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奥巴马演说集

A New Chapter in
the White House 之 白宫岁月

Great Speeches of President Obama

Barack Obama

[美国] 巴拉克·奥巴马 著

王瑞泽 编译

凤凰出版传媒集团

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A NEW CHAPTER IN THE WHITE HOUSE: GREAT SPEECHES OF PRESIDENT OBAMA



双语译林

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奥巴马演说集

● 白宫岁月

A New Chapter in the White House:
Great Speeches of President Obama

1. We Are Not Quitters^①

—Obama's first speech to Congress

February 24, 2009

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Madame Speaker^②, Mr. Vice-President, members of Congress and the First Lady of the United States who's around here somewhere^③:

I have come here tonight not only to address the distinguished men and women in this great chamber, but to speak frankly and directly to the men and women who sent us here.

I know that for many Americans watching right now, the state of our economy is a concern that rises above all others. And rightly so. If you haven't been personally affected by this recession, you probably know someone who has—a friend, a neighbor, a member of your family. You don't need to hear another list of statistics to know that our economy is in crisis, because you live it every day. It's the worry you wake up with and the source of sleepless nights. It's the job you thought you'd retire from but now have lost; the business you built your dreams upon that's now hanging by a thread; the college acceptance letter your child had to put back in the envelope. The **impact** of this recession is real, and it is everywhere.

But while our economy may be weakened and our confidence shaken; though we are living through difficult and uncertain times, tonight I want every American to know this: We will rebuild, we will recover and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before.

永不放弃

——奥巴马首次在美国国会参众两院发表讲话

2009年2月24日

议长女士，副总统先生，各位国会议员以及美国第一夫人——她就在我们旁边。

今晚，我来到这里，不仅向这个宏伟会议大厅中在座的各位杰出人士发表讲话，而且向选举我们来到这里的民众发表坦率和直接的讲话。

我知道，对于正在收看直播的很多美国人来说，我国的经济现状是最令人焦虑的问题，压倒所有其他的问题。这一点千真万确。如果你本人尚未受到这场衰退的影响，在你认识的人中间，或许有人——朋友、邻居，或是家庭成员——已受到波及。你无须再了解一系列数字，就知道我们的经济陷入了危机，因为你每天都身临其境，使你晨起即忧，夜不能寐。你原以为能将那份工作做到退休，现在却失去了它；你原希望通过创业实现梦想，现在自己的事业却命悬一线；你的子女收到了大学录取通知，但却只能束之高阁。这场衰退的影响已确凿无疑，而且无处不在。

尽管我国经济可能已被削弱，我们的信心可能有所动摇；尽管我们正经历着困难重重、前途未卜的时期，今晚，我要每一个美国人都知道：美国将浴火重生，美国将恢复元气并比以往更加强大。

The weight of this crisis will not determine the destiny of this nation. The answers to our problems don't lie beyond our reach. They exist in our laboratories and universities; in our fields and our factories; in the imaginations of our entrepreneurs and the pride of the hardest-working people on Earth. Those qualities that have made America the greatest force of progress and prosperity in human history we still possess in ample measure. What is required now is for this country to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face and take responsibility for our future once more.

Now, if we're honest with ourselves, we'll admit that for too long, we have not always met these responsibilities—as a government or as a people. I say this not to lay blame or look backwards, but because it is only by understanding how we arrived at this moment that we'll be able to lift ourselves out of this **predicament**.

The fact is, our economy did not fall into decline overnight. Nor did all of our problems begin when the housing market collapsed or the stock market sank. We have known for decades that our survival depends on finding new sources of energy. Yet we import more oil today than ever before. The cost of health care eats up more and more of our savings each year, yet we keep delaying reform. Our children will compete for jobs in a global economy that too many of our schools do not prepare them for. And though all these challenges went unsolved, we still managed to spend more money and pile up more debt, both as individuals and through our government, than ever before.

In other words, we have lived through an era where too often, short-term gains were prized over long-term prosperity; where we failed to look beyond the next payment, the next quarter or the next election. A surplus became an excuse to transfer wealth to the wealthy instead of

这场经济危机的重压不可能左右这个国家的命运。解决我们问题的方法并非遥不可及。解决问题的方法就在我们的实验室和大学中；就在我们的田野上和工厂里；就蕴藏在我国创业者的想象力和地球上最勤劳的人民的豪情壮志之中。这些品质使美国成为人类历史上进步与繁荣的最伟大的力量，我们依然充分拥有这些品质。现在必须做的是，全国上下齐心协力，勇敢地迎接我们面临的挑战，再度为我们的未来承担责任。

如果我们不自欺欺人的话，我们就会承认，长期以来，无论是作为一国政府，或是作为一国人民，我们未能做到时时刻刻承担起这些责任。我这么说并不是怪罪于谁，也不是追究过去，而是因为只有了解我们怎么会走到这个地步，我们才能摆脱这一困境。

事实是，我国经济陷入衰退并非一日之寒。我们面临的所有问题也并非一概始于房市崩溃或股市下滑。几十年来，我们一直都清楚我们的生存有赖于找到新的能源。然而，今天，我们进口的石油却超过以往任何时候。年复一年，高昂的医疗保健费用日益侵蚀我们的储蓄，然而医疗改革却一再延误。我们的下一代需要参与全球竞争中，但我们太多的学校却未能培养他们的这种能力。尽管这些难题一直都未得到解决，但我们无论作为个人还是通过我们的政府，依然比以往任何时候都支出更多，负债更重。

换言之，我们经历过的那个时期往往更看重短期收益，而不是长期繁荣；我们未能把目光放得更远而仅局限于下一笔报酬、下一个季度或下一届选举。财政盈余没有变成投资未来的机会，而是变成了把财富转移支付给富人的借口。在不惜以牺牲健康的市场为代价迅速

an opportunity to invest in our future. Regulations were gutted for the sake of a quick profit at the expense of a healthy market. People bought homes they knew they couldn't afford from banks and lenders who pushed those bad loans anyway. And all the while, critical debates and difficult decisions were put off for some other time on some other day.

Well that day of reckoning^④ has arrived, and the time to take charge of our future is here.

Now is the time to act boldly and wisely—to not only revive this economy, but to build a new foundation for lasting prosperity. Now is the time to jump—start job creation, re-start lending and invest in areas like energy, health care and education that will grow our economy, even as we make hard choices to bring our deficit down. That is what my economic agenda is designed to do, and that's what I'd like to talk to you about tonight.

It's an agenda that begins with jobs.

As soon as I took office, I asked this Congress to send me a recovery plan by President's Day^⑤ that would put people back to work and put money in their pockets. Not because I believe in bigger government—I don't. Not because I'm not mindful of the massive debt we've inherited—I am. I called for action because the failure to do so would have cost more jobs and caused more hardships. In fact, a failure to act would have worsened our long-term deficit by assuring weak economic growth for years. That's why I pushed for quick action. And tonight, I am grateful that this Congress delivered, and pleased to say that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is now law.

Over the next two years, this plan will save or create 3.5 million jobs. More than 90% of these jobs will be in the private sector—jobs rebuilding our roads and bridges; constructing wind turbines and solar

牟利的驱动下，市场管制条例形同虚设。有些人明知自己不具备购房能力，但在银行和贷款机构劝说下还是买了房，结果形成了不良贷款。而与此同时，重大的讨论和艰难的决策却被一拖再拖。

清算的日子已经到来，我们主宰前途的时机也就在眼前。

现在正是需要我们大胆而明智地采取行动之时——不仅要振兴经济，还要为持久繁荣奠定新的基础。虽然我们绞尽脑汁地试图减少财政赤字，但现在正是突飞猛进的时候——大力创造就业机会，重新开始贷款，投资于能源、医疗和教育这些能促使我国经济增长的事业。这就是我的经济计划所规划的方向，也是我今晚要向你们陈述的内容。

这一经济计划首先从就业入手。

我一上任，就要求国会在总统日前向我提交经济复苏方案，以便让人们重新有工作，有收入。这并不是因为我相信大政府——其实我并不相信；也并非因为我不顾虑我们继承的庞大债务——其实我有所顾虑。我之所以呼吁采取行动，是因为如果我们不这么做，我们将失去更多的工作岗位，导致更多的痛苦。事实上，无所作为会导致长年经济增长缓慢，从而使得长期赤字更加恶化。因此我敦促国会迅速采取行动。今晚，我要感谢国会提交了经济复苏方案，我可以欣慰地说，《美国复苏和再投资法案》已经生效。

在今后两年中，这项方案将保住或创造 350 万个工作岗位。其中

panels; laying broadband and expanding mass transit.

Because of this plan, there are teachers who can now keep their jobs and educate our kids. Health care professionals can continue caring for our sick. There are 57 police officers who are still on the streets of Minneapolis tonight because this plan prevented the layoffs their department was about to make.

Because of this plan, 95% of the working households in America will receive a tax cut—a tax cut that you will see in your paychecks beginning on April 1st.

Because of this plan, families who are struggling to pay tuition costs will receive a \$2,500 tax credit for all four years of college. And Americans who have lost their jobs in this recession will be able to receive extended unemployment benefits and continued health care coverage to help them **weather** this storm.

I know there are some in this chamber and watching at home who are skeptical of whether this plan will work. I understand that skepticism. Here in Washington, we've all seen how quickly good intentions can turn into broken promises and wasteful spending. And with a plan of this scale comes enormous responsibility to get it right.

That is why I have asked Vice-President Biden to lead a tough, unprecedented oversight effort—because nobody **messes with** Joe. I have told each member of my cabinet as well as mayors and governors across the country that they will be held accountable by me and the American people for every dollar they spend. I have appointed a proven and aggressive inspector-general to ferret out any and all cases of waste and fraud. And we have created a new website called recovery.gov so that every American can find out how and where their money is being spent.

So the recovery plan we passed is the first step in getting our

90%以上的工作岗位将产生在私人部门——重建我国公路和桥梁的工作；建造风力涡轮机和太阳能板的工作；铺设宽带和扩展公共交通系统的工作。

有了这一方案，教师们能够保住工作，继续教育我们的孩子，医护专家能够继续护理病人。今晚明尼阿波利斯市的 57 名警员仍在街头值勤，因为这个方案使他们避免了所在警局计划中的裁员。

有了这一方案，美国 95% 的工薪家庭将获得减税优惠——大家将在 4 月 1 日以后的工资单上看到这一优惠。

有了这一方案，那些正在为支付学费而挣扎的家庭将得到一项供整个四年大学期间享有的 2,500 美元的减税优惠。那些在这次经济衰退中失业的美国人将能够获得延长的失业补贴以及医疗保险，帮助他们度过这场风暴。

我知道，在国会大厅就座以及在家里观看的一些人士对这项方案是否有效心存疑虑。我能理解这种疑虑。在华盛顿，我们都曾目睹美好的愿望如何迅速化为背弃的承诺和浪费的花销。伴随着如此之大规模方案的是不容失误的巨大责任。

正因如此，我要求副总统拜登负责领导一项艰巨而又前所未有的监督工作，因为没有人可以唬弄乔。我已向内阁每位成员，全国的市长和州长表示，我和美国人民会要求他们对所花的每一分钱都有所交代。我已任命一名雷厉风行的总检查长清查所有浪费和弄虚作假情况。我们已开设了一个新网站，网址为 recovery.gov，该网站可以让每个美国人都能了解他们的钱花在了哪里和怎么花的。

我们通过的复苏方案是使我国经济重回正轨的第一步。然而，这

economy back on track. But it is just the first step. Because even if we manage this plan flawlessly, there will be no real recovery unless we clean up the credit crisis that has severely weakened our financial system.

I want to speak plainly and candidly about this issue tonight, because every American should know that it directly affects you and your family's well-being. You should also know that the money you've deposited in banks across the country is safe; your insurance is secure; and you can rely on the continued operation of our financial system. That is not the source of concern.

The concern is that if we do not re-start lending in this country, our recovery will be choked off before it even begins.

You see, the flow of credit is the lifeblood of our economy. The ability to get a loan is how you **finance** the purchase of everything from a home to a car to a college education; how stores stock their shelves, farms buy equipment, and businesses make payroll.

But credit has stopped flowing the way it should. Too many bad loans from the housing crisis have made their way onto the books of too many banks. With so much debt and so little confidence, these banks are now fearful of lending out any more money to households, to businesses, or even to each other. When there is no lending, families can't afford to buy homes or cars. So businesses are forced to make **layoffs**. Our economy suffers even more, and credit dries up even further.

That is why this administration is moving swiftly and aggressively to break this destructive cycle, to restore confidence and re-start lending.

We will do so in several ways. First, we are creating a new lending fund that represents the largest effort ever to help provide auto loans, college loans and small business loans to the consumers and entrepreneurs who keep this economy running.

只是万里长征的第一步。因为即使我们完美无瑕地执行了这一方案，如果我们不解决已严重削弱我国金融系统的信贷危机，就不会有真正的经济复苏。

今晚我想坦率地谈论这一问题，因为每个美国人都应该了解，它直接影响着你及你家人的福祉。大家还应该了解，国人在全国各地银行的储蓄是安全的，所投保险是安全的，我国金融系统在继续运转，是可以信赖的。这些都不是问题。

问题是，如果我们不重新启动贷款，我们的经济复苏甚至在起步之前就会夭折。

你们知道，流转畅通的信贷是我国经济的生命线。能否获得贷款决定着购买各种东西的能力，从房屋、汽车到大学教育；决定着商店能否进货、农场能否购买设备以及公司能否发出工资。

然而，当前信贷已停止了正常流动。太多银行的账面上因房产危机而出现了太多不良贷款。债务如此庞大，信心如此低落，如今的银行不再敢向个人、商家甚至其他银行提供贷款。但是没有贷款，家庭无法购房买车，而公司不得不裁员，我国经济损失更加惨重，信贷更趋枯竭。

因此，本届政府正在迅速采取大胆行动，以打破这一致命循环，恢复信心，重新发放贷款。

我们将在几方面采取行动。首先，作为迄今采取的规模最大的行动，我们正在创设一项新的贷款基金，向保持美国经济运转的消费者和工商企业家提供汽车贷款、大学教育贷款和小型企业贷款。