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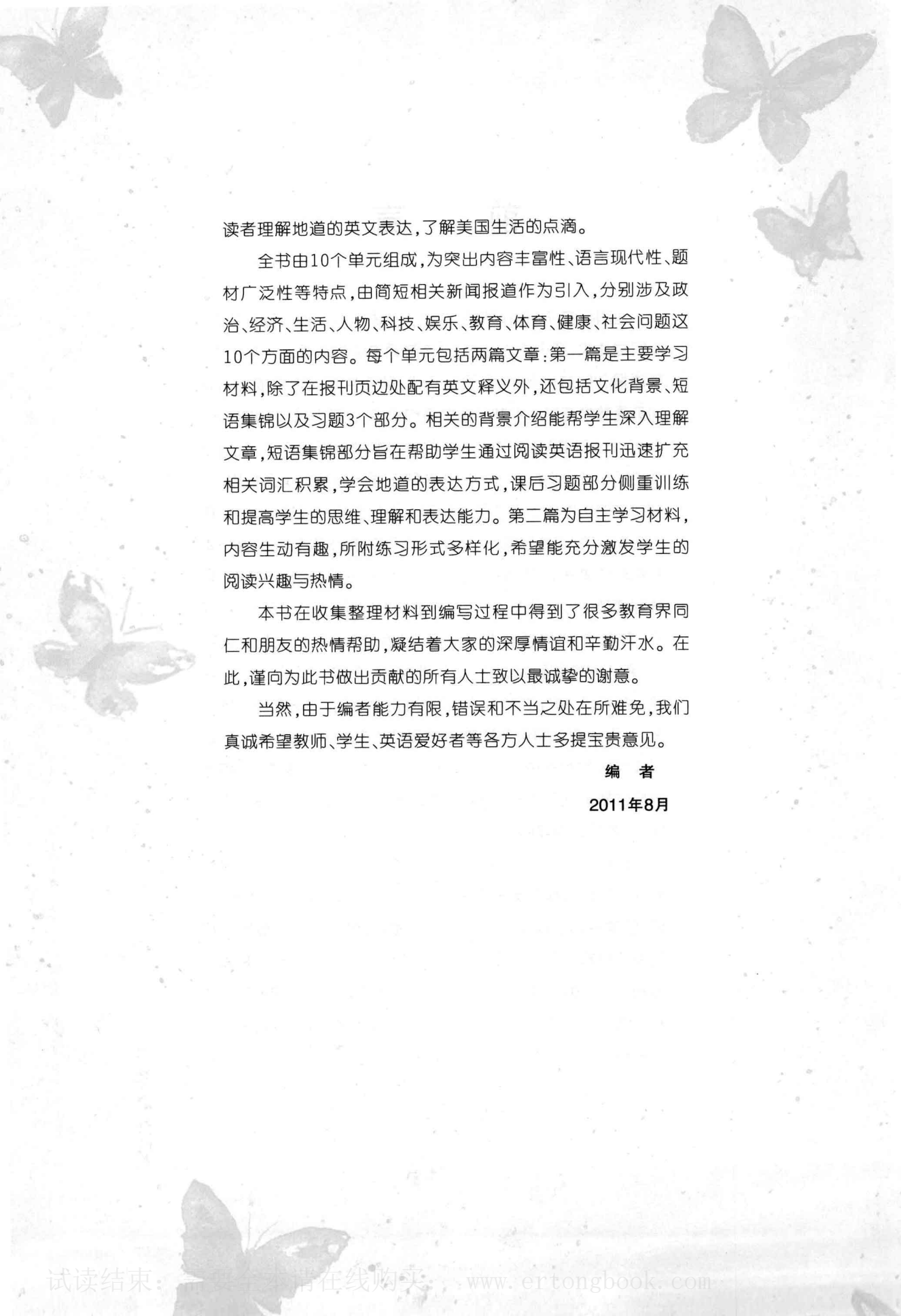
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前 言

在国际交流日益频繁的今日，英语作为一种全球化语言，在贸易往来、资讯传递、文化交流等领域的重要性已不言而喻。英语报刊以其内容新颖、语言现代、贴近生活的特点成为独特的英语教学资源。本书所选文章均源自《今日美国》(USA Today)，此报刊是美国唯一的全国发行的彩色版对开日报，自创办之日起就以其新颖独特的姿态跻于强手如林的美国报界，它独创了使用生动的彩色图片和图表来配合新闻报道的方式，使之图文并茂，增添了美感，“诱发”了读者的读报欲望和兴趣。本书希望读者通过有目的、较系统地阅读《今日美国》的文章，培养阅读英语报刊的基本功，并养成良好阅读习惯；了解政治、经济、文化、现代科学技术和商务方面的新知识，拓宽其文化视野；通过阅读和翻译训练，基本掌握报刊英语在词汇、语法、修辞上的特点，增加有关政治、经济等方面的词汇，丰富自己的知识，从而为独立阅读各种英语报刊打下良好的基础；通过广泛阅读与时代相关的资料，提高理解和分析问题的能力，培养对信息的敏感性及发掘、利用信息的能力，学会自己获取外界信息，不断提高自身的知识水平。

我们在编写本书的时候，力求体现如下特色：1. 内容新——所选材料自奥巴马参选这个历史时期开始，从政治、经济、日常生活反映美国社会的方方面面，是迄今为止最新的报刊阅读材料。2. 版式新——充分展示报刊的特色，凸显标题在报刊阅读中的重要作用。从版式上消除读者心理上阅读英文的枯燥感。3. 思路新——本书编者在美国实地收集材料，每个单元的编写思路活跃，处处为读者考虑，争取在最大效能上帮助



读者理解地道的英文表达,了解美国生活的点滴。

全书由10个单元组成,为突出内容丰富性、语言现代性、题材广泛性等特点,由简短相关新闻报道作为引入,分别涉及政治、经济、生活、人物、科技、娱乐、教育、体育、健康、社会问题这10个方面的内容。每个单元包括两篇文章:第一篇是主要学习材料,除了在报刊页边处配有英文释义外,还包括文化背景、短语集锦以及习题3个部分。相关的背景介绍能帮学生深入理解文章,短语集锦部分旨在帮助学生通过阅读英语报刊迅速扩充相关词汇积累,学会地道的表达方式,课后习题部分侧重训练和提高学生的思维、理解和表达能力。第二篇为自主学习材料,内容生动有趣,所附练习形式多样化,希望能充分激发学生的阅读兴趣与热情。

本书在收集整理材料到编写过程中得到了很多教育界同仁和朋友的热情帮助,凝结着大家的深厚情谊和辛勤汗水。在此,谨向为此书做出贡献的所有人士致以最诚挚的谢意。

当然,由于编者能力有限,错误和不当之处在所难免,我们真诚希望教师、学生、英语爱好者等各方人士多提宝贵意见。

编者

2011年8月



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Unit 1 Politics

The government of the people, by the people, for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.

—Abraham Lincoln, American president

At 85, Ex-president Bush Skydives over Maine Coast

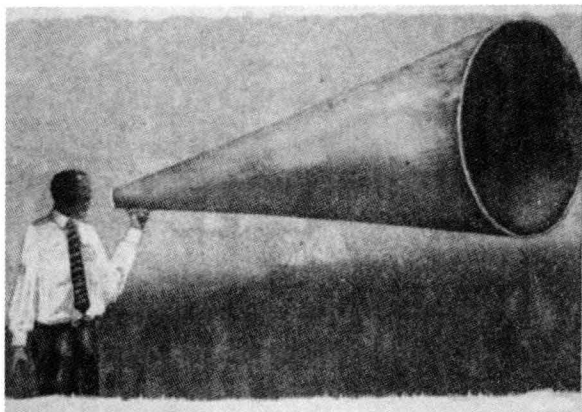


Former President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 85th birthday on Friday the same way he did his 75th and 80th birthdays: He leaped from a plane and zoomed downward at more than 100 mph in freefall before parachuting safely to a spot near his oceanfront home.

“Well, we made it. It was a great day in the air,” Bush said after he was removed from his harness.

He said he enjoyed it so much that he planned to do it again when he turns 90.

Passage One His Words Will Matter



Obama has been praised, and derided, for his eloquence. He joins the company of history's greatest leaders.

By Sandy Grady

Every day there's another news media deep-think piece: "How Obama Did It." Was it the economic **meltdown**, his disciplined 50-state campaign, a Republican collapse or a hunger for change?

All true. But they miss the obvious secret of his flight form nowhere to the Oval Office: Barack Obama's words.

Sometimes the words were glorious and **lyrical** as a jazz solo in a 2 a.m. nightclub. Sometimes they were practical and mundane as a carpentry manual. They were delivered in a confident, edgy **cadence** that reminded some of us of Jack Kennedy or Martin Luther King Jr.

His words **bailed him out of** campaign troubles and lit the fireworks of victories. Now different words—some steel beneath the music—will be needed by President Obama in hard times ahead.

Do mere words matter? Never mind that his rivals Hillary Clinton and John McCain **taunted** him for empty poetry. At least in a coarsening era of YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, it's a relief to have a president who can use language precisely as a concert violinist playing a Bach **sonata**.

Word tips

meltdown

the process or state of irreversible breakdown or decline

lyrical

enthusiastic and emotional

cadence

a rhythm or rhythmic construction in verse or prose

bail sb. out of

release a person from custody; help get rid of

taunt

to provoke or deride with mockery, contempt, or criticism

Think about three Hall of Fame greats of the past who used words under enormous stress: Abraham Lincoln, whose second inaugural speech and Gettysburg Address are verbal monuments; Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself” uplifted millions in the Great Depression; and Winston Churchill, whose rhetoric defied the bombs of the Battle of Britain.

Ok, it's **preposterous** to mention Obama with those giants before his first White House crisis. But try this: Obama will be the best combination writer-orator as president in more than a century. Evidence: On yellow pads and a laptop late at night, he wrote two best-selling books. And a freakish novelty, he writes most of his own speeches.

Crafting the words

Fred Kaplan in his new book, *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer*, says Lincoln is the only president, whose every word we know was his own. Behind Lincoln as presidential writers he rates Ulysses Grant, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Until Obama in our less-literate era, every president reads the work of a speechwriting **horde** off a **teleprompter**. True, during the **hurly-burly** of a campaign, Obama sometimes used scripts from a trio of under-30 writers. His chief scribe, Jon Favreau, 27, says, “You’re like Ted William’s batting coach.”

Until Obama began **mesmerizing** huge crowds, I thought the best orators I had heard were Jack, Bobby and Ted Kennedy, the incomparable King, and Ronald Reagan. No accident that Obama’s staff members have carefully studied the orbit of Reagan, whose title of “Great Communicator” they dream of eclipsing.

Trying to **unravel** Obama’s rhetorical magic, I’ve been reading his speeches. They always have rhythm, repetition, alliteration, balance. Old tricks. More important, they flow with a narrative, his story meshing into America’s story. In his speeches, you see Obama’s trajectory like a jet’s contrail across a clear blue sky:

- Oct. 2, 2002, Anti-Iraq war speech: “I don’t oppose all wars.... What I am opposed to is a dumb war... a rash war. A war based... not on principle but on politics.”
- July 27, 2004, Democratic National Convention speech: “There

preposterous
ridiculous

a horde of 一帮人
a crowd of
teleprompter 电子提示器
an electronic television
prompting device
hurly-burly 骚动; 喧闹
confusion or
commotion
mesmerizing 迷住; 吸引
attract sb. strongly
with enchantment
unravel 解开; 阐明
disclose the secret or
mystery of something



is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America.”

- Nov. 10, 2007, Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner speech in Des Moines: “If those Republicans come at me with the same **fear-mongering** and swift-boating... I will take them head on.”
- Jan. 3, Iowa primary victory speech opening line: “They said this day would never come.”
- Jan. 8, Manchester, N.H., after Hillary Clinton upset him in the primary: “Yes, we can! Yes we can!” The phrase, borrowed from Mexican-American activist Cesar Chavez (*Si se puede*) became obama's **mantra**. n. 咒语
- March 18, Philadelphia, answering the Rev. Jeremiah Wright **controversy**: “It is a story that has seared into my genetic makeup the idea that this nation is more than a sum of its parts, that out of many, we are truly one.”
- Nov. 4, Grant Park, Chicago: “If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible... tonight is your answer.”

fearmongering
spread terrible and dreadful rumors with malicious intent

mantra
a commonly repeated word or phrase
controversy
a dispute where there is strong disagreement

Darkness ahead

Sure, Obama's soaring rhetoric might crash against the **brutally** hard problems. As Kaplan writes of Lincoln in the Civil War: “Words could not prevent the war, and by themselves words could not fight the war.”

If Obama in his first year can't handle the tough stuff—**epi-** ^{adj. 残暴的, 直截了当的} **demic** of lost jobs, a sick stock market, the Iraq war—his campaign eloquence will be mocked as “Change We Don't Believe In.” But make no mistake, without Obama's talent for words—melodic, **folksy**, fierce—his ^{n./adj. 流行语} campaign money and machinery wouldn't have made him president. He'd still be an **obscure** Illinois pol playing pickup basketball, not a global star.

We'll need every iota of his gift in the darkness ahead. We are all characters now in the story Barack Obama must finish.

epidemic
attacking or affecting many individuals in a community or a population simultaneously
folksy
very informal and familiar, characteristic of country life

Sandy Grady has covered eight presidential campaigns. He is a member of USA TODAY's board of contributors.



Culture Tips

- 1 Oval Office: 椭圆形办公室, 位于白宫西翼, 是美国总统的正式办公室。顾名思义, 办公室呈椭圆形, 总统办公桌后有3扇朝南的窗户, 房间北侧有一个壁炉。
- 2 YouTube: 设立在美国的一个视频分享网站, 让使用者上传观看及分享视频短片。它是一个可供网民上传观看及分享视频短片的网站, 至今已成为同类型网站的翘楚, 并造就多位网上名人和激发网上创作。FaceBook(脸谱网)是一个社交服务网站。
- 3 Gettysburg Address: 美国总统亚伯拉罕·林肯最著名的演说, 也是美国历史上为人引用最多的政治性演说。在1863年11月19日, 正值美国内战中葛底斯堡战役结束4个半月后, 林肯在宾夕法尼亚州葛底斯堡的葛底斯堡国家公墓 (Gettysburg National Cemetery) 揭幕式中发表演说, 哀悼在长达5个半月的葛底斯堡战役中阵亡的将士。

English Equivalents of Chinese

经济猛烈下滑

economic meltdown

点燃胜利之火

light the fireworks of victories

空洞的辞藻

empty poetry

出类拔萃的人物(集团)/名人堂

Hall of Fame

就职演讲

inaugural speech

巨大的压力

enormous stress

独树一帜的创新点

freakish novelty

言辞的魔力

rhetorical magic

竞选豪言

campaign eloquence

全球明星

global star



Use of Similes

1. Sometimes the words are glorious and lyrical as a jazz solo... sometimes they were practical and mundane as a carpentry manual. 他的言辞时而如爵士独奏般壮丽辉煌,充满感情;时而又如木工的手工般实实在在,朴实无华。
2. ...a president who can use language precisely as a concert violinist playing a Bach sonata. 一位总统能够准确娴熟地使用语言,如同一位音乐会小提琴家在弹奏巴赫的奏鸣曲一般。
3. In his speeches, you can see Obama's trajectory like a jet's contrail across a clear blue sky. 奥巴马的整个演讲过程荡气回肠,仿佛喷气式飞机一般,在清澈蔚蓝的天空划过轨迹。



TASK

I. Comprehension

Answer the following questions:

1. Which is the obvious secret of Obama's success in the president election?
2. Who do the "three Hall of Fame greats of the past" refer to?
3. How did Obama's rivals Hillary Clinton and John McCain comment on his words?
4. What are the characteristics of Obama's speeches?
5. What are the challenges Obama is going to meet in the near future?

II. Vocabulary

Complete the gaps using one of the words in the box. Change the form where necessary:

meltdown epidemic bail taunt v.
preposterous horde mesmerize unravel

1. They are asking a epidemic price for the work.
2. The legal tangle was never really unraveled.
3. Some of the girls taunt her about her weight.
4. The club faced bankruptcy until a wealthy local businessman bail them out.
5. There are hords of people at the jumble sale.
6. He could mesmerize an audience by the sheer force of his presence.
7. He now has lost \$20 billion since the tech meltdown began in 2000, due largely to the drop in value of his Microsoft shares.
8. The corruption has become preposterous in the society.

III. Translation

Turn the following famous quotations into Chinese:

1. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

我们唯一恐惧的就是恐惧本身

2. I don't oppose ^{from} all wars.... What I am opposed to is a dumb war... a rash war. A war based ...not on principle but on politics.

3. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America; there's the United States of America.

4. It is a story that has seared into my genetic makeup the idea that this nation is more than a sum of its parts, that out of many, we are truly one.

5. Words could not prevent the war, and by themselves words could not fight the war.



Passage Two Governors Brainstorm on GOP Comeback



Alaska's Palin, other state leaders
could help in rebuilding

By John Fritze

The GOP's route back to power in Washington may have to **take a detour** through St. Paul, Tallahassee or Baton Rouge, party leaders from those state capitals said at a meeting of Republican governors Wednesday.

As Republicans reflect on last week's losses in the election—and seek a path to success in the presidential campaign in 2012—red-state governors said they could be key to rebuilding.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, the party's vice presidential **nominee**, will address the conference today. She has left the door open to a job in Washington as senator or on a presidential ticket.

There are other rising stars in the ranks of the Republican governors. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal presided over a smooth evacuation before Hurricane Gustav this summer. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, who brought daylight saving time to Hoosiers, was re-elected with a wide margin.

"The place where Americans can regain confidence in the Republican Party is where we have Republican governors," Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said. "We're taking Republican principles and values and applying them to real issues and real life."

Word tips

take a detour

go or cause to go by
a roundabout way

nominee

One who has been
nominated to an
office or for a
candidacy

In addition to losing the White House to Barack Obama, Republicans lost 26 House and Senate seats. Several races are still undecided.

State leaders are often in a position to pick up the **mantle** of leadership after a **rout** at the federal level, said Larry Sabato, head of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. As executives, governors must work with lawmakers across party lines to keep their states running.

"This happens after every defeat," Sabato said. "Parties have a period of **introspection**, which is good, and they look for new leaders, which can be good."

Governors have more power to try new ideas, said Nathan Daschle, executive director of the Democratic Governors Association, the RGA's **counterpart**. Because of that, they can cast themselves as change agents.

"If I were them, I would look to states for ideas and leadership," he said. "For both parties, there's just a tremendous amount of innovation at the state level."

As the three-day annual governors' conference opened, Palin faced questions about her future. She told CNN on Wednesday she would consider running for an open Senate seat if Alaska Republican Sen. Ted Stevens leaves office. Stevens, whose race is too close to call, was **convicted** of not reporting gifts he received from wealthy friends.

"If it were acknowledged up there that I could be put to better use for my state in the U.S. Senate, I would certainly consider that," Palin said. "But that would take a special election and everything else. I am not one to appoint myself or a member of my family to take the place of any vacancy."

In a meeting that became part **rallying cry**, part bloodletting, Republicans spoke candidly about why they felt the party had fared so poorly on Election Day. Some pointed to GOP weakness with young voters and minorities. Others said Republicans strayed from core conservative values, such as smaller government.

"We have to be honest with ourselves," said Jindal, who warned about blaming the losses on outside factors. "It was a pretty sweeping victory."

mantle

the cloak as a symbol of authority

rout

an overwhelming defeat

introspection

contemplation of one's own thoughts, feelings, and sensations; self-examination.

counterpart

a person or thing having the same function or characteristics as another

convict

find or declare guilty

rallying cry

a slogan used to rally support for a cause



Asked whether he thought the party would move away from social conservative issues, Florida Gov. Charlie Crist said Republicans must strike a balance between those and more immediate concerns. "I think what you need to do is have an emphasis on the issues that affect people in their daily lives," he said. "Right now, with this economy, there's no question in my mind those are pocketbook issues."



I. Comprehension

Make a list of the rising stars of Republic Governors Associations and their efforts in rebuilding the party.

State	Governor's Name	Efforts and Contributions
Alaska	Sarah Palin	work as a senator
Louisiana	Bobbu Jindal	presided over a smooth evacuation...
...

II. Translation

Turn the following sentences into English:

1. 我们正在实践着共和党的原则和价值观念，并且将其运用到切切实实的问题和生活中去。(apply... to...)

2. 每次竞选失败后都会发生这样的事情：党派们会有一段时间进行自我反省，并且找寻新的领袖，这都很好。(a period of introspection)

3. 对于两党来说，在各州政府的这个阶层中有着大量惊人的革新力量。(a tremendous amount of)
