



一位 东方外交家 看美国

汉英对照

[清] 伍廷芳 著
李伯宏 译

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OF AN ORIENTAL DIPLOMAT

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第一版作者序

世界诸国，中国人最感兴趣的，是美国。初时，一干人离别英国，探索这块土地。后来，人数渐多，来自其他国度的人也漂移到此，人口扩增。而统治他们的，则是来自那一干人家乡的官吏。当他们觉得待遇不公时，便奋而反抗，对统治者、世上最强大的国家发起了战事。七年血战，艰苦卓绝，双方死伤赢千赢万；但年轻一族，挣脱了老朽一族的桎梏，英国被迫承认美利坚各州独立。此后，在相对较短的一百三十年间，这些革命者及其后人，不仅建立了世界上最富有的合众国，还成为所有强国都尊听其言的一族。

起初的国土，不过中国一两个省份大小，但通过购买和其他方法，逐渐扩大，至今已经从大西洋，延伸至太平洋沿岸，北至长年冰雪不化的冻土，南达如赤道新加坡一样炎热的阳光地带。这个年轻共和国已经在文学、科学、艺术和发明等领域，造就众多杰出男女人士。那里，不少人年轻时一文不名，但以其坚韧不拔，以其经营才干，成为巨富。那里，世上最富有的人可能过着简朴节俭的生活，毫无奢华炫耀，每日走在街上，身边无仆人伺候左右。他们许多人极为富有，竟不知如何花用。外国很多伯爵、公爵甚至王子，拜倒在其富有、漂亮的女儿裙下；其中一些育有子嗣，作了外国高级官员。那里，有富人腾出时间，捐出财富，用于慈善事业；有时不仅捐赠本国图书馆，更捐赠世界各地的图书馆。那里，私刑受到包涵，无法阻止；杀人者，借助奇异的法律过程，可逃脱极刑惩罚。那里，有人最适于维护和平，几乎每年为此召集会议；一位富翁用去大量时间，倡导和平，在国外自

费建造一座宫殿，用作和平法院^①。

这些人也曾发起战争，为其他自以为受到不公待遇的民族伸张正义；胜利后，未付出合理代价，便不把持胜利果实^②。

那里的居民通常都极为爱国，在最近一次战争中，许多人放弃事由，放弃职业，自愿入伍；一位富人自掏腰包，招募装备了一整团的兵力，自任指挥。在那个国家，所有公民都可入主称作“白宫”的宝座。入主者，在几年内担任首席统治，离任后，重作普通公民。他若是律师，则可能继续从业，在其任总统期间任命的法官面前陈诉案情。那里，妇女可以成为律师，在法庭上为男性当事人作辩护。那里，言论自由和批评自由可发挥至最大极限，人们可能受诽谤中伤之困扰，却无从得到纠正。那里，戴“风流寡妇”帽子的妇女并非寡妇，而是未婚处女，要么是已婚妇女，而其丈夫仍正当中年。这样的帽子许多达三尺之宽^③。

那里，人们可乘豪华车厢，在铁路上舒适旅行；夜间睡在软卧车厢，早上醒来发现，上铺睡的是位年轻女士。那里的人们极有创见，筹资开办公司，发行清水股票，却不着一滴水滴；那里的股票交易所有熊市，有牛市，可不见熊牛相拼，虽然也吼声震耳。这确确实实是个极不寻常的国家，那里的人奇妙得很，于中国人甚有趣味，极有启发。

此一族群自然值得研究。我曾两次出使美国，共时八年，不断有人请我写下美国观感印象。出于几种缘由，我觉得理由不足。首先，在我任职期间，无法匀出时间动笔；其次，我虽走过美国许多地方，同各个阶层的人们打过正式交道，有过社交往来，但恐仍有国家的许多特征，人民的许多方面未曾注意；再者，美国虽有不少人事令我敬佩，但各处仍有改进余地，而要我批评这样

① 壮观的大厦设在海牙，正巧称作“和平宫”，1913年8月28日正式开放。

② 美西战争。美国占领菲律宾群岛，向西班牙政府支付了两千万金元。

③ 此为若干年前。时尚每年变化，现今流行的，同样荒唐可笑。

慷慨、有礼、友善的人民，并非我愿。对于我的谨慎，劝导者说，并非是要我偏袒不公写美国，只要写我在美国所得到的印象即可。一位其见解令我极为尊敬的女士朋友大致说，“我们想让你公允坦诚地写写美国，讲讲美国人民。我们不想让你夸奖不值得赞美的地方，要是发现任何值得批评甚或斥责之处，也要直率提出。我们是要人们指出我们的缺陷，这样才好改进。”我承认这位友人说得很是在理。这显示出美国人心胸宽广，雅量博大。拟写本书过程中，我自始至终遵循这位美国友人的进言，毫不踌躇，坦率直陈我的看法，也希望避免过于苛刻。我相信，美国读者如若读到不能认同的观点，也能给予谅解。可以保证，我的观点并非仓促形成，或偏于一面。我若将其国家描绘成完美仙境，或是见到缺陷仍加以粉饰，便不是一位挚友。

Preface

Of all nations in the world, America is the most interesting to the Chinese. A handful of people left England to explore this country; gradually their number increased, and, in course of time, emigrants from other lands swelled the population. They were governed by officials from the home of the first settlers, but when it appeared to them that they were being treated unjustly, they rebelled and declared war against their rulers, the strongest nation on the earth. After seven years of strenuous, perilous, and bloody warfare, during which thousands of lives were sacrificed on both sides, the younger race shook off the yoke of the older, and England was compelled to recognize the independence of the American states. Since then, in the comparatively short space of one hundred and thirty years, those revolutionists and their descendants have not only made the commonwealth the richest in the world, but have founded a nation whose word now carries weight with all the other great powers.

The territory at first occupied was not larger than one or two provinces of China, but by purchase, and in other ways, the commonwealth has gradually grown till now it extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, from the north where ice is perpetual to the south where the sun is as hot as in equatorial Singapore. This young republic has already produced many men and women who are distinguished in the fields of literature, science, art and invention. There hosts of men, who in their youth were as poor as church mice,

have, by dint of perseverance and business capacity, become multi-millionaires. There you may see the richest man in the world living a simple and abstemious life, without pomp and ostentation, daily walking in the streets unattended even by a servant. Many of them have so much money that they do not know what to do with it. Many foreign counts, dukes, and even princes have been captured by their wealthy and handsome daughters, some of whom have borne sons who have become high officers of state in foreign lands. There you find rich people who devote their time and wealth to charitable works, sometimes endowing libraries not only in their own land, but all over the world; there you will find lynching tolerated, or impossible of prevention; there one man may kill another, and by the wonderful process of law escape the extreme penalty of death; there you meet the people who are most favorably disposed toward the maintenance of peace, and who hold conferences and conventions with that object in view almost every year; there an American multi-millionaire devotes a great proportion of his time to the propaganda of peace, and at his own expense has built in a foreign country a palatial building to be used as a tribunal of peace.^①

Yet these people have waged war on behalf of other nationalities who they thought were being unjustly treated and when victorious they have not held on to the fruits of their victory without paying a reasonable price.^②

① This magnificent building at The Hague, which is aptly called the Palace of Peace, was formally opened on the 28th of August, 1913, in the presence of Queen Wilhelmina, Mr. Carnegie (the founder) and a large assembly of foreign representatives.

② I refer to the Spanish-American War. Having captured the Philippine Islands, the United States paid \$20,000,000, gold, for it to the Spanish Government.

There the inhabitants are, as a rule, extremely patriotic, and in a recent foreign war many gave up their businesses and professions and volunteered for service in the army; one of her richest sons enlisted and equipped a whole regiment at his own expense, and took command of it. In that country all the citizens are heirs apparent to the throne, called the White House. A man may become the chief ruler for a few years, but after leaving the White House he reverts to private citizenship; if he is a lawyer he may practise and appear before a judge, whom he appointed while he was president. There a woman may become a lawyer and plead a case before a court of justice on behalf of a male client; there freedom of speech and criticism are allowed to the extreme limit, and people are liable to be annoyed by slanders and libels without much chance of obtaining satisfaction; there you will see women wearing "Merry Widow" hats who are not widows but spinsters, or married women whose husbands are very much alive, and the hats in many cases are as large as three feet in diameter.^①

There you may travel by rail most comfortably on palace cars, and at night you may sleep on Pullman cars, to find in the morning that a young lady has been sleeping in the berth above your bed. The people are most ingenious in that they can float a company and water the stock without using a drop of fluid; there are bears and bulls in the Stock Exchange, but you do not see these animals fight, although they roar and yell loudly enough. It is certainly a most extraordinary country. The people are wonderful and are most interesting and

^① This was several years ago. Fashions change every year. The present type is equally ludicrous.

instructive to the Chinese.

Such a race should certainly be very interesting to study. During my two missions to America where I resided nearly eight years, repeated requests were made that I should write my observations and impressions of America. I did not feel justified in doing so for several reasons: first, I could not find time for such a task amidst my official duties; secondly, although I had been travelling through many sections of the country, and had come in contact officially and socially with many classes of people, still there might be some features of the country and some traits of the people which had escaped my attention; and thirdly, though I had seen much in America to arouse my admiration, I felt that here and there, there was room for improvement, and to be compelled to criticize people who had been generous, courteous, and kind was something I did not wish to do. In answer to my scruples I was told that I was not expected to write about America in a partial or unfair manner, but to state impressions of the land just as I had found it. A lady friend, for whose opinion I have the highest respect, said in effect, "We want you to write about our country and to speak of our people in an impartial and candid way; we do not want you to bestow praise where it is undeserved; and when you find anything deserving of criticism or condemnation you should not hesitate to mention it, for we like our faults to be pointed out that we may reform." I admit the soundness of my friend's argument. It shows the broad-mindedness and magnanimity of the American people. In writing the following pages I have uniformly followed the principles laid down by my American lady friend. I have not scrupled to frankly and freely express my views, but I hope not in any carping spirit; and I trust American

readers will forgive me if they find some opinions they cannot endorse. I assure them they were not formed hastily or unkindly. Indeed, I should not be a sincere friend were I to picture their country as a perfect paradise, or were I to gloss over what seem to me to be their defects.

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第一章

姓名的意义

“姓名本来是没有意义的；我们叫做玫瑰的这一种花，要是换个名字，它的香味还是同样的芬芳。”

尽管有此说法，但我仍认为，选名择字十分重要。取名字从来都应细心。因为，姓名有其含义，会影响到友情，或招致偏见。我们中国人对此很是在意。男孩一出生，父亲或祖父就按其属相取名字，保其长大后功成名就，或实现家人的心愿。所以，“福”、“荣”、“寿”、“成”在中国很是普遍，还有其他吉祥的用字。女孩的名字大多取自花果或树木。人们十分小心，不取含贬义的名字。但在华盛顿，我曾在电梯里遇见一个人，叫“棺材”。我要是担心这电梯变成棺材，这不大为过吧？另有一次，我碰到一人，叫“死亡”。我一听到他的名字，就想逃之夭夭。我可不想去死。我并不迷信，我常同十三个人在一张饭桌上进餐，周五出门旅行也毫不犹豫。我经常做些中国迷信人士不会做的事情。但是，遇见叫“棺材”或叫“死亡”的人，我却难以承受。我虽不迷信，但对这类名字却有些反感。

同样重要，或许更重要的是，给国家取名字。当美利坚一些州独立时，他们自称“美利坚合众国”，这是个喜庆的想法。起初，

合众国有十三个州，面积大约三十万平方英里；现已有四十八个州，三个海外领土，面积达 3 571 492 平方英里，实际可同世上最古老国家——中国相比。应该指出，这个国名含义很广，可容下整个北美利坚和南美利坚大陆。可以肯定，美国的建国者选此国名，颇费心思。毫无疑问，“美利坚合众国”一名隐含着较深的意图。我曾问过一个自称美国人的人，问他来自南美还是北美，是墨西哥人还是秘鲁人，还是中美洲任何国家的人。他回答并特别强调，他是美利坚的合众国的公民。我说，这个合众国也可能是墨西哥合众国、阿根廷合众国，或什么其他合众国。但他答道，他称自己为公民没有任何其他意思，只能是美利坚合众国公民。我问过许多美国人同样的问题，他们的回答也都如出一辙。我们中国人称自己的国家为“中国”，是认为我们位于地球正中。诚然，美国建国者的地理知识胜过我们古时的国人，而且，新建的合众国也未包纳整个美利坚大陆，但其国名如此广博，自然让人怀疑其囊括整个大陆的意图。不过，观其国家行为，我相信，他们的意图不偏不倚，温文尔雅，是为西半球姊妹共和国树立良好的榜样，互存友善，公平相待，让美洲大陆诸国的联系更形密切。美国这个国度确是一民主原则的典范，顺人意，又独特。美国政府是个理想的政府，《宪法》意义宽泛。实际上是宣布人人生来平等；政府乃“民治，民有，民享”。随便什么人造访美国任一城镇乡村，只需略有头脑，稍加观察，便会对地方政府治理方式的井井有条，不浮不夸，留下印象；或对美国人的简朴、民主性情产生好感。即便在小学，也教习民主。记得曾访问费城一所公立学校，长久未忘。学校有三四百名七岁到十六岁的男女学生。学生中选出一名市长、一名法官、一名警察专员；为了管理学生事务，他们等于选出了一座城市通常所需的所有官员。学生中，有几位华人子弟。有人指给我，其中一位是警察总监。这不仅着实说明这个学生招人喜欢，还表明几百名学生之间的友善和谐，全无任何种族

意识。校长和教师告诉我，他们同学生之间毫无芥蒂。学生犯错并不常见，如果犯了，学生里的警察就将其带到法官面前，由法官按照事由的是非曲直，秉公判定。校方向我打保票，这种自行管理制度行之良好，不仅减轻了教师的负担，不必再时常关照这几百名学生，还使每个学生品行端正，具备了责任感，为的是维持学校的安宁，维护学校的声誉。这样，从小就有了自我治理的意识，担负起管理的责任，长大后，必会对国家事务，对地方事务深感兴趣；如果当选公职，自会恪尽职守。

毫无疑问，美国政府的民主制度给中南美洲各国带来了巨大影响。以下数字说明了美国独立后，这些国家纷纷从君主制，转向共和制，意义重大。

墨西哥成立共和国是 1823 年，洪都拉斯是 1839 年，萨尔瓦多是 1839 年，尼加拉瓜是 1821 年，哥斯达黎加是 1821 年，巴拿马是 1903 年，哥伦比亚是 1819 年，委内瑞拉是 1830 年，厄瓜多尔是 1810 年，巴西是 1889 年，秘鲁是 1821 年，玻利维亚是 1825 年，巴拉圭是 1811 年，智利是 1810 年，阿根廷是 1824 年，乌拉圭是 1828 年。

这些共和国均以美国共和制为楷模。于是，美利坚大陆上几乎所有国家都转向共和。只加拿大仍属英国。英国皇家政府的政策宽宏公平，加拿大人对自己的政治地位颇为满意，也不愿改变。然而，也须指出，一些美国人欲图把加拿大纳入美国的版图。记得，在华盛顿的一次公共集会上，时逢加拿大总理威尔弗里德·劳里埃爵士出席，联邦最高法院一位知名法官逗趣说，加拿大应该并入美国。后来，众议院民主党领袖钱普·克拉克先生也在众议院大力主张加拿大归属美国。即便这些说辞不必当真，但至少也反映一些人有此念头。由此，预言加拿大未来的政治地位，实属大胆。不过，当下毫无迹象表明，加拿大欲求任何变动。可以稳妥地推测，现行状况，还将延续多年。对此不必奇怪，因为，加

拿大虽然名义上是英国属国，但实际上享有独立国家享有的几乎一切特权。加拿大宪法同英国宪法相似，国会分“上议院”和“下议院”两院。英国国王只任命总督，总督是国王的代表。但是，治理这块领地的，是政府责任部门，所有内务均由地方官员管理，宗主国政府不加干预。加拿大人享有同英国人一样的权利，还要加上一点：他们不必担负维持陆军和海军的费用。几年前，若我记忆准确的话，曾出现争取独立的鼓动或讨论，对此，前殖民事务大臣德比勋爵表示，如果加拿大人确实希望独立，皇家政府不会反对，但他们则要好好考虑，从变动中能得到什么好处，因为他们已经享有自治，享有自由人的一切权益。英国政府虽然负责保卫加拿大每一寸领土不受侵犯，但其保留的唯一权利是任命总督。殖民大臣这番忠告之后，再也没听到独立的鼓动。

从商业角度而言，为人民的福祉着想，如今，在有限君主制与共和制之间，选择不多。让我们比较一下英国和美国。英国人享有同美国人一样的独立、自由；英国人虽是国王的臣民，却享有与美国人一样的自由。不过，采用共和，有其益处。此前，美国总统的年薪是5万美元，现已是7.5万美元，另加2.5万美元的旅行费用。比起任何大国的国王或皇帝的王室年俸，这都是区区小数。在共和制度中，胸怀大志者，更有可能出人头地。比如，一介普通公民，可以当选总统，实际行使国王或皇帝的职能。美国总统实际上自己任命内阁官员、大使、部长等。人们都说，美国每届总统都有权任命一万多名官员。就行政管理和政务执行而言，总统实际上比君主立宪制的国王和皇帝权力都大。可另一方面，共和国行政首长却不能像国王或皇帝那样行事。例如，若无国会批准，总统不得同外国宣战。而在君主制度下，国王或内阁大臣肩负重大责任。比肯斯菲尔德勋爵（迪斯雷利先生）任英国首相时，未同皇家国会协商，自行决定，于1875年从埃及赫迪夫购买了176 602份苏伊士运河股，共值3 976 582英镑。如果一切