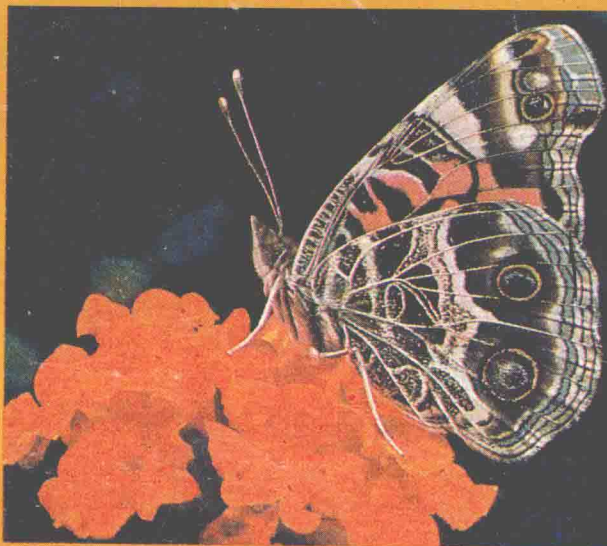


大学英语分级阅读丛书



华中理工大学出版社



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大学英语
分级阅读丛书

第四册

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华中理工大学出版社

内 容 提 要

本书是大学英语阅读丛书第四册，题材涉及历史上著名的英国大革命，英国前首相温斯顿·丘吉尔的生平、女权运动和达尔文及其创纪元性的进化论等内容。可供大学生和其他具有中级英语水平的自学者作为提高自己阅读理解能力的材料。

大学英语分级阅读丛书

第四册

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前 言

阅读是一种技能，掌握这种技能主要靠实践。正象学游泳一样，只谈理论，不去实践，是学不会游泳的。同样，要学会阅读，光讲理论，不去实践，也是学不会阅读的。

“多读”——这是许多人学外语的一条重要经验。要提高阅读速度和阅读理解能力，关键在于是否进行大量阅读。课堂阅读对熟悉阅读技巧固然重要，但要真正掌握这些技巧，还得靠精心设计的、大量的、独立的课外阅读。因此，一切有经验、有远见的教师，莫不鼓励学生进行大量阅读。

然而遗憾的是：在市面上学生很难找到称心如意的阅读材料。有的读物语言过难，读者望而生畏、敬而远之；有的读物故事陈旧，内容早已为读者所知晓，缺少时代性和新鲜感；有的读物由于文体与学生所希望阅读的不一样，因而有实用性和知识性不足之感；有的读物虽文体内容尚可，但由于是节选而成，东拼西凑，有头无尾，读来使人颇有不满足之感。

几年来我们一直希望能够解决这个问题。在寻找合适的大学英语课外阅读材料的时候，我们高兴地发现 Cassell 出版公司出版的一套分级读物。这套丛书避免了以上所说的种种缺点，集知识性、趣味性、实用性和时代性于一体。同时由于编者用词造句巧妙自然，因而读来毫无一般简易读物的不地道和非真实之感。因此说这是非英语国家学生的一套理想的英语课外读物，那是毫不夸张的。

为了适合我国文理工科大学生英语学习的需要，我系教师

浏览了这套丛书,并选出其中 16 本按难易程度编成与我国大学英语 1 至 4 级相符的四册阅读教材,增加了词汇和注解部分。我们相信:广大读者,特别是文理工科大学生,一定会喜爱这套丛书的,因为它会扩大你的视野,丰富你的知识,使你体会到以英文为工具吸取新信息的那种由衷的喜悦之情。我相信你会在不知不觉中对英文阅读产生兴趣,同时你也会在不知不觉中提高了自己的阅读速度和阅读理解能力。

程恩洪

一九八九年六月

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Book One

The English Revolution

Julia Newhouse

1

The beginnings of the problem

One bitterly cold morning in London in January 1649, a man was brought out of his prison. The time had come for him to die. The man was wearing two shirts so that he did not shiver* from the cold. If the people that came to see him die saw him shivering, he thought, they might think he was afraid; and he intended to die bravely. He fell on his knees in front of the block*, said his prayers and prepared to die. A great crowd stood watching as the axe* descended* and cut off his head — the head of King Charles I of England.

Charles I became King in the year 1625 but to understand the problems and arguments that led to his death we must go back a further hundred years to the time of King Henry VIII.

When Henry became King in 1509, England was a Roman Catholic* country, with the Pope* in Rome as the head of the Church. The Roman Catholic Church does not allow divorce. Henry's problems began when he decided he wanted to divorce his wife, Catherine of Aragon. Catherine had not given Henry a son to become King in his place and by this time she was 42 years old. So he wished to divorce her and make Anne Boleyn

* See Glossary

New words are asterisked (*) the first time they occur only.



Henry VIII

his new queen. He asked the Pope's permission to do this but when the Pope refused to give him permission, Henry decided to disobey him and declared that the Church in England would no longer recognise the Pope as its leader. He then set himself up as the head of the Church of England.

It was an unhappy time for those people in England who wanted to remain in the Roman Catholic Church. Henry demanded that everyone obey him and accept him as the head of the Church of England on pain of death. He believed in the Divine* Right of Kings. According to this law, anyone who criticised the Church was also criticising the King, and anyone who spoke against the King was also speaking against God.

During this period, Henry VIII was not the only person who felt angry with the Roman Catholic Church. New ideas were spreading across Europe where people were also questioning the power of the Pope and these ideas led to the birth of Protestantism*, so called because its followers protested against the authority* of the Pope. Many poor people in England turned against the Roman Catholic Church because of its great wealth which did not seem fair to them. A lot of other people, however, did not want to change their form of religion. They believed in the Pope as the head of the Church and could not accept Henry as their religious leader.

However, things did not stay like this for long. From then on each new king or queen of England decided which form of religion the country would follow. When the Roman Catholic queen Mary Tudor, came to the throne* in 1553 the Protestants suffered persecution* under her. Many were thrown into prison and tortured* and some were even burnt to death.

Queen Elizabeth I, who came to the throne in 1558, was a Protestant. During her reign*, the Roman Catholics were persecuted. There was no religious freedom

in England and the Catholics and Protestants hated each other more and more.

Protestants and Puritans

In about 1600 a new kind of Protestantism, called Puritanism, was growing in England. The Puritans were very 'pure', serious people who believed it was wrong to dance, sing, play music or take part in sports on Sunday. They thought people should go to church, read their Bibles* and sit quietly at home and that it was wrong to laugh or to wear brightly coloured clothes. The Puritans wanted to organise their own church with their own leaders but Queen Elizabeth would not allow this. Nor was Parliament happy about its own position in relation to the Queen. Members of Parliament* felt that Elizabeth had too much power and they wanted more for themselves.

The problem was now growing more complicated. A hundred years before there had been one religion and a King who everyone obeyed without question. Now there were three different kinds of Christian* in England: the Roman Catholics, the Protestants and the Puritans. There was also the problem of Parliament growing tired of the unlimited powers of the monarch*.

After Elizabeth I died in 1603, the Protestant King James I, who was already King of Scotland, came to the English throne. He did nothing to improve the situation for Roman Catholics and a group of them planned to murder him and most of his Members of Parliament

by blowing up the Houses of Parliament while he was there. But the plan was discovered and one of the Catholics, a man called Guy Fawkes, was found in the cellars* and was arrested and tortured. In those days the English tortured people who were suspected of doing wrong and poor Guy Fawkes had his thumbs slowly pulled apart by a terrible instrument of torture. He then had his head cut off by the executioner's* axe. Although this was the plan of only a few men, it made the Protestants hate the Roman Catholics even more.

King James was a clever but very proud man who did not get on well with people. No-one could talk about or discuss things with him. Also he gave positions of power to his favourites, many of whom came from Scotland. This did not please Parliament. One day he told Parliament that, as England was short of money, his son, Prince Charles, should marry a rich, Spanish princess. Parliament, however, did not agree with the King because Spain was a Roman Catholic country. James was furious* with this reply and many Members of Parliament were thrown into prison. Those who remained began to hate James.

The political situation was bad and the religious difficulties grew. The Puritans were suffering, many going to prison and even dying for their beliefs. Some Puritan families escaped by sailing away to America where they were able to start a new life. A group of 100 Puritans, known as the Pilgrim Fathers*, sailed to America in 1620 in order to break away completely from the Church of England.

When James died in 1625 and his son, Charles, became King, England was neither a peaceful nor a happy country. The sky was growing dark and the power struggle between the different religious and political groups would soon lead to civil* war; the storm was about to break over England.

2

Parliament is dismissed*

Under King Charles I the situation grew worse. When Charles came to the throne England was at war at sea with Spain and Parliament felt the war was being badly run. Their complaints were aimed at the Duke of Buckingham who was in charge of the Navy (the army of the sea). As Buckingham was Charles' best friend and adviser, they were therefore also criticising the King. Buckingham started several wars which failed, so wasting a lot of money. He had also arranged Charles' marriage to the Roman Catholic French princess* Henrietta Maria who was to cause England many problems.

Eventually Buckingham was murdered by a Puritan extremist* to the great joy of the people. Charles, because of lack of money, stopped organising wars but he still wanted to govern without Parliament. Finally the Members of Parliament wrote a long list of all the things they disliked about what Charles was doing, called the 'Petition* of Rights'. This gave Charles the excuse he wanted to dismiss Parliament and try governing the country alone.

The leader of Parliament was a man called John Eliot who had hated the Duke of Buckingham and had often