世界其他地区将分为欧美国家和两个外围大国,即日本与俄罗斯。俄罗斯是一个地域广阔的国家,人民受到良好教育,最终将东山再起。

就国家而言,世界各国经济将更加势均力敌。尽管仍有穷国,但大多数国家将相当富有。在这些国家里,民众生活富足,但仍有相当数量的少数人处境艰难,一小部分人则腰缠万贯。

2

The shape of the world is changing almost as dramatically as this city's skyline. Today the cold war is over. The risk of the global nuclear conflict has been greatly reduced and the free flow of goods and ideas is bringing to life the concept of a global village. But just as all nations can benefit from the promise of this new world, no nation is immune to its perils. We all have a stake in building peace and prosperity, and in confronting threats that respects no borders—terrorism and drug trafficking, disease and environmental destruction.

To meet these challenges most effectively, China and the United States must act in concert.

Some argue that with the Cold War's end, the strategic importance of the US-China relationship has diminished. I believe they have it exactly backwards. As a new century begins, the importance of strengthening the ties between the United States and China will grow even greater.

【参考译文】

世界的面貌正在发生引人注目的变化,其变化之快几乎就像这座城市的空中轮廓。今天,冷战已经结束。全球核冲突的危险性已大大减小,商品和思想的自由流动正在使地球村的概念成为生活的现实。但是,正如世界各国会受益于这个新世界的美好前景,也没有一个国家能够免遭其祸害。缔造和平与繁荣,抵御不分国界的诸多威胁——恐怖主义、贩毒、疾病和环境破坏,这些与我们大家都有着利害关系。

为了最有效地迎接这些挑战,中国和美国必须协力行动。有些人说,随着冷战的结束,中美关系的战略意义已经减弱了。我认为这些人刚好说反了。随着新世纪的开始,加强美国和中国的联系,其重要性将变得更大。

3

Americans have come to expect a lot of their presidents, more perhaps than any can deliver. We say that the president runs the country, but in practice, presidents have trouble running large parts of the government. We hold the president responsible for the economy, even though he has few economic levers at his command. We expect the commander in chief to lead us to victory in war, and then we complain when we think he is micromanaging the military.

And we tend to think of the president as the personification of the nation he leads. Few other democracies combine the position of head of government and head of state. We do, and some of the bitterness of our politics spring from the conviction of many Americans that this or that president does not really represent their country. Yet as we look back at our presidents, we see them less as partisan politicians than as national leaders, who in different ways have helped develop the strengths and virtues of our nation.

【参考译文】

美国人对总统的期望值越来越高,也许高于他们的能力所及。我们认为,总统治理着国家,但是实际上,总统在处理大部分政府事务时存在着很多困难。我们也认为,总统应对国家的经济发展负责,即使他们掌控的经济调节杠杆很有限。我们希望,总司令能在战争中带领我们走向胜利。但是,当我们认为他们对军事管得过细过多的时候,又牢骚满腹。

我们往往认为,总统是他领导的国家的化身。在别的民主国家的政治体制中,很少有人同时兼任政府首脑和国家元首。但是我们却是这样。我们政治中让人心痛的地方来自于美国人的信念。他们认为,无论哪个总统都不能真正代表他们的国家。但是当我们回顾历届总统的时候,我们并不把他们看成某个党派的政治家,而是看作整个国家的首领。他们以自己不同的方式来发展我们国家的实力和美德。

4

Debates among candidates are rare in most countries. But they have become a staple of American politics, particularly during the last 25 years. Americans like debates because the

candidates can be compared in an unscripted, live performance. The candidates don't know what questions will be asked, nor what their opponents might say. History indicates that a bad performance, particularly a telling gaffe, can badly damage a candidate in the polls.

The potential of debates to damage a vulnerable presidential hopeful is one reason why some candidates, particularly frontrunners, are reluctant to risk their chances in such an uncontrolled environment—and the fewer debate rules there are, the less control the candidates have. But broadcast presidential debates, both in the primaries and in the general election, are now routine and expected by the American people.

It was not always so. Face-to-face presidential debates began their broadcast history in 1948. Americans are concerned not just with a leader's policies and ideology, but also with his character and temperament. In the contentious atmosphere of a debate, such personal attributes are easier for voters to judge than in pre-packaged campaign commercials or formal speeches.

【参考译文】

候选人之间的辩论在大多数国家都很稀奇,但它们在美 国政治生活中已司空见惯,特别是在过去的 25 年里。美国人喜欢辩论,因为他们可以根据候选人现场的即席发言,对他们进行比较。候选人不知道人们将会向他们提出什么问题,也不知道对手将会怎样回答。历史表明,如果候选人表现不佳,特别是失言之举,会使他们在大选中严重受损。

辩论有可能对一个脆弱的总统候选人造成伤害,这就是一些总统候选人,特别是那些在竞选中领先的人,不愿意在这些无法控制的环境中冒险的原因之一——辩论的规则越少,候选人就越无法控制。但是,不管是在初选,还是在大选中,总统选举电视辩论现在都已经成为惯例,且为美国人民所期待。

情形并非一直如此。面对面的总统选举辩论加以转播,始于 1948 年。美国人不仅关心一位领导人的政策和思想,而且关心他的性格和气质。这种个人特性,在辩论的争吵气氛中比事先包装的竞选广告或正式讲演更容易让选民做出评判。

5

Meeting Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill said, was like opening your first bottle of champagne. "Knowing him was like drinking it." Temperament is a special subcommittee of character; it is less intellect than instinct, more about music than lyrics—the quality voters sense when they watch a candidate improvise or when he thinks no one is looking.

But what type of temperament matters, especially in a time like this? The idea that anyone can grow up to be President is an American gospel, but that's about honoring equality not excellence. It's good to be smart, but that's no guarantee of success; Woodrow Wilson, the only President with a Ph. D., never won over a majority of voters. More important is the confidence that lets you welcome smart people around you—and hope they disagree. Perhaps even more important than intelligence is vitality; Tigger beats Eeyore any day. F. D. R.'s success reflected as much his infectious optimism as his eloquence.

【参考译文】

温斯顿·丘吉尔曾说,认识富兰克林·罗斯福,就像打开你人生中第一瓶香槟。“而了解他则像酣饮佳酿。”气质是性格的一个特殊侧面:像本能多过智能,像旋律多过歌词——选民可以从竞选者的即兴发挥与自处时的表现略见端倪。

但什么样的气质最重要,尤其是在现今时代?每个人都可以成为美国总统的说法是对持平心理的美国大众的福音,却不是现实中能者居上的体现。聪明是好的,但聪明人不一定能够保证成功;伍德罗·威尔逊,唯一获博士学位的美国总统,从未获得半数以上的支持。最重要的品质是吸引聪明人为你所用的自信——并让他们各持己见。或许比智力更重要的是活力。跳跳虎永远比小驴伊尔更受欢迎。罗斯福的成功得益于他的口才,同样也得益于他感染人心的乐观精神。

6

As individuals and as a nation, we're defined by the choices we make. And too often, by the tough decisions we avoid. Most of us have avoided even thinking about how our rapidly growing population is affecting our quality of life and shaping our society.

Our population has more than doubled since World War II, and at this rate, we could be on our way to 1 billion people living in the United States by the end of the century. Our population growth, driven in part by unchecked immigration, is already straining our healthcare and educational systems and, less noticeably—but far more important—putting a heavy burden on our natural resources.

All these pressures on our resources will only worsen unless our leaders begin a national dialogue on the future of this country and start making the tough choices. Politicians are avoiding debate on these issues because they are the most difficult ones to confront. In campaign debating, these are wedge issues. But failure to come to terms with them will drive a wedge between all of us and a prosperous, healthy future for this country.

【 参考译文 】

无论个人,无论国家,我们的存在取决于所做的选择,而且还常常取决于我们避免做出的艰难抉择。我们大多数人甚至不去思考我国快速增长的人口是怎样影响着我们的生活质量,决定着我们的社会。

二次世界大战以来,我国的人口增加了一倍多。照这样的速度增长,到本世纪末生活在美国的人口有可能达到10亿。造成我国人口增长的一部分原因是我们未对移民加以控制。这种增长已经对我国的医疗保健、教育体制造成压力,而且使我国的自然资源背上了沉重的负担,这一点虽然不太引人注意,但是更为重要。

除非我们的领导人就国家的未来开始一场全国性的对话,并作出艰难的决定,否则对于我国资源的这些压力只会加重。政客们避免就这些问题展开辩论,因为这些问题是最难以面对的。在总统竞选辩论中,这些问题会导致分歧。但若不能成功地解决这些问题,我们将无法实现国家繁荣、人民安康。

7

On August 6, 1997, when 55,000 people gathered in Hiroshima to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the devastating bombing that killed an estimated 140,000 people and brought World War II to a sudden halt, the city's newly elected mayor broke with tradition by adding a few unc customary lines to the annual Peace Declaration. It should also be recalled, he declared, that "Japan inflicted great suffering and despair on the peoples of Asia and the Pacific during its reign of colonial domination and war. For this we are truly sorry." Noting that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Japanese assault on the U. S., he added, "Remembering all too well the horror of this war, starting with the attack on Pearl Harbor and ending with the atombombings of Hiroshima

and Nagasaki, we are determined anew to work for world peace.”

Usually, in Japan, when people discuss the war at all, they speak of victimization; their own victimization by the militarists who led the country into battle and by the Americans who bombed their cities. The suffering inflicted by the imperial army on the peoples of Asia is ignored, as is Japan's aggression in China and at Pearl Harbor. The appealing image of Japan the victim has no room for the underside of Japan the aggressor.

II 参考译文 II

1997年8月6日,55000人在广岛集会,纪念原子弹事件46周年。毁灭性的原子弹使约14万人丧命,迅速终止了二次大战的战火。广岛市新当选的市长打破传统,在年度《和平宣言》中增加了不寻常内容。他宣称人们还应该牢记“日本在亚洲和太平洋地区实行侵略和殖民统治期间,给这些地区的人民带来了痛苦和绝望,为此我们深感内疚。”谈及50年前日本袭击美国事件,他补充道:“对可怕的二战,我们仍记忆犹新,从日本偷袭珍珠港开始,到广岛、长崎原子弹爆炸告终。我们决心为世界和平继续奋斗。”

在日本,只要提到战争,就会讲到受害,讲他们是军国主义的受害者,军国主义把国家引入战争;他们是美国的受害者,美国向他们的城市投掷了原子弹。然而他们闭口不谈“皇军”给亚洲人民带来的灾难,也不谈对华侵略、偷袭珍珠港。日本作为战争的受害者,形象很感人,从而掩盖了其侵略者的一面。

8

Gold, as always, lures the dreamers, the shiftless ones, the ne'er-do-wells, the misfits. And here in California in 1849 they brawled and fought and cursed and caroused in the flimsy hotels and seamy saloons, the gambling halls and brothels that mushroomed, seemingly overnight. By 1858, ten years after Marshall made his find, the gold played out here. And so the prospectors and the prostitutes, the gamblers and the saloon owners, like leaves before a cold wind, had moved on, chasing new dreams. Nothing remains of their presence except for that statue over there of Marshall. In a way, he played an important role. All those people who rushed here to find gold so increased the area's population that California was declared a state far earlier than it would have been otherwise. So some say, then, that it was here, at this spot, that California was born. And, to this day, it is still known as the Golden State.

II 参考译文 II

黄金,历来会招引来那些做着美梦的人、无计谋生的人、什么事都干不好的人和干什么事都不合适的人。1849年在加州,仿佛一夜间就像雨后春笋般建起来的低劣的旅馆、肮脏的酒吧、赌场和妓院里,他们争吵、斗殴、骂街、狂饮胡闹。到了1858年,即马歇尔发现黄金10年之后,这里的金子挖完了。于是那些采金矿的人,那些妓女、赌徒和酒吧老板就像秋风扫下的落叶,纷纷迁往别处去追寻新的美梦了。他们没有留下任何在这里呆过的痕迹,只留下那边的一座马歇尔塑像。从某方面来说,他起了很重要的作用。那些赶来淘金的人使这个地区的人口大大增加,致使加利福尼亚提前了很多年被宣布成为一个州。因为如此,有些人便说这里,就是这块地方,才是加利福尼亚的诞生地。直到今天,加州仍被称为黄金州。

For nearly 14 years in the early part of the 20th century, it was actually illegal to make or sell liquor in the United States. The period was known as Prohibition. Reformers were so serious that Prohibition was written into law as amendment to the U. S. Constitution. It was the law of the land until December 1933 when it took another amendment to the Constitution, the 21st, —to repeal that statute. By no means did all Americans support Prohibition. Immigrants to the country, primarily southern and eastern European, considered alcohol an important part of their social and religious culture. In large cities and small towns alike, the law was openly flouted. Colorful criminals known as bootleggers supplied homemade or imported liquor, and so-called speakeasies serving illegal drinks sprouted up across the country. In recent years, there has been a renewed public awareness of the dangers of alcohol abuse. Drunk driving has become a national, even international, concern. Prohibition roved far from a perfect solution to a problem, but its mark on U. S. history still show.

II 参考译文 II

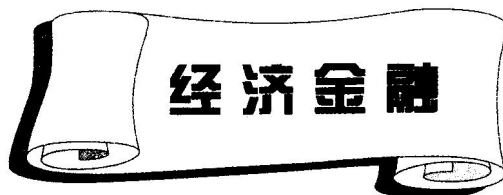
20 世纪初期,在将近 14 年时间里,在美国造酒或卖酒实际上是非法的。这个时期称为禁酒时期。事实是,当时的改革派非常认真,所以禁酒运动被定为法律,成了美国宪法的一个修正案。禁酒作为这个国家的法律一直持续到 1933 年 12 月,直到通过了宪法的另一个修正案——第 21 个修正案——才得以废除该条法令。绝非所有的美国人都支持禁酒。20 世纪初来到美国的移民——主要是南欧和东欧人——认为酒是他们社会和宗教文化的重要组成部分。不论在大城市里或小镇上,人们都公开地藐视这条法律。被称为“私酒贩子”的形形色色的罪犯供应私人自酿的酒或进口酒,那些非法卖酒的所谓“私酒店”也如雨后天春笋般在全国各地出现。近几年来,公众重新意识到了酗酒的危害。酒后驾车已经成为全国、甚至国际上关切的问题。事实证明,禁酒远远不是解决问题的完美办法,但是它仍然在美国历史上留下了自己的标记。

For centuries, the Moon smiled upon lovers. But its silver face now glares down like an operating-room light. 40 years ago, man robbed the Moon of romance. His footprints on its face are evidence of the trespass. Five decades ago, the Moon glimmered like an Olympic medal above the United States and the Soviet Union. President Kennedy was determined to win the race into space. The President's words were just weeks old when American fired its first man into space. On July 20th, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first man to step onto the Moon. "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." The first step. And the last. The race had been won. Three billion people beheld the victory. But never again would this generation gaze at a magic moon. Lovers must find another light.

II 参考译文 II

多少世纪以来,高高在上的月亮总是向情人们微笑着。但是现在,它那俯瞰人间的银白色的脸庞却像手术室里的灯一样。40 年前,人类夺走了月亮的浪漫色彩。人在它的脸庞上留下的足迹就是对它进行侵犯的证据。50 年前,月亮像一块奥林匹克奖牌在美国和苏联的上空闪闪发光。肯尼迪总统决心要赢得进入太空的竞赛。总统的话说了仅几周之后,美国便把第一个美国人发射到太空去了。1969 年 7 月 20 日,尼尔·阿姆斯特朗成为第一个踏上月球的人。“那是一个人迈出的

一小步,却是人类的一大步”。这是第一步,也是最后的一步:竞赛到此已见分晓。有 30 亿人看到了征服月球的场面。但是这一代人再也看不见那个魅力无穷的月亮了。恋人们必须寻找另一种亮光了。



11

For 8 years, students at Michigan State University borrowed tuition money directly from the federal government. But last spring, university officials shucked that arrangement and signed up with private lenders and a state agency that provided loans under a separate federal plan. They guaranteed a profit to the university—something the federal government could not do. Sounds sweet for Michigan State, but it's not so terrific for federal taxpayers, who will almost certainly wind up shelling out \$23.5 million more each year as a result of the change. Michigan State is not unique. Today, dozens of colleges and universities are abandoning the Department of Education's direct-loan plan, lured by the promise of a quick buck from banks, state lending agencies, and most significantly, Sallie Mae, the giant private lender based in Reston, Virginia. In all, 62 colleges and universities have dropped out of the Education Department's direct-loan program since 2000, and the list is growing. Sallie Mae has won over \$1 billion in loan business from former direct-loan schools.

【 参考译文 】

连续8年,密歇根州立大学学生直接向联邦政府借款支付学费。但是去年春天,该大学决定停止办理这种贷款,而改为与一些私营贷款方和一个州立机构合作,由它们根据另一个联邦计划提供贷款。密歇根州立大学这样做,可以保证自己获益,而联邦政府却做不到这一点。对于密歇根州来说,这当然是件好事,可是联邦纳税人却没这么幸运了。他们不得不因此每年多支付2350万美元。实际上,密歇根并非唯一实施这种贷款政策的州。现在,几十所大学都放弃了教育部的直接贷款计划,之所以这样做,是因为他们看中了银行、州立贷款机构以及美国学生贷款市场营销学会所许诺的迅速回报。美国学生贷款市场营销学会是其中的重要代表,其总部位于弗吉尼亚州莱斯顿,是一家庞大的私营贷款机构。自2000年起,已有62所大学放弃了教育部的直接贷款计划。现在仍有越来越多的大学逐渐加入其中。目前,美国学生贷款市场营销学会已经从联邦政府原先的直接贷款学校那儿赢得了总额达10亿美元以上的贷款业务。

12

In a slowing U. S. economy, job opportunities are shaped by uncertainty. As president of a small college, I am keenly aware of the job market that awaits this year's graduates. The recent news that Bear Stearns was nullifying a few hundred job offers to business school students fits a pattern of corporate downsizing that isn't lost on college campuses across the USA. But even with the darkening economic clouds, rays of good news await this year's graduates. Sure, companies are

laying off workers, but many are also looking for new talent, especially at the entry level.

As more than a million entrants flood the job market, students should know that in a global marketplace, language skills will go a long way. So will flexibility. If a grad is ready to accept an entry-level job, give a little on job requirements and move if the company asks, chances are he'll land a job. So despite the rising job losses, a new graduate should embrace the market as the first challenge of a long career.

【参考译文】

美国经济的发展速度日益减缓,工作机会日益显示出不稳定性。身为一所小型高校的校长,我敏锐地意识到今年毕业生面临的就业市场情况。最新消息报道了贝尔斯登公司撤销了为商学院毕业生提供的数百个职位,这正是公司裁员的通常做法。而全美的大学也随之降低招生规模。但即使经济前景惨淡,今年的毕业生还是有望找到工作。诚然,众多公司纷纷裁员,但其中许多也正寻求新的人才,尤其是低端职位。

超过百万的职场新人像潮水般涌入劳动力市场,学生们应该认识到,在全球市场环境下,语言技巧至关重要,灵活性也同样不可或缺。如果毕业生愿意接受起点低的工作,就工作要求做出一些让步,如果公司要求也不介意搬至其他城市工作,那么他就有可能得到一份工作。因此,即使失业情况日益严重,毕业生还是应该将找工作视作一份长远职业的第一次挑战。

13

Americans do not go in for envy. The gap between rich and poor is bigger than in any other advanced country, but most people are unconcerned. Whereas Europeans fret about the way the economic pie is divided, Americans want to join the rich, not soak them. Eight out of ten, more than anywhere else, believe that though you may start poor, if you work hard, you can make pots of money. It is a central part of the American Dream.

The political consensus, therefore, has sought to pursue economic growth rather than the redistribution of income, in keeping with John Kennedy's adage that "a rising tide lifts all boats." The tide has been rising fast recently. Thanks to a jump in productivity growth after 1995, America's economy has outpaced other rich countries' for more than a decade. Its workers now produce over 30% more each hour they work than ten years ago. In the late 1990s everybody shared in this boom. Though incomes were rising fastest at the top, all workers' wages far outpaced inflation.

【参考译文】

美国人心态平和和不心生妒忌。尽管没有哪个别的发达国家的贫富差距像美国这么大,他们中的多数人却并不太在意。欧洲人对国民经济收入的分配很是上心,而美国人则不一样,他们进行收入再分配想要成为富人,而不想打垮富人。十有八九的国民坚信即使出身贫寒,只要通过努力,也能飞黄腾达。这正是美国梦的精髓所在。

于是美国政界一致认为,与其进行收入再分配,还不如实现经济的增长。这也和约翰·肯尼迪的那句有名的“水涨船高”的格言不谋而合。美国经济最近几年的增长速度很快。随着1995年以来生产率的跃升,美国经济的发展十几年来一直领先于其他强国,如今的生产效率是10年前的1.3倍。在上世纪的最后几年,所有公民都从中尝到了甜头。尽管那些高收入者获益更大,但所有人的工资增长幅度都远高于通货膨胀的速度。