



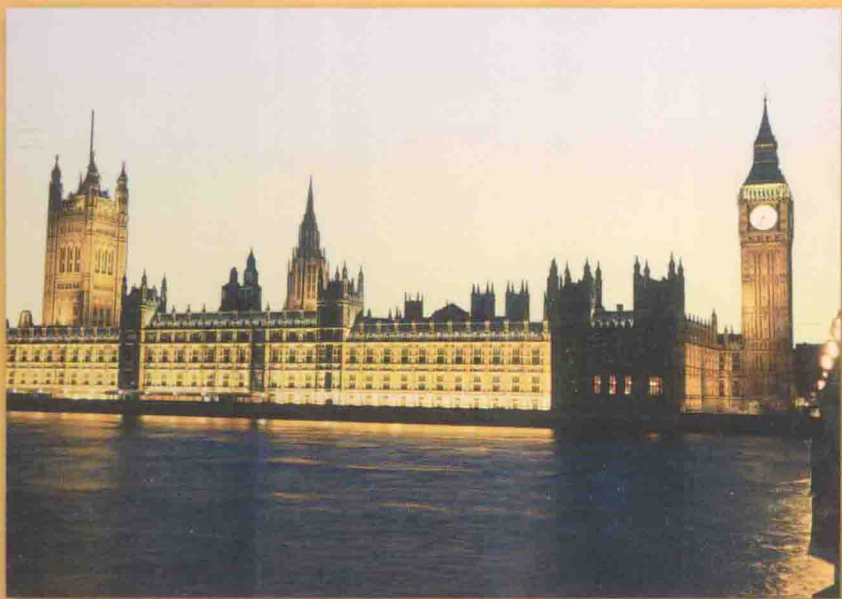
普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材

Selected Articles from American & British  
Newspapers & Magazines

# 美英报刊文章选读

下 册  
(第五版)

周学艺 郭丽萍 主编



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS



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Volume II

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## Lesson Twenty-four

### 课文导读

2009年发端于希腊的欧洲主权债务危机曾显现出向欧元区核心国家蔓延的态势,西班牙、爱尔兰、葡萄牙等国虽然与希腊病情各异,但都要求欧盟、IMF等救助。这严重阻碍欧洲乃至全球经济复苏的脚步。在作者看来,欧盟不是一个统一的国家,却在多国发行和实施统一的货币政策,一旦出事就难以调解。虽然希腊在加入欧元区之前,就已经出现腐败、偷漏税、高失业率等问题,但依靠其旅游和造船业仍可“维持生计”。在加入欧元区之后,希腊一度被认为是安全的投资之地。事实上,希腊经济表面繁荣,但国债高,通胀上升快。巨大的财政赤字和滞涨的经济状况使其变得日益缺乏竞争力。追根溯源,究竟是希腊导致了这场灾难还是欧盟及欧元体系的弊端将希腊卷入这场危机之中,使之成了牺牲品?希腊及整个欧元区经济的脱困之路又在何方?2008年诺贝尔经济学奖得主 Paul Krugman 主张扩大政府开支,而欧盟却与之相反,主张紧缩。这是自希腊经济危机以来一直在欧盟乃至全球争论的问题。

本文是一篇典型的经济评论,其观点只代表作者一家之言。同学们可以分析一下标题下方插图的含义。右边的球形代表哪个国家?它为何被欧元拴着?这与“Greece as Victim”标题有何联系?

### Pre-reading Questions

1. How much do you know about Greece, and its culture?
2. What are some of the important industries in the Greek economy?



## Text

**Greece as Victim**

By Paul Krugman

1 Ever since Greece hit the skids<sup>1</sup>, we've heard a lot about what's wrong with everything Greek. Some of the accusations are true, some are false—but all of them are beside the point<sup>2</sup>. Yes, there are big failings in Greece's economy, its politics and no doubt its society. But those failings aren't what caused the crisis that is tearing Greece apart, and threatens to spread across Europe.

2 No, the origins of this disaster lie farther north, in Brussels, Frankfurt and Berlin, where officials created a deeply—perhaps fatally—flawed monetary system, then compounded the problems of that system by substituting moralizing for analysis.<sup>3</sup> And the solution to the crisis, if there is one, will have to come from the same places.



3 So, about those Greek failings: Greece does indeed have a lot of corruption and a lot of tax evasion, and the Greek government has had a habit of living beyond its means. Beyond that, Greek labor productivity<sup>4</sup> is low by European standards—about 25 percent below the European Union<sup>5</sup> average. It's worth noting, however, that labor productivity in, say, Mississippi is similarly low by American standards—and by about the same margin.

4 On the other hand, many things you hear about Greece just aren't true. The Greeks aren't lazy—on the contrary, they work longer hours than almost anyone else in Europe, and much longer hours than the Germans in particular. Nor does Greece have a runaway welfare state, as conservatives like to claim; social expenditure as a percentage of G. D. P., the standard measure of the size of the welfare state, is substantially lower in Greece than in, say, Sweden or Germany, countries that have so far weathered the European crisis pretty well.

5 So how did Greece get into so much trouble? Blame the euro<sup>6</sup>.

6 Fifteen years ago Greece was no paradise, but it wasn't in crisis either.

Unemployment was high but not catastrophic, and the nation more or less paid its way on world markets, earning enough from exports, tourism, shipping and other sources to more or less pay for its imports.

7 Then Greece joined the euro, and a terrible thing happened: people started believing that it was a safe place to invest. Foreign money poured into Greece, some but not all of it financing government deficits<sup>7</sup>; the economy boomed; inflation rose; and Greece became increasingly uncompetitive. To be sure, the Greeks squandered much if not most of the money that came flooding in, but then so did everyone else who got caught up in the euro bubble.

8 And then the bubble burst, at which point the fundamental flaws in the whole euro system became all too apparent.

9 Ask yourself, why does the dollar area—also known as the United States of America—more or less work, without the kind of severe regional crises now afflicting Europe? The answer is that we have a strong central government, and the activities of this government in effect provide automatic bailouts to states that get in trouble.

10 Consider, for example, what would be happening to Florida right now, in the aftermath of its huge housing bubble<sup>8</sup>, if the state had to come up with the money for Social Security and Medicare<sup>9</sup> out of its own suddenly reduced revenues. Luckily for Florida, Washington rather than Tallahassee is picking up the tab, which means that Florida is in effect receiving a bailout on a scale no European nation could dream of<sup>10</sup>.

11 So Greece, although not without sin, is mainly in trouble thanks to the arrogance of European officials, mostly from richer countries, who convinced themselves that they could make a single currency work without a single government. And these same officials have made the situation even worse by insisting, in the teeth of<sup>11</sup> the evidence, that all the currency's troubles were caused by irresponsible behavior on the part of those Southern Europeans, and that everything would work out if only people were willing to suffer some more.

12 Which brings us to Sunday's Greek election<sup>12</sup>, which ended up settling nothing. The governing coalition<sup>13</sup> may have managed to stay in power<sup>14</sup>, although even that's not clear (the junior partner in the coalition is threatening to defect). But the Greeks can't solve this crisis anyway.

- 13 The only way the euro might—might—be saved is if the Germans and the European Central Bank<sup>15</sup> realize that they're the ones who need to change their behavior, spending more and, yes, accepting higher inflation. If not—well, Greece will basically go down in history as the victim of other people's hubris. (From *The New York Times*, June 17, 2012)

### **New Words**

- afflict** /ə'flɪkt/ *v.* to affect sb/sth in an unpleasant or harmful way
- aftermath** /'ɑ:ftəmæθ/ *n.* the period of time after sth such as a war, storm, or accident when people are still dealing with the results
- arrogance** /'ærəgəns/ *n.* a feeling or an impression of superiority; pride; haughtiness 傲慢 (*cf* hubris)
- catastrophic** /'kætə'strɒfɪk/ *adj.* causing a lot of destruction, suffering, or death; disastrous;
- compound** /'kɒmpaʊnd/ *v.* to make a difficult situation worse by adding more problems 使严重
- conservative** /kən'sɜ:vətɪv/ *n.* sb who likes old and established ways and doesn't like change, esp. sudden change 保守派人士
- defect** /'di:fekt/ *v.* to desert a political party, group, or country, esp. in order to join an opposing one 变节, 叛变, 脱离
- deficit** /'defɪsɪt/ *n.* the amount by which money spent or owed is greater than money earned in a particular period of time 赤字
- evasion** /ɪ'veɪʒn/ *n.* the act of avoiding sb or sth that you are supposed to do
- flawed** /flɔ:d/ *adj.* spoiled by having mistakes, weaknesses 有缺陷的
- Florida** /'flɒrɪdə/ *n.* a state in the southeast U. S.
- hubris** /'hju:brɪs/ *n.* *fml* too much pride (*cf* arrogance)
- inflation** /ɪn'fleɪʃn/ *n.* (the rate of) a continuing rise in prices 通货膨胀
- monetary** /'mɒnɪtri/ *adj.* of or about money, esp. all the money in a country
- moralize** /'mɒrəlaɪz/ *v.* to tell other people your ideas about right and wrong behaviour, esp. when they have not asked for your opinion 说教
- revenue** /'revənju:/ *n.* money that the government receives from tax 税收
- runaway** /'rʌnəweɪ/ *adj.* out of control
- squander** /'skwɒndə(r)/ *v.* to waste money, time, etc., in a stupid or careless way 挥霍, 浪费
- substantially** /səb'stænjəli/ *adv.* considerably; a lot

**weather** /'weðə(r)/ *v.* to come through (something) safely; survive

### Notes

1. hit the skids—*AmE sl.* to decline; decrease in value or status; (*fig.*) go downhill
2. beside the point—has nothing to do with the main subject
3. No, the origins of this disaster ... for analysis.—The origin of the Greek crisis lies in the EU, whose officials created a completely wrong and fatal monetary system, i. e. the euro system. And they made the problems of the euro system more complicated because they don't want to analyze the reasons for those problems, instead, they tried to convince people that there is no problem in their system. 此处 Brussels, Frankfurt 和 Berlin 都是欧盟重要机构所在地, 用作指代, 是新闻用语修辞格的一个特点。
  - a. Brussels—It is not only the capital of Belgium (比利时) but also serves as capital of the European Union (欧盟总部所在地), hosting the major political institutions of the Union. It is called the capital of Europe. At the same time, the headquarters of NATO (北大西洋公约组织) is also set up in Brussels. 布鲁塞尔
  - b. Frankfurt—Germany's commercial, industrial, financial and transportation center, and the largest financial centre in the Eurozone (欧元区). The European Central Bank (ECB, 欧洲央行) is also headquartered there. In 19th of October 2011, "Frankfurt Group" (法兰克福集团) was born. The inner circle comprises of the leaders of Germany and France, the presidents of the European Commission (欧委会主席) and the European Council of EU leaders (欧盟理事会主席), the heads of the ECB (欧洲央行) and IMF (世界货币基金组织), the chairman of Eurogroup finance ministers (欧元区财长会议主席), and the European commissioner for economic and financial affairs (欧盟经济及货币事务委员).
  - c. Berlin—the capital and largest city of Germany. According to a Reuters report on Nov. 19, 2011, Berlin (here referring to the government of Germany) is the biggest contributor to Greek emergency lending programs, which wants Greece to buy back half of its outstanding bonds (债券) from private investors at 25 percent of their value as one way to reduce its unsustainable debt.

4. labor productivity—A measurement of economic growth of a country. Labor productivity measures the amount of goods and services produced by one hour of labor. More specifically, it measures the amount of real GDP produced by an hour of labor. Growing labor productivity depends on three main factors: investment and saving in physical capital(实物资本), new technology and human capital(人力资本). 劳动生产率
5. European Union (EU)—with its headquarters in Brussels, is an international organization comprising 28 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies. The EU was created by the Maastricht Treaty(《马斯特里赫特条约》,简称《马约》), which entered into force on November 1, 1993. Institutions of the EU include the European Commission(欧盟委员会), the Council of the European Union(欧盟理事会), the Court of Justice of the European Union(欧盟法院), the European Central Bank(欧洲中央银行), the Court of Auditors(欧盟审计院), and the European Parliament(欧洲议会). With a combined population of over 500 million inhabitants, or 7.3% of the world population, the EU in 2012 generated a nominal gross domestic product (GDP) of 16.584 trillion US dollars, representing the largest nominal GDP in the world.
6. euro—Introduced in 1999, it is now the currency used by the Institutions of the EU and is the official currency of the eurozone, which consists of 17 of the 27 member states of the European Union. The euro is the second largest reserve currency(储备货币)as well as the second most traded currency in the world after the U. S. dollar. As of March 2013, with almost 920 billion in circulation, the euro has the highest combined value of banknotes and coins in circulation in the world, having surpassed the U. S. dollar.
7. financing government deficits—supplying money to fill the gap of government deficits. It was reported that the Greek government budget deficits was equal to 10 percent of the country's GDP in 2012. 政府赤字
8. housing bubble—The U. S. housing bubble is an economic bubble affecting many parts of the United States housing market in over half of American states. Housing prices peaked in early 2006, started to decline in 2006 and 2007, and reached new lows in 2012.

In 2008, when the subprime mortgage crisis(次贷危机)began, the home price index reported its largest price drop in its history. Florida is one of the states most strongly affected. The credit crisis resulting from the bursting of the housing bubble is the primary cause of the 2007—2009 recession in the U. S.

9. Social Security and Medicare

a. Social Security—a U. S. social insurance program funded through dedicated payroll taxes called FICA (联邦保险捐助条例). It is used to refer to the benefits for retirement, disability, survivorship, and death—the four main benefits provided by traditional private—sector pension plans. The U. S. Social Security program is the largest government program in the world. 社会保障计划

b. Medicare—here referring to U. S. Medicare Insurance Plans for Seniors. 扶老医疗保健计划(*cf.* Medicaid 济贫助残医疗计划)

10. Luckily for Florida. . . no European nation could dream of. —对佛罗里达州来说幸运的是,为此买单的是华盛顿而不是塔拉哈西。这意味着佛州得到的是一次欧洲国家根本无法企及的大规模财政援助。

a. Tallahassee—the state capital of Florida, USA. (塔拉哈西,佛州首府,此处借指佛州政府)

b. pick up the tab—to pay the bill

c. bailout—a rescue from financial difficulties 注资救助

11. in the teeth of—against the strength of; in spite of opposition from (对抗;不顾)

12. Which brings us to Sunday's Greek election. . . —Sunday's Greek election is held in this context. (句首的“Which”用作代词,相当于“this”或“that”。)

Sunday's Greek election—the Greek legislative election(国会选举)that took place on June 17, 2012.

13. The governing coalition—希腊在2012年5月议会选举后无法形成联合政府,遂按照宪法于6月再举行大选。希腊总统召集党派领袖商讨,但无法达成共识,遂根据宪法解散新当选的议会,并举行新一届国会选举。最终新民主党获得129席位居第一,左翼联盟获得71席位列第二。由于支持紧缩政策的两个政党——新民主党与泛希腊社会运动党共取得162席,刚好过半数,在联合了民主左派后,组成三党执政联盟。

14. in power—holding the position of having political control of a country or government (*cf* in office, out of power/office)
15. the European Central Bank (ECB)—It is the central bank for the euro and manages the monetary policy (货币政策) of the 17 EU member states which constitute the Eurozone. Its primary objective is to maintain price stability within the Eurozone, which is the same as keeping inflation (通货膨胀) low and preventing deflation (通货紧缩). 欧洲央行

### Questions

1. Are there any failings in Greece's economy? What are they?
2. What happened after Greece became a member of the euro zone?
3. Why is the Florida housing bubble mentioned in the text?
4. Is it possible for the euro to be saved? How?
5. According to the author, what are the causes of the Greek debt crisis?

### 语言解说

#### 借喻词和提喻词(I)

报刊中多借喻词和提喻词,与委婉语、竞选用语和法律语言等相比较易理解,不过得具有较广泛的文化背景知识。

凡世界各国首都均可指代所在国及其政府,凡战争地、协议签订地和重要机构的总部所在地也均可用来喻指此战争、协议和该机构。地名是这两种修辞格里用得较多的。如本文的 Berlin, Washington, Tallahassee, Brussels, Frankfurt 就是典型的例子。

#### 一、借喻法

##### 1. 常见借喻法

借一事物的名称指代另一事物,称为借喻或借代法(*metonymy*),如以 the Crown 喻指“皇室事务”,Pentagon 指代“美国防部”,the blue helmets 喻“联合国维和部队”等。英语中往往用一个词代表整个事件或

背景。在现代英美报刊语言中常见到以地名或国名代表整个事件。<sup>①</sup>如 Vietnam/Viet Nam 指“越南战争”，Bosnia 是“波黑”的简称，喻“波黑战争”，Hungary 指“匈牙利事件”，the Gulf“海湾战争”，Dayton“代顿协议”或代顿和平协议，Post-Soviet 苏联解体后，等等。见例句：

(1) Yet in the years since **Vietnam**, critics in and out of uniform have repeatedly charged that too many officers have become cautious bureaucrats, adept at Pentagon politics perhaps, but interested more in advancing their careers than in preparing for the brutal exigencies of combat. (*Time*)

然而，自从越南战争开始以来的年代中，军内外批评家一再指责道……

(2) Once the political chaff is dusted away, the minidebate over **Bosnia** is instructive. Both Bush and Clinton were saying the same thing. (*Time*)

这是《时代》周刊报道 1992 年美国大选时，老布什代表共和党总统候选人与民主党候选人克林顿进行电视总统候选人的辩论，此例中的 Bosnia 指的就是借喻“波黑战争”。political chaff 指的是“竞选废话”。

(3) Washington concluded after **Dayton**, when NATO bombers seemed to bring him [Milosevic] to the negotiating table... (*Time*)

Dayton 为美国俄亥俄州一城市，是波黑和平协议签订地。此例不能说“代顿后美国断定……”。这里的 Dayton 是指 1995 年关于结束波黑内战和版图划分等而达成的协议，称为 the Dayton (Peace) accords，“代顿(和平)协议”。这样就好理解了。其正式名称应是“Bosnia and Herzegovina Peace Agreements”。

## 2. 另类借喻法

陆国强先生在论及借代曾举 November 等词语为例说明：“在涉及美国初选或大选时，报刊常以词代事的方式进行报道。”<sup>②</sup>

现在用年份(缩略词)可指代选举及经济情况，如“The Economy Sucks. But Is It '92 Redux?”(2008/1/21 *Newsweek*) (经济不振，是否是 1992 年大选时经济情况和大选形势的翻版？当时因老布什执政时经济衰退，竞选连任败给了克林顿)。此外，还可借喻战争。如：

The decisive step toward victory in Iraq, say military officials, will be to crush Saddam's elite Republican Guard. At least three Guard

① 陆国强：现代英语词汇学，上海外语教育出版社，1983 年，第 66 页。

② 同上，第 67 页。



divisions are massed outside Baghdad, facing the American invaders. In '91, the Americans used air power and their superior armor to badly maul some of these same Republican Guard divisions. But it is often overlooked that several of the Guard battalions stood and fought and then made an orderly retreat, living to fight again another day. (2003/4/7 *Newsweek*)

此例中的“'91”指1991年以美国为首的联军发动的第一次伊拉克战争。这种以年份或日期指代战争或事件如英文里用9/11指2001年“9·11”恐怖袭击事件,也是报刊中常用的一种形式,正如since 1949指代新中国成立。

## 二、提喻法

以局部代表全体,或以全体喻指部分,称为提喻或举隅法(synecdoche synecdoche),报刊中较普遍,例如:Bosnia代表“波黑”,London代表英国,Kremlin(克里姆林宫)代表苏联,(现)俄罗斯,Washington代表美国,还可代表东部,如Washington mafia,喻指东部权势集团,cutthroat代表assassin(暗杀)或murder。

## 三、一词数义

为避免用词重复、使读者产生联想等原因,作者常使用这两种修辞手段。在报刊文章中,为简约、换词等目的,这两种喻词用得尤其多。如Foggy Bottom(雾谷),是美国首都华盛顿一地名,国务院所在地,喻“国务院”,在修辞格里称借代法。又因其外交政策像雾蒙蒙的深山低谷一样模糊不清,令人难以捉摸,颇像“雾”底洞”,因此又用做隐喻(metaphor)来比喻“国务院的政策”。再如Washington做借喻指“美国或联邦政府”,做提喻指“美国”,做隐语可比喻为“贪污腐败(corruption)、尔虞我诈(fraud)和铺张浪费(waste)的官场”。