

滕继萌 吴中东 主编

The Gems of English Newspaper Reading

英语时尚阅读文选



中国三峡出版社

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主 编 滕继萌
副主编 吴中东
编 者 滕继萌 吴中东
张 斌 张凤起

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<http://www.e-zgsx.com>

E-mail: sanxiah@sina.com

ybs5193@163.com (编辑部)

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前 言

随着中国改革开放步伐的逐步加快,中国的社会和经济生活愈加呈现出强劲的都市化、国际化趋势。其表现形式之一便是电视、报刊、杂志以及互联网等新闻媒体越来越成为中国生活中不可缺少的一部分,中国社会的公共文化空间早已为大众传媒所充斥。从很大程度上讲,中国社会正面临着一次新的“信息革命”或曰“资讯爆炸”。而外文报刊,尤其是阅读英文报刊文章,不仅可以学习到先进的科学技术和文化知识,可以“长才”,而且对那些高层次的读者来说,则可以“博采”,更可以“怡情”。当然,面对这场新的“资讯爆炸”,对于那些视知识与信息为“甘露”的广大语言学习者和信息工作者来说,也同样面临着—场新的阅读革命。

本书的主要编写者大多为国内著名外语院校英语系(北京外国语大学和国际关系学院等)从事多年英语教学工作的一线教师,他们深知中国学生在阅读,尤其是在阅读英美报刊方面所存在的问题和困惑,因此,他们的设计和选材具有较强的针对性和实用性。

中国学生阅读英文报刊存在三大问题:

首先是单词量、个人阅读习惯等问题。中国读者缺乏对英文报刊文体的整体了解。要读懂、读通英文报刊文章就必须首先了解新闻体文章的特点。总的来说,新闻体体裁的文章往往有其固有的特点。好的新闻体文章的特点是大多以记叙文为主,也就是说大部分的新闻体文章是以事实报道为主,间或有作者的少许议论。例如,美国的《纽约时报》、《华盛顿邮报》以及《国际先驱论坛报》、英国的《泰晤士报》、《独立报》等等都在头版(frontpage)开辟专栏对时下重大的国际和国内事件进行报道。当然,上述世界著名报刊总是设有专门的时事评论版,即社论(editorial)专栏;从内容上讲,新闻体文章内容丰富多样且长短适中,所谓多样性,也就是说他的内容包罗万象,从政治经济到社会文化,从体育到时装,从时事评论到新闻特写,从人物专访到影视书评,甚至讲解行文造句(如《纽约时报》专栏作家威廉·萨菲尔的“语言板块”)等等无不尽收“囊中”;所谓长短适中,往往是指其内容言简意赅,篇幅短小精悍,可以使读者在短时间内获取大量第一手资料或信息。

其次,阅读英美报刊的基础之基础还在于掌握必要的新闻英语词汇并具有扎实的文化背景知识。也就是说,在阅读报刊之前,必须掌握相关的专业单词,如press(报纸),quality press(高档次的报刊),popular press(通俗报刊),tabloid(小报),editor(编辑),journalist(新闻记者),columnist(专栏作家),story(报道),piece(一则新闻),circulation(发行量),readership(读者人数),print media(印刷媒体),electronic media(电子媒体),news media(新闻媒体)等。

再次,就是熟悉英美文化背景下的新闻报道语境。在西方盛行的新闻体制下,新闻从业者一直被尊捧为“无冕之王”,新闻记者笔下的文字既是针砭时弊的利剑,又是传播时事文化的工具。因此,在阅读英美报刊时,必须对英美报刊所涵盖的时事和历史背景有所了解。例如,2001年12月11日的《国际先驱论坛报》在“读者来信”栏目中刊登了乔治·哈里森去世的文章。其中有一句话便具有强烈的讽刺性和背景知识内涵。该句内容如下:“That George Harrison's death from cancer at 58 was treated as epochal is redundant evidence of the baby

boomers' infinite narcissism.”理解此句的关键在于知晓乔治·哈理森为何许人物，以及 baby boomers 指代哪些人。当然这句话中还有另一个难懂的字，即 narcissism。首先，乔治·哈理森曾经被誉为 60 年代全球青年“反主流文化”的代言人——前英国摇滚乐队“甲壳虫”乐队的吉他手及主唱之一。而关键之关键则是“baby boomers”这一短语，该短语有其特殊含义，主要是指 1945~1965 年这 20 年“生育高峰期”出生的一代美国人，他们构成了当代美国政治、经济以及文化知识领域的精英阶层，如美国前总统克林顿、副总统戈尔和现任总统布什等人均属于这一代人。当然，此句中的 narcissism 则源自希腊神话中的那位因爱恋自己水中倒影最终憔悴而死的美少年那喀索斯(Narcissus)。作者之所以使用该字，意在讽刺那些自视甚高且拥有某些致命弱点的一代“风流人物”。因此，在阅读英美报刊文章之时必须对英美社会文化常识有所了解，否则读来读去也只能是云里雾里，不知所云。

除此之外，阅读英美报刊也涉及一些基本的阅读技巧，其中主要以快速阅读技巧中的 skimming，即略读为主。据笔者在美期间的考察，美国大学生的基本阅读速度为每分钟 240 至 270 个字左右。而目前中国学生阅读的通病是速度慢，究其原因就是“贪多”、“求全”，此等做法是报刊阅读之大忌，因为报刊文章要么叙事，要么评论，阅读的目的大多是为掌握信息、把握作者观点，因而宜采用“一目十行”之略读方法进行报刊阅读，切忌咬文嚼字、管窥蠡测。

本书共选英美时尚文章 60 篇，每篇文章包括正文、词汇表、注解、导读、阅读理解题五个部分。五个部分环环相扣，使读者能够轻松地驾驭。为了检验学生阅读的效果，本书在编写的过程中还特意设计了许多阅读理解试题，目的是帮助广大读者在阅读之后有效地检验阅读的效果。此外，为了更好地帮助读者在短时间内掌握当前英美社会的流行话题，我们为每一篇课文都提供了详细的导读，使读者在阅读之余能够领略全球最新的政治、经济、科技以及文化动态。这是本书的一大特点。

本书在编写过程中得到北京外国语大学梅仁毅教授的指导，得到郭熙林、李晓微、王琪、赵杰和杜逾舸等同学的大力协助，在此一并表示感谢。

编者



目录

1. **Has Everything Changed Since Sept. 11? Maybe Not**
9.11 之后发生翻天覆地之变化? 或许没有 /1
2. **U.S. Returning to Deficits as Costs of Attack Mount**
军事打击造成美国重返赤字 /5
3. **A Nation in Mourning Forces Entertainers to Rethink Their Roles**
举国悲恸, 娱乐人重新审视自己的角色 /10
4. **Patriots at the Mall**
爱国在商场 /16
5. **The Essence of Blair's Revolution**
布莱尔革命之精髓 /20
6. **Buddha Bashing**
佛毁人怨 /25
7. **Stuck in the Middle**
进退维谷 /29
8. **Dope: A Love Story**
毒品: 瘾君子之恋 /33
9. **Spreading the Message**
广而唱之: 非洲歌后为防治爱滋病而呐喊 /37
10. **New Agents of Change**
变革之新动力 /41
11. **The Disgrace in Durban**
德班之辱 /46



- 12. Coloring the Campus**
校园内的种族歧视 /50
- 13. Wind Storm**
《飘》，风波再起 /56
- 14. ‘Safe’ Grammys Play It ‘Edgy’**
“安全第一” 格莱美，另类歌手惹是非 /60
- 15. Hollywood Studios Find Needed Cash Overseas**
好莱坞捉襟见肘，渴望海外投资 /65
- 16. Cultural Rebirth – Dynamics of Historical Change**
文化振兴——历史前进的动力 /70
- 17. A Book Review of “Forged in Battle”**
书评：战地友谊 热血铸就 /74
- 18. Children’s Literature—a force that put an end to slavery**
儿童文学——一个结束奴隶制的强力武器 /77
- 19. Why Did the Mideast Fall Behind in Trade?**
中东贸易之衰 /80
- 20. Not Just for Kids Anymore**
严肃漫画，老少皆宜 /85
- 21. A Time for Parenting**
父母相伴，处惊不乱 /89
- 22. Dangerous Dating**
危险的幽会 /93



23. Talking About My Generation

谈论我们这一代 /96

24. Puppy Love's Bite

早恋之隐患 /100

25. Making Brands Work around the World

全球化，名牌走天下 /103

26. Brand Worship and the Name Game

名牌崇拜与名字游戏 /107

27. Cheering the May Day Radicals

为异议者而欢呼——兼听则明 /111

28. Embracing the Enemy is Good Business

化敌为友——惟此为尚 /116

29. The Privilege, and Power, of a Small World

世界变小，利乎？力乎 /120

30. For This Year, Look to the Lessons of 2000, and Diversify That Portfolio

往事不忘，今事之师：股票今年花着买 /124

31. U.S. Growth Industry: Longer Days at Work

美国发展工业之代价——工时延长 /129

32. Be Productive—Hit the Beach

生产力之源泉：劳逸结合 /133

33. Compaq: Fiorina's Folly or HP's Only Way Out?

康柏：可否救惠普于穷途末路 /137



34. We All Work For Dot – Coms Now

网络无所不在 /142

35. Next Education Frontier

教育之新前沿 /146

36. Mind Over eMatter

关注 eMatter /150

37. Searching the Web

网上搜索 /155

38. Hacker's Paradise

黑客的乐园 /160

39. Faith at the speed of Light

祷告软件 /165

40. Quick, Hide the Tanks

绝密卫星不保密 /169

41. Testifying of a Hypothesis

一个假说的证实 /173

42. Bag Those Beams

兜走光柱 /176

43. Righting One Wrong Tower

扶正斜塔 /180

44. Dried Out

干涸 /184



45. Tokyo to New York with One Stop — Space

东京至纽约一站之隔 /190

46. Here Comes the Sun

太阳出来了 /194

47. Will We Meet E.T.?

奇遇天外来客可能吗 /197

48. Will We Live on Mars?

向火星移民可能吗 /202

49. Cellular Divide

细胞分裂 /208

50. Noah's New Ark

诺亚之新方舟 /216

51. Tracking Anthrax

追踪炭疽疫 /220

52. The Artificial Heart, Revisited

再看人造心脏 /228

53. Canine Candy Stripers

狗——体贴的小护士 /232

54. Drugs, scalpel... and faith?

药乎? 手术刀乎? 信仰乎 /237

55. Cancer Made to Order

控制癌症 /241



56. Jet Lag Can Shrink Your Brain, Research Says

飞行时差有损大脑 /245

57. How Real Is the Placebo Effect

安慰剂效果的真与伪 /249

58. The God Game No More

别了，上帝之游戏 /254

59. Foot - and - Mouth is Only the Symptom

口蹄疫——政府无能之表现 /258

60. Designer Babies

设计婴儿 /262

1. Has Everything Changed Since Sept. 11? Maybe Not

9.11 之后发生翻天覆地之变化？或许没有

© By Michael Kinsley

世贸大楼轰然坍塌，似乎将美国人许久未曾受到挑战的自信也一并摧垮。此后，新闻媒体的大肆渲染，政客们鼓动战争的煽动性演说，将一股深深的危机感与恐惧感注入人们心中。因此，这起灾难发生后不久，美国各地发生了数起针对阿拉伯裔移民的暴力事件，纽约市民的心理状态极不稳定，应激能力下降。这都是灾难给人们心理造成影响的表现。危机不是没有，但最严重的可能还是信心危机。

Redmond. Washington - Years ago, as a tourist in Vienna, I met an old lady who called herself “the Prinzessin” and claimed to be a Hapsburg princess, now reduced to the status of tour guide^①. Among her overpolished anecdotes was an item about complaining to her mother one day during her childhood that life was boring. “The next day,” she said, “we heard that Archduke Franz Ferdinand^② had been shot.” Pause for effect. “And life was never boring anymore.”

The notion that there are days when history swings on a pivot is irresistible and, to some extent, valid^③. The shooting of the archduke that started World War I ... the bombing of Pearl Harbor^④ ... the Kennedy assassination^⑤. Before: innocence and sun-dappled lawns. Afterward: knowledge, modernity and darkness. Will Sept. 11, 2001, really turn out to have been one of those days? A horrible day, certainly, and—yes—a day that will live in infamy^⑥. But a day when life changed dramatically and permanently for everyone, at least in America? Maybe so, but there are excellent reasons to avoid leaping to that conclusion if it can be avoided.

For journalists and politicians, the apocalyptic note is irresistible. No crude theorizing about ratings or votes is required. It's just the nature of journalism to make “this is more important than

Vocabulary:

overpolished ['ouvə'pɒlɪʃd] *a.* 过分优雅的
anecdote ['ænikdəut] *n.* 轶事，秘闻

Archduke ['ɑ:tfɔ:dʒuk] *n.* 大公 (昔时公国君主，特别是奥匈帝国皇太子的称号)

notion ['nouʃən] *n.* 看法，观念

pivot ['pɪvət] *n.* 中枢，枢纽

irresistible [,iri'zɪstəbl] *a.* 不容反驳的

valid ['vælid] *a.* 有根据的

assassination [ə'sæsi'neɪʃən] *n.* 暗杀

innocence ['ɪnəns] *n.* 天真，单纯

sun-dappled *a.* 日影斑驳的

modernity [mɒ'dɜ:nɪti] *n.*

现代化，现代事物

infamy ['ɪnfəmi] *n.* 臭名昭著，羞耻

apocalyptic [ə'pɒkəliptɪk] *a.*

预示世界末日的

crude [kru:d] *a.* 粗略的

rating ['reɪtɪŋ] *n.* 评定结果

you think” a subtext of every story^⑦. And when you’ve devalued concepts like “crisis” and “war,” as TV news especially has done in recent years, apocalypse is about all you have left when a story this big comes along^⑧. As for pols, they are natural hyperbolizers who are not disposed to conclude that a national crisis is smaller than it seems^⑨.

There is a logical contradiction among the official clichés of the moment that “everything has changed” and “this means war.” Victory in the war against terrorism consists precisely of everything not changing. If life has changed permanently and dramatically for the worse, terrorism has won the war. In fact, if people become convinced that, say, getting on an airplane is wildly riskier than they previously thought, terrorism has won whether that is objectively true or not.

“Everything has changed” can also become a self-fulfilling prophecy in terms of the economy, where consumer confidence matters a lot more than the direct costs of terrorism itself. Being told again and again that life from now on will be unrecognizable doesn’t exactly make me want to rush out to Wal-Mart^⑩.

Certainly it’s ironic that so many Americans seem convinced life was wonderful until last week and will be terrible from now on. For over a decade until last week, the mantra of American politics was “change.” Voters demanded it, politicians of all stripes promised it. Now “everything has changed,” and Americans don’t like it one bit. They long for the lost world of Sept. 10.

For thousands of Americans directly affected by the attack, life has indeed changed tragically. But for most it’s too early to say whether everyday life will be permanently and dramatically altered.

While flag-waving is an appropriate and moving response to a frontal attack on the country, there are a couple of wrong notes in the current national chorus. One is bullying, always the underside of patriotism. More novel, more disturbing and more characteristic of America today is the theme of victimization. Oh, poor us. Americans need grief counseling, candlelight vigils, little ribbons to wear.^⑪

In the case of a president who must suddenly rally people to an unexpected cause, a bit of hyperbole is understandable. The danger for George W. Bush is that he is promising total victory

subtext ['sʌbtekst] *n.* 潜台词

devalue ['di: 'vælju:] *v.* 降低…的价值

apocalypse [ə 'pɒkəlips] *n.* (宗)天启, 启示(尤指预示世上大动乱)

hyperbolizer [hai 'pɒləlaɪzə] *n.*

爱夸大其辞的人

disposed [dis 'pəʊzd] *adj.* 乐意的

contradiction [,kɒntrə 'dɪkʃən] *n.* 矛盾

cliché ['kli:ʃeɪ; kli: 'ʃeɪ] *n.* 陈词滥调

terrorism ['terərizəm] *n.* 恐怖主义

self-fulfilling *a.* (预言等)本身自然会实现的

prophecy ['prɒfisi] *n.* 预言

unrecognizable ['ʌn 'rekəgnaɪzəbl] *a.*

无法识别的

ironic [ai 'rɒnik] *a.* 具有讽刺意味的

mantra ['mæntərə] *n.*

(印度教和大乘佛教中的)祷文, 符咒

stripe [straɪp] *n.* (人的)类型

flag-waving *n.* 爱国情绪的强烈表现

frontal ['frʌntl] *a.* 正面的

chorus ['kɔ:əs] *n.* 合唱

bully ['buli] *v.* 威吓, 胁迫

underside ['ʌndəsaɪd] *n.* 阴暗面

patriotism ['pætriətɪzəm, 'peɪtriətɪzəm] *n.* 爱国主义

novel ['nɒvl] *a.* 新颖的

victimization ['vɪktɪməɪzɪʃən] *n.* 牺牲

counseling ['kaʊnsəlɪŋ] *n.* 咨询服务

vigil ['vɪdʒɪl] *n.* (祈祷)守夜

rally ['ræli] *v.* 召集

when that is not really possible or even, in a way, necessary. Terrorism is not “an enemy” that can be defeated. It is an infinite variety of tactics available to any enemy¹². Particular enemies can be defeated and terrorism in general can be discouraged, but the possibility can never be eliminated.

Life was riskier than Americans realized before Sept. 11 and is not as risky as they fear now. Resisting the conclusion that everything has changed is one way to help prevent it from being true.

Adapted from *International Herald Tribune*

eliminate [i ' limeɪt] v. 根除

Notes

① Years ago, as a tourist in Vienna, I met an old lady who called herself “the Prinzessin” and claimed to be a Hapsburg princess, now reduced to the status of tour guide. 多年前, 当我在维也纳旅游时, 遇到一位自称“公主”的老妇人。她说自己是哈布斯堡王朝的一位公主, 但现在却落魄到靠当导游为生。Hapsburg: 哈布斯堡王朝, 是欧洲最古老的王室家族, 其成员从 1273 年到 1918 年之间当过罗马帝国、西班牙、奥地利、奥匈帝国的皇帝或国王。“prinzessin”是带德语口音的“princess”的发音。

② Archduke Franz Ferdinand 1914 年 6 月 28 日, 奥匈帝国皇储弗兰茨·斐迪南大公为对塞尔维亚炫耀武力, 到波斯尼亚检阅军队, 在萨拉热窝被塞尔维亚“青年波斯尼亚”成员刺杀。这一事件成为第一次世界大战的导火索。

③ The notion that there are days when history swings on a pivot is irresistible and, to some extent, valid. 认为有些日子是历史发生重大转变的时机的观点是不容反驳的, 在某种程度上也是有道理的。swing on a pivot: 以某一支点为中心旋转, 意为发生重大转变。

④ the bombing of Pearl Harbor: 1941 年 12 月 7 日清晨, 日本军队偷袭美国在太平洋最大的海空军基地—夏威夷群岛的珍珠港, 造成美军重大损失。由此美英两国对日宣战。第二次世界大战的太平洋战场开战。

⑤ the Kennedy assassination 约翰·F·肯尼迪(1917-1963), 美国第 35 任总统, 在职期间经历古巴导弹危机和柏林危机, 缔结美、苏、英禁止核试验条约, 组织拉丁美洲“争取进步同盟”, 1963 年 11 月 22 日在得克萨斯州的达拉斯遇刺身亡。对许多美国人来说, 肯尼迪的遇刺象征着一个辉煌时代的结束。

⑥ A horrible day, certainly, and - yes - a day that will live in infamy. 毫无疑问, 这是一个可怕的日子, 一个将永远活在耻辱中的日子。

⑦ It's just the nature of journalism to make “this is more important than you think”, a subtext of every story. 新闻业的本质就是让你觉得“这比你想像得重要得多”, 这也是所有新闻报道后的潜台词。

⑧ And when you've devalued concepts like “crisis” and “war” as TV news especially has done in recent years, apocalypse is about all you have left when a story this big comes along. 如果你也贬低了“危机”、“战争”等概念的价值, 就像新闻媒体近年来动不动就提“危机”、“战争”等字眼, 那么按眼前的事态规模发展下去, 得出的结论只会是: 世界末日到了。

⑨ As for pols, they are natural hyperbolizers who are not disposed to conclude that a national crisis is smaller than it seems. 政客们则天生爱夸大其辞, 他们绝不会得出这样的结论: 国家危机并不像看上去那么严重。此句中的pols是politicians的缩写, 此处为政客的蔑视。

⑩ Wal-Mart 沃尔玛, 全球最大的零售商, 在全球各地都设有连锁店。

⑪ Americans need grief counseling, candlelight vigils, little ribbons to wear. 美国人所要做的, 是接受缓解悲伤的心理咨询, 点起烛光为亡人祝祷守夜, 并扎上丝带以示悼念。

⑫ Terrorism is not “an enemy” that can be defeated. It is an infinite variety of tactics available to any enemy. 恐怖主义并不是一个可以被击败的“敌人”, 而是可供任何敌人选择的数不胜数的战术策略。

Questions

1. What is the author's main argument?
 - A. Sept. 11 tragedy may not overturn people's lives.
 - B. Sept. 11 had changed people's lives forever.
 - C. Life is riskier after Sept. 11.
 - D. History swings on a pivot.
2. According to the author, “Everything has changed” is especially dangerous to the economy because _____.
 - A. it will influence consumers' confidence
 - B. the cost of terrorism is high
 - C. it promotes people's confidence
 - D. it will defeat sellers' confidence
3. What does the author imply by “Americans need grief counseling, candlelight vigils, little ribbons to wear”? (para. 8)
 - A. Americans should turn to bullying and victimization.
 - B. Americans should wave flags.
 - C. Americans need to light candles and wear ribbons.
 - D. Americans ought to mourn the dead in a peaceful way.
4. When describing journalists and politicians, the author's tone is _____.
 - A. sarcastic
 - B. impartial
 - C. sympathetic
 - D. supportive
5. The author's argument is best described as _____.
 - A. sober - minded
 - B. cold - blooded
 - C. unsympathetic
 - D. extreme

2.U.S.Returning to Deficits As Costs of Attack Mount

军事打击造成美国重返赤字

Slow Economy Also Takes Toll^① on Surplus

© By Richard W. Stevenson

克林顿总统在任期间，尽管个人丑闻频频曝光，信任危机接连不断，但每次都是有惊无险，安然渡过危机。究其原因，恐怕与其在任期间出色的政绩有很大关系。的确，90年代的美国经济在新经济政策的推动下，呈现出少有的繁荣景象，被誉为“黄金十年”。但后任总统布什似乎运气没那么好。刚进入新世纪，美国经济就开始出现衰退迹象。布什政府一方面为了履行竞选时的减税承诺，一方面为刺激国内经济复苏，推出了一整套包括减税、增加政府支出的政府预算计划。随着凯恩斯主义的再度盛行，以及9.11事件雪上加霜，美国财政从盈余转为赤字已成定局。

Washington — The large federal budget surpluses of recent years are likely to give way to a deficit in the fiscal year that started Monday^②, a stunningly swift turnaround brought on by the weakening economy and the costs of the campaign against terrorism, analysts inside and outside the government say.

The government is projected by the Congressional Budget Office^③ to have run a surplus of about \$ 121 billion in the year that ended Sunday, down from \$ 236 billion the year before. For the coming 12 months, analysts are projecting that the government at best will balance its books after paying for military action, relief and reconstruction efforts and an economic stimulus package and that it probably will spend tens of billions of dollars more than it takes in through taxes.^④

As recently as last spring, before the passage of President George W. Bush's \$ 1.35 trillion, 10-year tax cut and before the extent of the economic slowdown became clear, the budget office was projecting a surplus for the coming year of \$ 304 billion.

Although there is a bipartisan consensus that the United States should spend whatever is needed after the attacks on the

Vocabulary:

surplus ['sɜ:ppləs] n. 盈余
deficit ['defisit] n. 赤字
fiscal ['fisk(ə)l] a. 财政的
swift [swɪft] a. 迅速的，突然的
turnaround ['tɜ:nəraʊnd] n. 转向
campaign [kæm 'peɪn] n. 战役
project ['prɒdʒekt] v. 预测，推断
relief [ri 'li:f] n. 救援
reconstruction [,ri:kən 'strʌkʃən] n. 重建
stimulus ['stimjʊləs] n. 刺激
package ['pækɪdʒ] n. 一揽子计划

slowdown ['sləʊdaʊn] n.

(生产、经济等的)减速

bipartisan [baɪpɑ:ti 'zæn, baɪ 'pɑ:tɪzən] a.

两党的

consensus [kən 'sensəs] n.

(意见等的)一致

World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the shift in the budget outlook could have considerable economic and political effects in the long run. ⑤

Already the goal of paying off most of the \$ 3.3 trillion national debt has been called into question. Proposals such as helping retirees pay for prescription drugs have been put on hold. ⑥ Efforts to avoid dipping into Social Security have been cast aside, leaving unclear how Congress and the administration will deal with the rapidly rising costs of paying retirement benefits to an aging population.

In the long run, the two parties no doubt face an intense fight over how best to get the government back on a track of surpluses and how the now-scarcer money should be allocated.

An analysis by Democrats on the House Budget Committee ⑧ last week concluded that the roughly \$ 2 trillion federal budget in the coming year would be \$ 8 billion in deficit under optimistic assumptions about the economy and the costs of the response to the terrorist attacks, and \$ 70 billion in deficit under pessimistic assumptions.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ⑨ projected Friday that the deficit for next year would be \$ 25 billion, with a substantial risk that it could be higher.

Stanley Collender, managing director of the federal budget consulting group at Fleishman-Hillard Inc., a public relations firm, said it was difficult to come up with a scenario in which the surplus was not wiped out next year.

"It's hard to dispute the notion that a balanced budget is the best you can do," Mr. Collender said. "More likely you end up with a budget deficit."

Projecting budget surpluses and deficits even a year ahead is an extremely imprecise business, and there are more uncertainties than usual this time, including the nature and duration of the fight against terrorism and the depth of the economy's problems.

But even if the government ends the coming year without a deficit, it is unlikely to return soon to the situation that existed just a month ago, when both parties assumed they could count on large and growing surpluses to pay for a variety of initiatives.

Even one bad year could eat deeply into the projections that the government would have \$ 3.4 trillion in excess revenue avail-

retiree [riːˈtaɪəːrɪː] n. 退休人员

prescription [priːˈskɪpsɪʃ(ə)n] n.

根据处方配制的

administration [ədmiːˈstreɪʃ(ə)n] n. 政府

allocate [ˈæləkeɪt] v. 分配

Democrat [ˈdeməkrək] n. (美国)民主党人

optimistic [ɒptiˈmɪstɪk] a. 乐观的

assumption [əˈsʌmpʃ(ə)n] n. 假定

pessimistic [ˌpesiˈmɪstɪk] a. 悲观的

scenario [siˈnæriəʊ] n. 设想, 方案

notion [ˈnəʊʃ(ə)n] n. 观念, 看法

imprecise [ɪmˈpriːsɪs] a. 不精确的

uncertainty [ʌnˈsɜːtənti] n. 不确定性

duration [dʒuəˈreɪʃ(ə)n;(vɜː)ˈdvːˈreɪʃn] n.

持续

initiative [ɪˈnɪʃiətiɪv] n. 倡议, 积极行动

revenue [ˈrevənjuː(美)ˈrevɒnɪː] n. 收入