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21

# 世纪硕士生英语系列教材

**ENGLISH  
SERIES  
FOR  
POSTGRADUATES  
OF 21ST  
CENTURY**

Extensive Reading

# 泛读

主编 邓晓明



哈尔滨工程大学出版社

English Series for Postgraduates of 21st Century

21 世纪硕士生英语系列教程

# Extensive Reading

## 泛 读

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

21 世纪硕士生英语系列教程. 泛读. /邓晓明主编.  
哈尔滨:哈尔滨工程大学出版社,2003  
ISBN 7-81073-395-8

I .2… II .邓… III .英语-阅读教学-研究生-  
教材 IV .H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 034182 号

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## 内 容 简 介

《21 世纪硕士生英语系列教程》是为满足硕士生英语教学的需求而编写的。该教程主要以硕士生为主要对象,同时也兼顾其他具有中高级英语程度的读者的需要。

本教程突出实用性,同时又具有科学性和系统性。各分册皆以提高能力为主要目标,同时又注意英语知识、英语国家文化的传播,是读者提高实用英语能力的难得的教材。全套教材分为精读、泛读、口语、写作、听力、测试六个分册。

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哈尔滨工程大学出版社出版发行  
哈尔滨市南通大街145号 哈尔滨工程大学11号楼  
发行部电话:(0451)82519328 邮编:150001  
新 华 书 店 经 销  
哈尔滨工业大学印刷厂印刷

\*

开本 787mm×1 092mm 1/16 印张 18.25 字数 441 千字

2005 年 7 月修订版 2005 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

印数:3 001—5 000 册

定价:25.00 元

## 使用说明

本书为《21 世纪硕士生英语系列教程》的《泛读》教程。

本教程编写宗旨是使学生通过大量阅读英语原篇文章,以实现《非英语专业研究生英语教学大纲》中关于阅读的要求,即能较顺利地阅读并正确理解有相当难度的文章,并有较快的阅读速度,从而使学生有较强的英语阅读能力。

本教程题材内容力求涉猎广泛,涉及人生哲理、立身谋职、天体运行、文化异同、金融股市、企业管理、人文历史、网上科技等方面。相信这些内容会使学生在学到英语的同时又扩大他们的知识面,启迪他们的新思维。

本教程共计 20 单元。每单元由三部分组成,1. Text; 2. Fast Reading; 3. Home Reading。

为增加学生对 Text 的理解,在 Fast Reading 的选材中,力求与 Text 的内容相关连。

有些课文为使学生带着问题去读,增加了相应的“引子”,以增加学生的阅读兴趣。

每单元三部分文字大约为 4 500 ~ 5 500 字,总阅读量约为 100 000 字左右。预计每学期需用 40 课时完成。当然,教师也可视学生的具体情况,有选择地使用。

泛读不同于精读。因此本教程为避免学生边读边查生词,影响阅读速度,一改以往教程的词汇表列于课文前或课文后的做法,将词汇表及注释列于每单元后,以利于学生在阅读中猜词,同时也不影响阅读速度,并在阅读后订正自己的能力。

泛读要求一个“泛”字。某种意义上讲应要求学生独立的广泛阅读。但目前仍需教师给予指导。因此要求学生必须在课前预习,课堂内进行必要的讲解和检查。同时教师也要防止对某些语言现象讲得过细,以免影响总体阅读量。

本书由邓晓明主编,负责编写 Unit 1 ~ Unit 5; 尤玲负责 Unit 6 ~ Unit 10; 李宝峰负责 Unit 11 ~ Unit 15; 李良彦负责 Unit 16 ~ Unit 20。

本教程后附有练习参考答案。供教师及学生参考。

编者

2005 年 5 月

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# Unit 1

## The Common Language of Science

### *1. Text*

*The first step towards language was to link acoustically or otherwise commutable signs to sense-impressions. Most likely all sociable animals have arrived at this primitive kind of communication — at least to a certain degree. A higher development is reached when further signs are introduced and understood which establish relations between those other signs designating sense-impression. At this stage it is already possible to report somewhat complex series of impressions; we can say that language has come to existence. If language is to lead at all to understanding, there must be rules concerning the relations between the signs on the one hand and on the other hand there must be a stable correspondence between signs and impressions. In their childhood individuals connected by the same language grasp these rules and relations mainly by intuition. When man becomes conscious of the rules concerning the relations between signs the so-called grammar of language is established.*

**I**n an early stage the words may correspond directly to impressions. At a later stage this direct connection is lost insofar as some words convey relations to perceptions only if used in connection with other words (for instance such words as: “is”, “or”, “thing”). Then word-groups rather than single words refer to perceptions. When language becomes thus partially independent from the background of impressions a greater inner coherence is gained.

Only at this further development where frequent use is made of so-called abstract concepts, language becomes an instrument of reasoning in the true sense of the word. But it is also this development which turns language into a dangerous source of error and deception. Everything depends on the degree to which words and word-combinations correspond to the world of impression.

What is it that brings about such an intimate connection between language and thinking? Is there no thinking without the use of language, namely in concepts and concept-combinations for which words need not necessarily come to mind? Has not everyone of us struggled for words although the connection between “things” was already clear?

We might be inclined to attribute to the act of thinking complete independence from language if the individual formed or were able to form his concepts without the verbal guidance of his environment. Yet most likely the mental shape of an individual, growing up under such conditions, would be very poor. Thus we may conclude that the mental development of the individual and his way of forming concepts depend to a high degree upon language. This makes us realize to what extent the same language means the same mentality. In this sense thinking



and language are linked together.

What distinguishes the language of science from language as we ordinarily understand the word? How is it that scientific language is international? What science strives for is an utmost acuteness and clarity of concepts as regards their mutual relation and their correspondence to sensory data. As an illustration let us take the language of Euclidian geometry and Algebra. They manipulate with a small number of independently introduced concepts, respectively symbols, such as the integral number, the straight line, the point, as well as with signs which designate the fundamental operations, that is the connections between those fundamental concepts. This is the basis for the construction, respectively definition of all other statements and concepts. The connection between concepts and statements on the one hand and the sensory data on the other hand is established through acts of counting and measuring whose performance is sufficiently well determined.

The super-national character of scientific concepts and scientific language is due to the fact that they have been set up by the best brains of all countries and all times. In solitude and yet in cooperative effort as regards the final effect they created the spiritual tools for the technical revolutions which have transformed the life of mankind in the last centuries. Their system of concepts has served as a guide in the bewildering chaos of perceptions so that we learned to grasp general truths from particular observations.

What hopes and fears does the scientific method imply for mankind? I do not think that this is the right way to put the question. Whatever this tool in the hand of man will produce depends entirely on the nature of the goals alive in this mankind. Once these goals exist, the scientific method furnishes means to realize them. Yet it cannot furnish the very goals. The scientific method itself would not have led anywhere, it would not even have been born without a passionate striving for clear understanding.

Perceptions of means and confusion of goals seem — in my opinion — to characterize our age. If we desire sincerely and passionately the safety, the welfare and the free development of the talents of all men, we shall not be in want of the means to approach such a state. Even if only a small part of mankind strives for such goals, their superiority will prove itself in the long run.

## *Exercises*

### **A. Determine the main idea. Choose the best answer.**

The main idea of the text is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a good scientific method will lead to great scientific breakthroughs.
- b. it talks about the nature of the language of science and its differences from the ordinary language we use
- c. how languages come into existence
- d. language and thinking are inseparable

### **B. Comprehend the text, and choose the best answer.**

1. Language does not appear until \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. signs are introduced and relations between the signs are established

- b. signs are acoustically linked to sense-impressions
  - c. commutable signs are linked to sense-impressions and somewhat complex series of impressions can be reported
  - d. a primitive kind of communication is made possible
2. According to the author the grammar of language is established when \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. there are rules governing the commutable signs and impressions
    - b. people are conscious of the rules concerning the relations between the commutable signs
    - c. the relations between commutable signs can be connected by intuition
    - d. there is a stable correspondence between signs and impressions
  3. In the sentence "... individuals connected by the same language grasp these rules and relations mainly by intuition," the word "intuition" means \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. the ability to do something easily if one is shown how to do it
    - b. the ability to understand something without making efforts
    - c. the power of understanding something without reasoning it out
    - d. the ability to understand something immediately after being told about it
  4. Language can lead to understanding when \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. word-groups are used in connection with other words to convey relations to perceptions.
    - b. Words correspond directly to impressions
    - c. There are rules concerning the relations between the signs and a stable correspondence between signs and impressions
    - d. Language becomes partially independent from the background of impressions
  5. What is the connection between thinking and language? \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Words need not necessarily come to mind in concepts and concept-combinations.
    - b. The connection between "things" can be clear without the help of words.
    - c. One's mental development and one's way of forming concepts depend to a large degree upon language.
    - d. Individuals are able to form concepts without the verbal guidance of their environment.
  6. Why are scientific concepts and scientific language supernatural? \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. Because the performance of counting and measuring is sufficiently well determined.
    - b. Because the system of concepts and language serve as a guide in the bewildering chaos of perceptions.
    - c. Because they have been established by the best brains of all countries and all times.
    - d. Because they serve as spiritual tools for the technical revolutions which have transformed the life of mankind in the last century.
  7. Which of the following statements about the scientific method is not true? \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. The scientific method is to be used to realize goals.
    - b. The scientific method can not furnish goals.
    - c. The scientific method determines social progress.
    - d. The scientific method does not imply fears for mankind.

**C. Discussing the following topics.**

1. What are the differences between scientific language and the language we speak?
- \_\_\_\_\_



2. Do you think that our language influences our thinking?  
3. Do you think that we really depend on language to express our thoughts?

**D. For each question below, choose the best answer from the four possibilities.**

1. The new teacher was taken advantage of by the students and often had to \_\_\_\_\_ her authority.  
a. assert                      b. confirm                      c. inflict                      d. strike
2. You can exercise your \_\_\_\_\_ to cancel the contract immediately, but you wouldn't receive any money at that point.  
a. duty                      b. obligation                      c. right                      d. possibility
3. We were all in \_\_\_\_\_ of the fact that the new manager was our old friend Duncan.  
a. surprise                      b. shock                      c. awe                      d. amazement
4. My uncle Warren is a thoroughly despicable character. His one \_\_\_\_\_ feature is that he loves children.  
a. saving                      b. recovering                      c. improved                      d. redeeming
5. I don't think anyone understood what I was saying at the meeting, did they? I totally failed to get my point \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. around                      b. about                      c. across                      d. along
6. There was a veritable \_\_\_\_\_ of angry phone calls from members of the public complaining about the new controversial series on TV.  
a. gale                      b. flood                      c. storm                      d. earthquake
7. The sales practices of this company will have to be totally \_\_\_\_\_ if we are to save it.  
a. overthrown                      b. overhauled                      c. overrun                      d. overwhelmed
8. The government announced today that they intend to \_\_\_\_\_ the rise of crime in the inner cities by increasing police budgets in the areas most affected.  
a. beat                      b. win                      c. retaliate                      d. counter
9. My company has just spent two million dollars, \_\_\_\_\_ an world famous artist to paint a huge mural for the main entrance foyer.  
a. asking                      b. ordering                      c. consulting                      d. commissioning
10. During the riots, hundreds of people broke into the city's main department store and \_\_\_\_\_ it. There was almost nothing left after the night had finished.  
a. stole                      b. looted                      c. mugged                      d. conned
11. I don't think Jones and Marlowe should work together on this project. They have shown us before that they are quite \_\_\_\_\_ as partners.  
a. rebellious                      b. disinterested                      c. disagreeable                      d. incompatible
12. The great thing about this bank loan is that they give you so long to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. pay it in                      b. pay it up                      c. pay it off                      d. give it up

## 2. Fast Reading

(A)

**I**f you have ever felt like walking out of a new job just after having started it, you are one of a growing number of disillusioned people.

More than half of British employees regret accepting a new job immediately after joining an organization, says a new survey. It found that 26 percent of respondents voluntarily left their jobs within one month because they were so poorly treated by their new employers.

“Over half had been left to their own devices during their first day at work,” explains Nick Hood, senior London partner of Begbies Traynor, a company specializing in corporate rescue, which carried out the research.

One of the main reasons for a growth in “new job blues”, according to Hood, is that today’s workplace culture has an expectation of people being “self-starters, able to communicate and get on with the job immediately.”

“Now people stay in jobs for shorter periods, many companies are less willing to invest in holding their hand through the induction process.” Hood says.

Ben Williams, an Edinburgh-based corporate psychologist, has found that the recent trend of downsizing has left managers overworked, with little time to focus on new recruits.

“Research shows that only one third of people currently recruiting in Britain have been trained to interview properly,” says Williams. A common result is picking people with “eligibility” ( the right qualifications and skills) but not “suitability” ( the right personality).

A second major problem is caused when recruiters advertise the company and job as fun and dynamic when in reality it is boring and repetitive. “Once new recruits realize this, they’re off,” says Williams.

Nevertheless, Hood admits, leaving a new job can waste time and money, as well as demoralizing.

So what can you do to prevent yourself from catching a dose of “new job blues”?

First, research in detail — not only the job, but also the organization, advises occupational psychologist Stephen Whiddett.

Then ask for the annual report and visit the company website. It will not only give you an idea about the company’s aims, but of its working culture and whether it is right for you.

Interview the interviewer. If he or she says you will get to travel, for instance, ask where to, how often and whether you will have to use your own car.

“Once you have got the job offer, ask if you can start the induction process at once,” says Fran Wilson, human resources adviser at the UK’s Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. “It will show you are willing, as well as help you be prepared.

### **Do the following multiple-choice exercises.**

1. More than half of the people who started their new jobs feel \_\_\_\_\_.

a. excited

b. disappointed

c. happy

d. nervous

2. "new job blues" \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. are feelings of disappointment and sadness at the new job
  - b. are only experienced by young people
  - c. will help promote new employees' cooperation with other people
  - d. can be overcome easily
3. Employers are reluctant to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. communicate with new employees
  - b. offer help to new employees
  - c. assign interesting work to new employees
  - d. cooperate with talented people
4. Which of the following statements is not true? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Managers are too busy to help new employees.
  - b. Leaving the new job is the best choice if you have "new job blues".
  - c. Some people are not suitable for their jobs even though they have the right qualifications.
  - d. Most of the work new employees have to do is boring and repetitive.
5. According to the author, why are managers overworked nowadays? \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Because their companies are in difficult situations.
  - b. Because their business is flourishing.
  - c. Because they want to earn more money.
  - d. Because some people in their companies have been laid off to reduce cost.

(B)

**A**lthough tourism to Antarctica is still small by global standards, it is growing. But even the few people going there are irreversibly damaging the environment, say scientists.

In the past decade, the number of tourists visiting the landmass, the last undeveloped place on Earth, has doubled to 13,500. It could reach 27,000 visitors a year in the next decade as more cruise ships venture into the icy waters.

The rise in Antarctic tourism is causing increasingly serious problems in the area.

Most travel firms in the area have signed up to self-imposed regulations on pollution, waste removal and other responsibilities, but like any popular tourist spot, pressures on the environment are starting to destroy the very natural beauty which attracted visitors in the first place.

The fact that Antarctica is also an essential spot for scientists monitoring global environmental change is also a reason people are calling for an end to tourism there. Tourists are simply getting in the way of the research.

For the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) the biggest concern is safety. BAS is a 60-year-old Cambridge-based project, which has undertaken the majority of scientific research on and around the continent.

"This year we will probably have four to five large ships with 1,000 people on board coming to Antarctica. Several of those ships are not ice strengthened," says John Shears, the environmental officer of the BAS.

"If there is an accident or a ship collided with an iceberg, there would be problems with

health and rescue operations in the area and clearing up any spills from the vessels,” Shears adds.

The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators is a worldwide organization based in the US for companies operating tours to the region. It promotes and practices safe and environmentally responsible Antarctic tourism. It has strict regulations for its members, but many tour ships are outside the organization.

“We need strong safety regulations, controls and shipping standards to protect all tourists going to this area,” says Frank Samule, a member of the association.

Some attempts are being made to meet Samule’s wants. BAS and the British government are attempting to get new shipping codes enforced to control all ships in the area.

So far though, the impact of tourism on the environment has been minimal and threats from man-made pollutants and the depletion of the ozone layer over Antarctica are greater concerns.

But researchers fear that ships and tourists could bring in plant and animal species alien to the area which could harm the environment.

Of greatest concern is the possibility of global, regional and local threats interacting in unexpected ways to have a significant impact on the Antarctic environment. The complex nature of the global environment means science cannot predict such events.

Part of the reason new regulations are being called for is the inadequacy of current legislation governing the region. The Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 in Washington DC, now has 45 member countries. Although it sets out mandatory regulations about human activities in the region, it only deals with environmental issues individually and in a piece-meal way.

**Do the following multiple-choice exercises.**

6. Which of the following is not the reason why scientists call for an end to Antarctic tourism?

- a. Man-made pollutants destroy the natural beauty of Antarctica.
- b. Tourism interferes with the research work of scientists.
- c. Large ships with tourists on board may collide with an iceberg.
- d. Human activities in the region cause the extinction of many animal species.

7. It can be implied from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. scientists have succeeded in stopping tourism in Antarctica
- b. tourism poses a great threat to the ecological system of Antarctica
- c. all tourist groups have signed the Antarctic Treaty
- d. the change in the Antarctic environment can be predicted

8. According to the passage, the Antarctic Treaty \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. is not enforced strictly
- b. has been outdated
- c. does not deal with the environmental problems in Antarctica
- d. is inadequate in protecting the region

9. The biggest concern of BAS is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. safety
- b. environmental protection

c. oil spills

d. diversity of species

10. Which of the following statements is true? \_\_\_\_\_

a. Antarctic tourism is rising dramatically by global standards.

b. Oil spills from large ships have caused serious damage to the Antarctic environment.

c. The negative impact human activities have on the Antarctic environment is hard to predict.

d. Antarctic tourism has caused global climate change.

### 3. Home Reading

## John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address

**W**e observe today not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom...symbolizing an end as well as a beginning...signifying renewal as well as change for I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

The world is very different now, for man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe...the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God. We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution.

Let the word go forth from this time and place...to friend and foe alike...that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans...born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage...and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today...at home and around the world.

Let every nation know...whether it wishes us well or ill...that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty. This much we pledge...and more...

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger; I do not shrink from this responsibility...I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it...and the glow from that fire can truly light the world...

...And so, my fellow Americans...ask not what your country can do for you...ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world...ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the Freedom of Man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds; let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

**Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false.**

1. President Kennedy said the people were celebrating the victory of the democratic party.
2. According to President Kennedy, the world is different today in the sense that we can destroy each other.
3. Man has got rid of all forms of human poverty.
4. The rights of man come from God.
5. The new generation of Americans will continue to uphold the revolutionary beliefs of the founding fathers.
6. President Kennedy felt his country was threatened by war.
7. President Kennedy has promised God that he would do his best to serve the people.

**Do the following multiple-choice questions.**

1. President Kennedy has promised God and \_\_\_\_\_ that he will continue to renew The United States.  
a. Congress                                      b. the American People                      c. Jacqueline
2. What should Americans not forget? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. to vote for Kennedy                      b. to pay taxes                                      c. what their ancestors created
3. What should friends and foes know? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. that the United States is powerful  
b. that a new generation of Americans are responsible for their government  
c. that the United States is governed by liberals
4. What is Kennedy's promise to the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. to support liberty  
b. to provide money to developing countries  
c. to visit each country at least once
5. What should Americans ask of America? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. how much their taxes will be  
b. what they can do for The United States?  
c. what the government will do for them
6. What should citizens of the world ask of America? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. how America can help them  
b. if America plans to invade their country  
c. what they can do for freedom
7. What should citizens of the USA and other nations require of The United States? \_\_\_\_\_  
a. that the USA is as honest and sacrifices as much as they do  
b. more money for support programs  
c. less interference with their own political systems

**Questions for consideration.**



1. What are the revolutionary beliefs upheld by the forebears?
2. This speech was delivered in 1961. Do you think that since then our world has changed dramatically?
3. What kind of threat did the Americans feel at that time?

## *Vocabulary and Notes for the Text*

acoustically /ə'ku:stikəli/	adv.	声音上,听觉上
commutable /kə'mju:təbl/	adj.	可以交换的
correspondence /,kɔris'pɒndəns/	n.	一致
intuition /,ɪntju:ɪʃən/	n.	直觉,直觉知识
convey /kən'vei/	v.	传递,表达
coherence /kəu'hiərəns/	n.	连贯性,一致
deception /di'sepʃən/	n.	欺骗,迷惑
intimate /'ɪntɪmɪt/	adj.	紧密的
mentality /men'tælɪti/	n.	心理状态
acuteness /ə'kjʊ:tnɪs/	n.	敏锐
integral number		整数
solitude /'sɒlɪtju:d/	n.	孤独
furnish /'fɜ:nɪʃ/	v.	装备,供给
Euclidian geometry		欧几里得几何,欧氏几何

## *Vocabulary and Notes for Home Reading*

solemn /'sɒləm/	adj.	严肃的,神圣的
oath /əuθ/	n.	宣誓,誓言
forebear /'fɔ:beə/	n.	祖先,祖宗
prescribe /prɪs'kraɪb/	v.	开药方,规定
heir /eə/	n.	继承人
foe /fəu/	n.	敌人
temper /'tempə/	v.	调和,抚慰
pledge /pledʒ/	v.	保证,许诺
conscience /'kɒnʃəns/	n.	良心,良知

# Unit 2

## Where We Go From Here

### *1. Text*

*As the scale of the horrific attack on our country sinks in, the inevitable questions are being asked about how our intelligence could have failed and what we should do next. But this is not the time for finger pointing.*

**W**hat is clear is that there has been a failure of international policy, not just by the US but by all western governments. We've all seen signs of this coming — in the attacks in the past on our embassies and in terrorism in the air. When I was in government under the Clinton administration, we tended to focus, as a policy matter, on the new threats we believed globalisation had unleashed by giving people the ability to travel freely and the information to produce weapons including weapons of mass destruction. But I don't think anyone expected terrorists would take over civilian aircraft with rudimentary weapons and use them as gigantic bombs.

The fingerprints of Osama bin Laden are all over this event. His organization has targeted the World Trade Center in the past and evidence of plans to take over large numbers of civilian airplanes emerged in the trials of terrorists linked to him. It is therefore reasonable to assume that he planned to take terrorism to the next level with fresh assaults on targets he had already identified.

I would expect the secretary of state to be making phone calls first to our NATO allies, then branching out to include the Russians, moderate Arab states and the Chinese to sensitize them to the depth of the US view: that this is an act of war, and that having been attacked in an act of war, the US has whatever justification an act of war gives us to respond.

Meanwhile the intelligence services and defence department will be gathering evidence, trying to identify the last known locations of Bin Laden and to draw up lists of the individuals who are the primary funders of his support network, not just in Afghanistan, but also in the Middle East, so that they can develop target lists. His network is wide but also thin and, Taliban aside, I do not believe it includes government sponsors per se.

After the diplomatic steps or “conditioning” of other countries, and assuming no formal state sponsor of this act of terror has been identified, the next step will be for the president to have the hard conversation. This will involve only a few people, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the secretary of defence, the secretary of state, the vice-president, and one or two others. (These conversations were had when I was in government and our embassies were bombed in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.) That discussion will acknowledge that intelligence is

limited but say that here are the bases, the locations, the people, as far as we can tell, and will cover the range of options for action.

The difficulty is that the least complicating power to use is air power, but that limits the ability to know whether you have achieved your objective when targeting individuals or destroying a group's capabilities. I believe the initial discussions of what force might be used in Afghanistan, if it comes to that, will place all options on the table, including the use of ground troops, although that would be enormously sensitive, complex and dangerous. The government will be very aware that it is dealing with a repeat offender.

I think it is seriously misguided to link yesterday's attack to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. People who don't understand the distinctions in the Islamic world tend to confuse the issues, but there is one simple fact to consider. Even when the Middle East talks were at their most hopeful and Palestinian leaders were optimistic about the prospects for peace, Bin Laden, driven by his own agenda over the US presence in Saudi Arabia and a warped view of American power, was plotting against the US.

It is a unique phenomenon for Americans to be subject to the vulnerabilities much of the rest of the world has grown used to, and the relentless pace of the 21st century news cycle will lead to pressure for immediate action. But I would expect the administration to act with extraordinary care. There will not be a rush to judgment, but the president will consult closely with leaders of Congress to act with deliberate speed.

### **Searching for Reason**

So it has come to this. The entire modern history of the Middle East the collapse of the Ottoman empire, the Balfour declaration, Lawrence of Arabia's lies, the Arab revolt, the foundation of the state of Israel, four Arab-Israeli wars and the 34 years of Israel's brutal occupation of Arab land all erased within hours as those who claim to represent a crushed, humiliated population struck back with the wickedness and awesome cruelty of a doomed people. Is it fair is it moral to write this so soon, without proof, when the last act of barbarism, in Oklahoma, turned out to be the work of home-grown Americans? I fear it is. America is at war and, unless I am mistaken, many thousands more are now scheduled to die in the Middle East, perhaps in America too. Some of us warned of "the explosion to come". But we never dreamt this nightmare.

And yes, Osama bin Laden comes to mind, his money, his theology, his frightening dedication to destroy American power. I have sat in front of bin Laden as he described how his men helped to destroy the Russian army in Afghanistan and thus the Soviet Union. Their boundless confidence allowed them to declare war on America. But this is not the war of democracy versus terror that the world will be asked to believe in the coming days. It is also about American missiles smashing into Palestinian homes and US helicopters firing missiles into a Lebanese ambulance in 1996 and American shells crashing into a village called Qana and about a Lebanese militia paid and uniformed by America's Israeli ally hacking and raping and murdering their way through refugee camps.

No, there is no doubting the utter, indescribable evil of what had happened in the United States. That Palestinians could celebrate the massacre of 20,000, perhaps 35,000 innocent people is not only a symbol of their despair but of their political immaturity, of their failure to