

英语智能阅读



经贸文萃

*Economy and
Trade Digest*

徐继宁/主编



大连理工大学出版社

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*Economy and
Trade Digest*

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大连理工大学出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

经贸文萃 / 徐继宁主编. —大连: 大连理工大学出版社,
2006. 1

(英语智能阅读)

ISBN 7-5611-3037-6

I. 经… II. 徐… III. 英语—语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 049135 号

大连理工大学出版社出版

地址: 大连市软件园路 80 号 邮政编码: 116023

发行: 0411-84708842 邮购: 0411-84703636 传真: 0411-84701466

E-mail: dutp@dutp.cn URL: <http://www.dutp.cn>

大连理工印刷有限公司印刷 大连理工大学出版社发行

幅面尺寸: 140mm×203mm 印张: 12.25 字数: 355 千字

印数: 1~6 000

2006 年 1 月第 1 版

2006 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

责任编辑: 徐言春

责任校对: 吴姗姗

封面设计: 孙宝福

定 价: 19.80 元

前言

学习任何一门外语均离不开阅读，要准确理解或快速获取信息都需要进行大量的阅读实践。只要多看多读各类地道的英语文章，就能在熟悉英语单词、短语、句型和读法的同时，增强语感和语言表达能力。

针对广大英语爱好者的实际水平和需要，我们特编写了这套《英语智能阅读》，它包括休闲文萃、经贸文萃、科技文萃和智趣文萃。题材广泛，融知识性和趣味性于一体。

每篇文章设置了阅读要求和阅读提示。阅读要求提出了文章阅读性的适合度，并建议了每篇文章的阅读时间。阅读提示对文章的内容作了简要提示和概括，有助于阅读时对文章内容的理解，每篇文章后安排了注释和阅读理解，注释对课文中出现的生词和惯用词作了音标和内容解释，既可以扩大读者的词汇量又扫除了阅读中的拦路虎。阅读理解是对课文内容的理解程度所设的小测试，检查了读者对文章内容的深入理解和对细节的掌握。全套书以英汉对照的方式编排，版式醒目，插图幽默。

经贸文萃收录了与我们生活息息相关的经济和贸易领域的知识。读者朋友可以通过对本书的阅读，了解当今变幻莫测的经济动向和其背后的规律。

针对年轻朋友们的求知欲强，涉猎广泛，并且喜欢有趣和前卫的东西，我们所收录的文章力争原汁原味，时代感强，希望这套书能切实帮助英语爱好者提高学习英语的兴趣和水平。

编者

2005年12月



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国际贸易长廊

阅读要求

! 本文适合泛读。

阅读提示

! 当自给自足的自然经济满足不了人们的需求时,交换成了必需。随着交换的进一步扩大化,国际贸易开始。

1 国际贸易的历史

History of International Trade

International trade today little resembles¹ European commerce as it existed between the 16th century and the 19th century. Trade in earlier times was conducted largely between a mother country and its colonies². It was conducted according to strict mercantilist³ principles. The colonies were supposed

当今的国际贸易与 16 世纪到 19 世纪期间存在于欧洲的商业大不相同。早期的贸易大部分是在宗主国及其殖民地之间进行的,并且是按照严格的重商主义原则进行的。殖民地向宗主国供应原料,而其(所需全部)制成品则应从宗主国购买。宗主国虽然禁止

to supply the mother country with raw materials, and they were expected to buy all finished goods from the mother country. Other forms of trade were forbidden to the colonies, but many of them evaded⁴ these restrictions.

Growth of Free Trade

The repeal⁵ of the Corn Laws by Great Britain in 1864 ended Britain's long-standing policy of protectionism. During the 19th century, many European nations made commercial agreements with each other easing their tariff⁶ rates. Lower tariffs and the growth of population and industry caused trade to soar⁷ in the 19th century.

Two World Wars and Great Depression

In the 20th century two world wars and a major depression⁸ caused severe disturbances in international trade. Nations, sensing a threat to their domestic economies, sought to protect themselves from further disturbances by erecting⁹ various barriers to trade.

殖民地进行其他形式的贸易,但许多殖民地却逃避这些限制。

自由贸易的发展

1864年英国废除谷物法,结束了英国长期存在的保护贸易主义的政策。在19世纪期间,欧洲许多国家相互订立商业协议,减低关税税率。较低的关税税率、人口的增长和工业的发展使19世纪的贸易突飞猛进。

两次世界大战和大萧条

条

20世纪里的两次世界大战和一次严重的经济萧条,引起了国际贸易的严重混乱。各国都察觉到时局给他们的国内经济带来的威胁,因此便想方设法建立起各种各样的贸易壁垒来保护他们自己免受进一步的干扰。



The Hawley-Smoot Tariff,

which was enacted¹⁰ by the United States in 1930, raised high tariffs to even higher levels, making it difficult for foreigners to sell goods to the United States.

Collapse of the Gold Standard

The situation became even worse after Great Britain abandoned¹¹ the gold standard. The nations that were closely related to Britain, including most of the members of the Commonwealth of Nations, followed Britain's example. Other nations also abandoned the gold standard. As the means of making international payments broke down and trade restrictions increased, some countries had to resort¹² to barter to obtain foreign goods.

International trade was in such severe straits during the depression that a World Economic Conference was held in 1933. This conference, however, was unable to halt a rash of currency devaluations¹³, tariff increases, and quota arrangements.

美国在 1930 年通过

的《霍利——斯穆特税则》把本来已经很高的关税提到了更高的水平,使外国人难以向美国出售货物。

金本位制的崩溃

在英国放弃了金本位制之后,形势变得越来越糟。那些与英国关系密切的国家,包括英联邦的大多数成员国,也都仿效英国的做法。其他国家也都放弃了金本位制。由于这种国际支付手段的崩溃以及贸易限制的增加,一些国家不得不采取以货易货的方法以得到外国货物。

国际贸易在大萧条期

间陷入极其严重的困境。因而在 1933 年召开了世界经济会议。然而这次会议并未能制止货币贬值、提高关税以及实行配额制等情况的连续发生。



Reciprocal Trade Agreements

Act

In 1934, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull persuaded Congress to pass the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. This law authorized the President to negotiate tariff cuts with other nations. The Reciprocal Trade Act provided for protection of U.S. industries in the event foreign imports increased to such a degree that U.S. businesses were injured. This protection included peril point and escape clauses under which tariff cuts could be refused or rescinded¹⁴ if a U.S. industry suffered economic hardship. Despite the protectionist clauses in the act, U.S. tariffs were substantially reduced.

In the postwar period devastated countries badly needed imports to supplement their limited domestic production. Yet they could spare no goods for export to earn the necessary foreign currencies¹⁵. The U. S. dollar, as the world's strongest currency, was in great demand. Other countries took meas-

《互惠贸易协定法案》

1934年,美国国务卿科德尔·赫尔说服国会通过了《互惠贸易协定法案》。这个法案授权总统与其他国家进行减低关税的谈判。这个法案在进口的外国货增加到足以损害美国企业时,向美国的工业提供保护。这种保护包括危险点和例外条款。根据这些条款,如果美国的某种工业在经济上陷入困境,就可以拒绝减税或撤销已经同意的减税。尽管这个法案中仍包含有保护主义的条款,但美国的关税还是大大地减少了。

在战后一段时间内,受到严重破坏的国家急需从国外进口货物来补充他们有限的国内生产。但是,他们没有多余的货物可供出口以赚取所需的外汇。作为世界上最硬的货币,美元的需求量很大。其他国家都采取措施防止耗尽



ures to prevent depletion¹⁶ of their precious dollar supplies. 他们宝贵的美元储备。

Bretton Woods Monetary Conference

Shortly before the end of World War II, members of the United Nations met at Bretton Woods, N. H., to discuss ways of reducing the financial barriers to international trade. The International Monetary Fund was established as a result of the conference. The fund was designed to encourage the growth of international trade by stabilizing currencies and their rate of foreign exchange.

GATT

In the early postwar period, more than 20 nations met in Geneva, Switzerland, to negotiate tariff reductions. When any two nations reached an agreement to reduce tariffs on a product, the benefits were extended to all participating nations. This was an application of the so-called most-favored-nation clause.

The Geneva tariff agreements were written into the General

布雷顿森林货币会议

第二次世界大战结束

前不久,联合国的成员国在美国新罕布什尔州的布雷顿森林开会,讨论减少国际贸易上金融壁垒的办法。国际货币基金的建立便是这次会议的一项成果。这项基金的目的在于通过稳定各种货币及其外币兑换率的办法来促进国际贸易的发展。

《关税及贸易协定》

战后初期,20多个国家在瑞士的日内瓦举行会议,商讨降低关税问题。任何两个国家就某个产品达成降低关税的协议时,这种好处就扩大到所有的成员国。这就是所谓最惠国条款的应用。

日内瓦关于关税的各项协议被写进了《关税及贸

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT also established standards for the conduct of international trade. For example, the agreement prohibits¹⁷ nations from placing quotas or limits on imports, except under very special circumstances.

Regional Trade Blocs

After World War II a number of free trade areas were formed to solve trade problems on a regional basis. Tariffs on goods moving within these areas were to be abolished. Some of the groups also erected a single tariff on the goods of outsiders coming into their common area. Such groups are called customs unions. The goal of all the trade blocs was to merge¹⁸ small political units into large geographic entities in which goods could be freely manufactured and sold. A large market area greatly stimulates economic growth and prosperity. These trade blocs are: Benelux, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the European Economic Community (EEC or Com-

易总协定)(GATT)。总协定还规定了国际贸易的行动准则。例如,总协定规定,除非遇有非常特殊的情况,禁止各国对进口施行配额或限制。

区域性贸易集团

第二次世界大战后,为了解决区域性的贸易问题,先后成立了若干自由贸易区。在这些区域内流通的货物的关税都要废除。其中一些集团对进入他们共同区域的外来货物制订了单一的税率,这种集团称为关税同盟。所有这些贸易集团的目标是把小的政治单位合并成一些大的地理实体,以便在这些实体内自由生产和销售货物。一个大的市场区域可大大地促进经济的增长和繁荣。这些贸易集团是:比荷卢(关税同盟),欧洲煤钢联营(ECSC),欧洲经济共同体(EEC 或称共同市场),欧洲自由贸易联盟(EFTA),经济互助委员会(COMECON),拉丁美洲自由贸易



mon Market), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON), the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA), the Central American Common Market (CACM), the Caribbean Free Trade Area (CARIFTA), the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

联盟 (LAFTA), 中美洲共同市场 (CACM), 加勒比自由贸易 (CARIFTA), 加勒比共同体和共同市场 (CARICOM) 等等。

☆ 注 释 ☆

1. resemble [ri'zembl] *vt.* 像; 类似
2. colony ['kɒləni] *n.* 殖民地
3. mercantilist ['mɜ:kəntailist] *n.* 重商主义
4. evade [i'veid] *vt.* 逃避; 规避
5. repeal [ri'pi:l] *vt.* 废止; 撤销
6. tariff ['tærif] *n.* 关税
7. soar [sɔ:(r)] *n.* 高涨
8. depression [di'preʃn] *n.* 沮丧; 消沉; 萧条
9. erect [i'rekt] *vt.* 建立
10. enact [i'nækt] *vt.* 制定法律; 颁布
11. abandon [ə'bændən] *vt.* 放弃; 遗弃
12. resort [ri'zɔ:t] *vi.* 求助; 采取
13. devaluation [di:væljueɪʃn] *n.* 贬值
14. rescind [ri'sind] *vt.* 废除
15. currency ['kʌrənsi] *n.* 流通
16. depletion [di'pli:ʃn] *n.* 损耗



17. prohibit [prə'hibit] *vt.* 禁止; 阻止

18. merge [mə:dʒ] *vt.* 合并; 结合

☆ 阅读理解 ☆

1. According to the passage, answer the following questions.

1) Which law ended Britain's long-standing policy of protectionism?

2) What measures did they make when nations sensed a threat to their domestic economics?

3) Which act was referred to in the passage which reduced U. S. tariffs?

4) Why does a large market area greatly stimulate economic growth and prosperity?

2. Please translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1) The repeal of the Corn Laws by Great Britain in 1864 ended Britain's long-standing policy of protectionism.

2) The situation became even worse after Great Britain abandoned the gold standard.

3) In the postwar period devastated countries badly needed imports to supplement their limited domestic production.

4) In the early postwar period, more than 20 nations met in Geneva, Switzerland, to negotiate tariff reductions.



阅读要求

① 本文适合泛读。

阅读提示

② 大萧条让所有那个年代的美国人记忆犹新，它不但对美国，而且对全世界引发了经济危机。但大萧条在一定程度上调节了美国的经济结构，从这一点，它起到了一点积极作用。

2 大萧条

The Great Depression

The Great Depression was the longest and most severe period of economic depression ever experienced by the United States. It began with a collapse¹ of prices on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in October 1929, and did not end until the United States entered World War II in late 1941. At its worst point—in early 1933—the American economy seemed on the verge² of total collapse. National income had declined³ by almost one-half in a little over 3 years; capital investment had dropped to the point where net

大萧条是美国所经历的时间最长、最为严重的经济不景气的时期。它以1929年10月纽约股票市场(NYSE)股票价格的暴跌为起点，直到1941年末美国参加第二次世界大战后才结束。在危机最严重的时刻(1933年初)，美国经济似乎濒于全面崩溃的边缘。国民收入在三年多点的时间里几乎下降了一半；资本投资已下降到净投资为负值的水平，每三个劳动者中有一个人失业。

