

美国英语广播教学系列



一个国家的成长

THE MAKING OF A NATION

国对外翻译出版公司

• 美国英语广播教学系列 •

美国之音慢速英语节目

一个国家的成长

The Making of a Nation

(英汉对照)

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美国英语广播教学系列 丛书简介

由于我国改革开放的力度不断加大,同时美国英语在国际交往中的应用也日益增多,我国广大群众直接向美国人学习地道、纯正、实用的美国英语的愿望越来越强烈。为适应这种形势,中国对外翻译出版公司经“美国之音”授权,推出了这套“美国英语广播教学系列”丛书及录音带。

这套系列教材全部采用地道的美国英语,用纯正的美国语音播出,例句也多为美国人实际生活中常用的。这套节目在美国之音的四个频道上反复播出。其中包括:

一、《中级美国英语》Intermediate American English

二、《美国成语俗语 1》American Idioms 1

三、《美国成语俗语 2》American Idioms 2

四、《美国词语掌故》上 Words and Their Stories

《美国词语掌故》下 Words and Their Stories

五、《时事英语成语》Idioms in the News

六、《空间与人》Space and Man

七、《科技新闻讲坛》Science in the News

八、《美国风情录》American Mosaic

九、《一个国家的成长》The Making of a Nation

十、《美国历史漫谈》In Search of Historical Highlights

《中级美国英语》是美国之音继播出《英语九百句》之后,着力推出的又一部普及美国英语的力作。内容由浅入深,浅中见

深,适用于高中生、大学生和部分研究生,及具有相当程度的自学者。

《美国成语俗语》和《美国词语掌故》以及最新播出的《时事英语成语》则适用于大学生和具有大学以上文化程度的自学者。读者在阅读美国报刊书籍时,若将其作为常备工具书,有时可以意外地发现许多字典中查不到的东西。

学习《空间与人》、《科技新闻讲坛》,对于许多只擅长读写科技英文的科技工作者和科技爱好者来说,是迅速提高听说能力,实现与外国同行当面交流经验的捷径。

《美国风情录》、《一个国家的成长》,不仅锻炼你的听力,进一步提高你的英语水平,还能使你了解美国的历史和民情。

《美国历史漫谈》则将你带到美国历史上的各个转折点,让你亲耳聆听大发明家爱迪生以及尼克松、福特、基辛格等人的原声讲演。

这套“美国英语广播教学系列”丛书和录音带,由浅及深,完全可以靠自学完成。读者既可全套学用,也可根据自己的程度和需要单本选用。学完这套丛书,相信你就可以自由地与美国人进行文化交流了。

这套“美国英语广播教学系列”丛书在美国之音广播和中国对外翻译出版公司配制录音带的辅助下,使你能够跟美国学生学习地道的、纯正的、实用的美国英语。

美国英语广播教学系列丛书

助君早日进入美国英语的自由王国。

中国对外翻译出版公司

1997年

出 版 前 言

“The Making of a Nation”——《一个国家的成长》是美国之音慢速英语节目中一个深受欢迎的保留节目。它每周播出一次,每次十五分钟,语言简练,内容精彩。很多年来,不少朋友都曾收听过这套节目。通过它,爱好英语的听众不但可以受到纯正的美国英语的听力训练,而且对美国的历史也有了基本的了解。

本书所收九篇文章从美国立国、开发到参加两次世界大战,扼要介绍美国从一个殖民地成长为现代强国的经历。

本书系根据这套节目的播音稿和录音编辑而成的。为满足不同读者的需求,我们在编辑过程中附上了中文译文,并配有与全书内容完全吻合的录音磁带。

本书的文字材料和原版录音均由美国之音中文部提供,谨在此表示衷心的感谢。

中国对外翻译出版公司

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The Making of a Nation

一个国家的成长

Writing and Ratifying the Constitution

The thirteen American colonies declared their independence from Britain in 1776. But they had to win their independence in a long war that followed. During that war the colonies were united by an agreement called the Articles of Confederation.

The union was a loose one. The Articles of Confederation did not organize a central government. They did not create courts or decide laws. They did not provide an executive to carry out the laws. All the Articles of Confederation did was to create a Congress. But it was a Congress with little power. It could only advise the separate thirteen states and ask them to do some things. It could not pass laws for the union of states.

The weakness of this system became clear soon after the war for independence ended.

British General Charles Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781. A messenger brought the Congress news of the victory. The Congress had no money.

《宪法》的起草和批准

一七七六年，十三个美洲殖民地宣布脱离英国而独立。但是，为了把独立夺到手，它们随后不得不进行了一场旷日持久的战争。战争期间，这十三个殖民地通过一个称为《邦联条例》的协议而联合在一起。

这种联盟是松散的。《邦联条例》没有组织一个中央政权机构，没有建立法院、制定法律，也没有设立实施法律的行政机关。《邦联条例》所做的就是成立了议会，但这个议会又没有什么权力。它只能向各自为政的十三个州提出建议，请它们做某些事。它不能为邦联通过法律。

在独立战争结束后不久，这个体制的缺点就明显地暴露出来了。

一七八一年，英国将军查尔斯·康沃利斯在弗吉尼亚州的约克敦投降。一位信使给议会带来了胜利的消息。议会一

It could not even pay the messenger. So money had to be collected from each member of the Congress.

Even before the war ended, three men called for a change in the loose confederation of states. They urged formation of a strong central government. Those three men were George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison.

George Washington commanded America's troops during the revolution. He opposed the Articles of Confederation because they provided little support for his army. His soldiers often had no clothes or shoes or food. They had no medicines or blankets or bullets.

During the war, Washington wrote many angry letters about the military situation. In one letter, he said: "Our sick soldiers are naked. Our healthy soldiers are naked. Our soldiers who have been captured by the British are naked!"

General Washington's letters produced little action. The thirteen separate states refused to listen when he told them the war was a war of all the states. He learned they were more interested in themselves than in what his soldiers needed.

After the war, there was much social, political and economic disorder. General Washington saw once again that there was no hope for the United States under the Articles

文不名，连酬谢信使的钱都拿不出来，只好向议会的每一位议员筹资。

早在战争结束以前，就有三个人要求改变松散的州邦联。他们要求建立一个强有力的中央政权体制。这三个人就是乔治·华盛顿、亚历山大·汉密尔顿和詹姆斯·麦迪逊。

乔治·华盛顿是革命时期的美军统帅。他反对《邦联条例》，是因为这项条例几乎没有给他的军队提供什么支持。他的士兵常常没有衣服、鞋子和食物，也没有药品、毯子和子弹。

战争期间，华盛顿写过许多封愤怒的信件，陈述军队的情况。他在一封信中说：“我们得病的士兵没有衣服穿，我们健康的士兵没有衣服穿，我们被英国人俘虏的士兵也没有衣服穿！”

华盛顿将军的信件没有引起什么反应。他告诉十三个各自为政的州，这场战争是所有州的战争，它们根本不听。他这才了解到，他们更关心的是他们自己，而不是他的士兵的需要。

战争结束后，社会、政治和经济混乱不堪。华盛顿将军再次看到，在《邦联条例》下，美国是没有希望的。他给一个朋友写信说：“我不相信我们作为一个国家能够生存下去，除非让

of Confederation. He wrote to a friend: "I do not believe we can exist as a nation unless there is a central government which will rule all the nation, just as a state government rules each state."

Alexander Hamilton agreed. He was a young lawyer and an assistant to General Washington during the revolution. Even before the war ended, Hamilton called for a convention of the thirteen states to create a central government. He expressed his opinion in letters, speeches, and newspaper stories.

Finally, there was James Madison. He saw the picture clearly. It was an unhappy picture.

There were thirteen governments. And each tried to help itself at the cost of the others. Nine states had their own navy. Each had its own army. The states used these forces to protect themselves from each other. For example, the state of Virginia passed a law which said it could seize ships that did not pay taxes to the state. Virginia did not mean ships from England and Spain. It meant ships from Maryland, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania.

James Madison often said most of the new nation's political problems grew out of such commercial problems.

In the 1780s, many people in America and Europe believed the United States was on the road to anarchy. One

Handwritten signature or initials.

一个中央政权机关治理全国，就像由一个州政权机关治理一个州一样。”

~~commercial~~
commercial

亚历山大·汉密尔顿表示赞同。他是个年轻的律师，在革命时期，担任过华盛顿将军的助手。战争结束之前，汉密尔顿就曾要求召开十三个州的会议，以便建立一个中央政权机构。他在信件、讲话和给报纸写的文章中表达了自己的意见。

最后是詹姆斯·麦迪逊。他对形势看得一清二楚，深知形势不容乐观。

共有十三个政权机构。每一个都极力损人利己。九个州拥有自己的海军，每个州都有自己的陆军。各州都利用自己的军队保护自己、防范别人。例如，弗吉尼亚州通过一个法案，说它可以扣留没有向该州纳税的船只。弗吉尼亚州指的不是英国船只和西班牙船只，它指的是马里兰州、马萨诸塞州和宾夕法尼亚州的船只。

詹姆斯·麦迪逊常常说，这个新国家的大部分政治都是由此类商业问题造成的。

十八世纪八十年代，美国和欧洲的许多人都认为，美国正在走向君主制。标志之一是货币制度。美国当时没有全国统

sign was the money system. There was no national money. Many Americans thought of money as the pounds and shillings of the British system. There was an American dollar. But it did not have the same value everywhere. In New York, the dollar was worth eight shillings. In South Carolina, it was worth more than thirty-two shillings.

This situation was bad enough. Yet there also were all kinds of other coins used as money: French crowns, Spanish doubloons, European ducats.

In 1786, representatives from Maryland and Virginia met to discuss opening land for new settlements along the Potomac River. The Potomac formed the border between those two states.

The representatives agreed that the issue of settling new land was too big for just two states to decide. "Why not invite Delaware and Pennsylvania to help?" someone asked. Someone else said all the states should be invited. Then they could discuss all the problems that were giving the new nation so much trouble. The idea was accepted. And a convention was set for Annapolis, Maryland.

The convention opened as planned. It was not much of a meeting. Representatives came from only five states. Four other states had chosen representatives, but they did not come. The remaining four states did not even choose representatives.

一的货币。许多美国人认为货币就是英制的英镑和先令。当时有一种美元，但是它的价值并不是各地都一样。在纽约，一美元值八先令；而在南卡罗来纳，却值三十二先令以上。

这种情况就够糟糕的了。可是作为货币使用的还有其他各种各样的硬币，有法国的克朗、西班牙的达布隆、欧洲的达克特。

一七八六年，马里兰州和弗吉尼亚州的代表会晤，讨论沿波托马克河开辟土地，建立新居民点的问题。波托马克河是这两个州的州界。

代表们一致认为，向新地区移民的问题太大，不能只由两个州做出决定。有人问道：“为什么不请特拉华州和宾夕法尼亚州帮忙呢？”又有人说，应当邀请所有的州。这样，他们就可以讨论给这个新生国家带来麻烦的所有问题了。这个主意被采纳。会议地点定在马里兰州的安纳波利斯。

会议按计划召开。它算不上什么会议。来的只有五个州的代表。有四个州选出了代表，但没有来。四个州连代表都没有选。

The men who did meet at Annapolis, however, agreed it was a beginning. They agreed, too, that a larger convention should be called. They appointed the representative from New York, Alexander Hamilton, ^{to} put the agreement in writing. So Hamilton sent a message to the legislature of each state. He called for a convention in Philadelphia in May of the next year, 1787. The purpose of the convention, he said, would be to write a constitution for the United States.

Many people believed the convention would not succeed without George Washington. But General Washington did not want to go. He suffered from rheumatism. His mother and sister were sick. He needed to take care of business at his farm, Mount Vernon. And he already said he was not interested in public office. How would it look if — as expected — he was elected president of the convention?

George Washington was the most famous man in America. Suppose only a few states sent representatives to the convention? Suppose it failed? Would he look foolish?

Two close friends — James Madison and Edmund Randolph — urged General Washington to go to Philadelphia. He trusted them. So he said he would go as one of the representatives of Virginia. From that moment it was clear the convention would be an important event. If George Washington would be there, it had to be important.

The first man to arrive in Philadelphia for the conven-