

嗨，美国

Hi, United States of America

摄影 龚建华
By Gong Jianhua



上海锦绣文章出版社
Shanghai Brilliant Publishing House

嗨，美国

Hi, United States of America

摄影 龚建华

By Gong Jianhua



上海锦绣文章出版社
Shang Brilliant Publishing House

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

嗨,美国 / 龚建华摄. — 上海: 上海锦绣文章出版社, 2012.9

ISBN 978-7-5452-1165-8

I. ①嗨… II. ①龚… III. ①摄影集-中国-现代②美国-摄影集

IV. ①J421

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2012)第191665号

出品人: 张仲煜

序言: 王莹

责任编辑: 叶导

安志萍

美术指导: 尔思

封面设计: 忻鹏

内页设计: 金嵘

技术编辑: 李荀

英文翻译: 古志伟

电脑制作: 顾文慧

书名: 嗨,美国

摄影: 龚建华

出版发行: 上海锦绣文章出版社

网址: www.shp.cn

锦绣书园: <http://shjxwz.taobao.com>

地址: 上海市长乐路672弄33号

经销: 全国新华书店

印刷: 上海精英彩色印务有限公司

版次: 2013年1月第1版 第1次印刷

开本: 889×1194 1/20

印张: 7

书号: ISBN 978-7-5452-1165-8 / J.752

定价: 45.00元

如有质量问题 请与印装单位联系 电话021-56941616

版权所有 不得翻印

序：美国是什么样子的？

王莹(北美新浪总编辑)

来美国前，脑子里都是好莱坞电影里的画面：灯红酒绿、洋房、蓝天、警匪追逐、开放的思想、自由的国度等等。

第一次来美国是2005年5月，参与在亚利桑那州凤凰城举办的英特尔国际科学与工程大奖赛（Intel ISEF）的报道。也有幸参观了几所当地的中学。孩子们的彬彬有礼，学校里配备的各种教学设备，以及伫立于荒漠之中的学校，走进之后竟是如此的现代和先进，让我对美国的发达和实力有了感性的认识。

2006年10月，有幸来到美国西部加利福尼亚州旧金山硅谷地区工作，身临其境，得以体会、思索、探寻，现实中的美国究竟是个什么样子。

历经繁琐的手续后，生活节奏缓缓地慢了下来。这是一个规则和制度的社会，个体的权利和尊严在普遍受到高度保护的同时，内心的宁静、信仰的充实，在强大的社会机器遵循法制规则的包围下，人们安居乐业。

就如任何一个初来乍到的外地人一样，在我刚开始美国生活的时候，很多同胞建议我加入教会，快速地了解并适应美国，以及可得到许多美国本地人热情无私的帮助。

美国是一个比较典型的、以基督教作为国教，并以此信条、教义作为美国基本道德体系、价值体系的“宗教”国家。它有30多万个基督教教堂、天主教教堂、犹太教教堂、清真寺以及其他宗教活动场所，信奉宗教人口占美国总人口的大约80%左右。以基督教的教义《圣经》为例，它始终是美国最为畅销的书籍之一，年销量高达900万册左右。美国思想界权威诺瓦克（Michael Novak）曾说过，在美国社会的政治、经济、文化三个系统中，文化系统是以基督教文化精神为核心的，这在今天仍是相当主流的观点。

美国宪法保障民众有宗教自由的权利，美国政府也实行政教分离

制度，不支持也不反对任何一种宗教。宗教在美国政治中也是相当活跃，大多数美国总统都与基督教新教有某种联系，总统候选人是否每周去教堂都是选民们衡量其是否合适的一个基本标准。

宗教的多元化或许是美国文化多元化的基本原因。这一现象也与美国是一个移民国家息息相关。随着外来移民的进入，各类宗教也自然进入。当然，美国宪法保护民众宗教自由，而美国极强的法制社会和执法系统也是确保民众宗教自由的坚实基础。

美国之所以强大，除了经济实力、军事实力、高精尖科技等，法制、执法系统的严格、健全也必不可少。我们对于美国的初步了解，很多人都是从美国的警匪片开始的，《神探亨特》耳熟能详。而至今，警匪类题材依然是美剧迷们乐于追踪的一大类别，就如我的日常生活也是几乎每天都能在高速公路上看到执法的警察。大到凶杀案件，小到邻里纠纷，警察是美国生活中不可或缺的一个角色。

美国警察单联邦警察就超过80种，各个州都有自己的州警察（除夏威夷外），各个地方政府（包括县、市、镇、村）均有自己的警察体系。美国共有警察大约92万人，警察与人口比例为3.25%。城市警察是美国机构中最庞大、最重要的组成部分。目前，城市警察局雇用的专职警察约占全美专职警察的四分之三。

从2011年9月陆续在美国爆发的“占领华尔街”运动，其中警察与民众的冲突，是一个观察和理解现实美国的一个很好的缩影。这个活动引发了人们对于当今美国面临的种种问题的深层次思考，甚至对于美国传统主流意念的反思。

或许可以说，“占领华尔街”是美国历史上最大的一次均富运动，是左翼和弱势群体对偏向富人政策的反弹，这场运动反映美国社会深层次矛盾：美国到底是金融资本主义独大的国家，抑或仍是制造业为主体的资本主义国家？是崇尚纯粹的市场经济，还是转为强调要辅以

国家调控为主？是强调个人奋斗，还是要重视社会公平补给？等等，这些话题及引来的讨论和反思，都通过这次运动显现出来。

自2008年金融海啸以来，美国整体国情面临极大考验。经济的衰退使得美国失业率高涨不下，年轻人的失业率更是高上再高。据《华盛顿邮报》报道，全美国所有16岁到24岁年轻人的失业率为18.5%，几乎是全国平均失业率的两倍。

我所居住的加利福尼亚州旧金山地区，其中的奥克兰市，在2012年1月再次爆发警民冲突极为激烈的“占领奥克兰”事件，约400人遭警察逮捕，成为全美国单一“占领”系列活动中被抓人数最多的一起事件。

加州的奥克兰市是一个非常优美的港口城市，气候宜人，但它同时也是全美最危险的十大城市之一，排名第六。近几年来发生的其中一起争议案件，是一名警察在执法过程中打死一名黑人青少年，事后该警察没有被定重罪，引起占全市总人口约四成的黑人们的群起抗议，进而爆发严重的街头暴力。该事件引起非常多的关注和争议。

在美国居住和停留有稍长时间的人都知道，遇见警察，要严格老老实实按照他们的口令行事，否则警察真会开枪。我想这也是从一个侧面，反应美国执法者的绝对权威。

所谓“戏剧来源于生活并高于生活”，美国著名的警匪剧之所以拍得精彩，也是有着其深厚的生活中实际发生的事件这一强大事实资源作为基础的。

美国有着世界上最好的、最美的、最安全的城市，同时也有着最危险、最暴力的城市。是最好的时代，也是最坏的时代。但是这一切，不影响民众，按照自己的生活轨迹，按照自己的心境、意念，过着自己的生活。

美国是富裕的国家，2011年人均GDP为47132美金。除经济发达的东西海岸，绝大部分美国地区的人民还是比较传统，也过着以家庭为核心的平静日子。当然，即使东西海岸，标准的美国中产阶级家庭，日子的时间表，也颇为固定。

加州旧金山地区，早晨7点半以后，高速公路上就进入早高峰了。晚上7点后，除各小城的Downtown以外，都进入安静的晚间时光了，街上鲜少见人。

美国生活的重点是以家庭为核心，参加大事小情，家庭都是基本

的计量单位。

传统意义上，美国人对家庭秩序和幸福的追求基于他们的宗教信仰，遵循上帝对男人和女人婚姻结合的法则。法国著名思想家托克维尔在他的名著《论美国民主》里，把这种宗教信仰视为美国成功的奥秘之一。托克维尔说：“一个美国人，从政界的激烈斗争中退出而回到家里后，立刻会产生秩序安定和生活宁静的感觉。在家里，他的一切享乐简朴而自然，他的兴致纯真而淡泊。他好像因为生活有了秩序而获得幸福，而且容易惯于调整自己的观点和爱好。”

大部分美国人仍然认为，夫妻关系和孩子关系是他们生活围绕的中心，生命幸福的根本。

美国标准中产阶级家庭的模板：丈夫从事医生、律师或者工程师等职业，或者拥有自己的家族小企业，或者店面，或者公务员，或者其他有着稳定收入的工作，家庭中妻子在有了孩子后便留在家里做全职妈妈。除去孩子们上学时间外，妈妈们还负责带着孩子参加各种课外兴趣班。加上料理家务，每日时间也是排得满档。

美国家庭对于参与所居住社区的各类活动非常多，如社区教堂做礼拜，社区内担任义工。邻里间的互助和守望，是传统美国主流意识和文化中的一部分。

我儿子所在的幼儿园里，今年3月来了一位新同学。在跟他妈妈聊天时说到孩子夏令营的安排，这位美国妈妈说，想先安排孩子去所居住城市的社区中心办的一个运动主题夏令营，因为他们刚刚搬到这个城市，先熟悉社区，及所属的各个家庭，也是孩子生活的一部分。

美国主流意识形态、价值体系等虽然仍然是传统的，但随着时间的推进也有变化。

我在美国住院生孩子的时候，填写很多表格，注意到其中一个细节，填写孩子父亲的那个栏目里，所有的表格用的都是“Partner”这个词，而非“Husband”。尊重个人的选择，个人的权利，也是美国价值、道德体系中的重要组成部分。

小的方面，比如就医看病。病人永远都是与医生独处一室，充分尊重个人隐私。

美国每年在医疗保健的花费高达2万6千亿美元，相当于国内生产总值的18%，好比每个美国人，不论男女老少，人年均花费为8400多美元。这么多的费用，给民众带来的医疗效果并非同价值相等。

美国有很多世界上一流的医院，但也有很多服务于穷困民众的小医院，或者公益福利组织。在美国各大小城市中以社区为主要区域划分的格式下，很多社区内的活动也是与医疗有关。包括定期举办的义诊、老人院的义诊，甚至有些社区举办的游乐游园会里，也会有免费的简单义诊咨询等。

特别需要指出的是，社区教堂是重要的一部分。社区里的居民会选择在教堂做义工，在定期举办的各类活动中，如免费发放无家可归者食物，或者老年人聚会会提供低价午餐，或者在社区内发生突发事件时，如火灾、水灾等，会提供帮助等，都起着非常大的作用。

美国的医疗系统，有好的地方，也有冗重、低效的一面。美国现任总统奥巴马上台后力推的全民健保法案要解决的是把95%的65岁以下的美国人纳入医疗保险体制。这一法案最终形成法律后，将会使目前没有任何医疗保险的3200万美国人获得医疗保险。新法还将禁止保险公司拒绝为已经有病的病人提供保险。

美国最高法院在2012年3月正式开庭审议奥巴马健保法案是否“违宪”。引起争议的焦点除了支持全民健保的资金究竟从何而来，还有一点就是要求在2014年人人需购买医疗保险，否则便要缴纳税收罚款。支持这项规定的人说，为了平摊过去没有健保的成百万美国公民加入健保后的费用，强制参与是必需的。而反对者认为，强制购买健保，是联邦政府过度干预的违宪行为。

其实核心点在于，美国是个崇尚市场经济的资本主义社会，反对公营健保者，忧心“国营保健”将破坏美国私营企业的自由竞争，及民众自由选择的权利。美国传统观念中，不相信政府、反对大政府，反对政府拥有无法控制的大权力。这一法案让民众担心政府一手掌握全民健保生杀大权，将成为权力无限扩张的大政府。

这些问题彼此缠绕，成为当今美国面临的困境。参加“占领华尔街”运动的年轻人，不满社会的不公，抗议政府对于贪婪的华尔街银行家们没有可控的监管，对于现今年轻人的高失业率，政府毫无作为。反过来，美国人骨子里崇尚的对于自由和独立的渴望，对于强权天生的警惕和不信任，在过去两百多年里“大政府”多次成为社会、经济发展障碍的事实，让美国民众的内心经历前所未有的纠结。

“那是最美好的时代，那是最糟糕的时代；那是智慧的年头，那是愚昧的年头；那是信仰的时期，那是怀疑的时期；那是光明的季节，

那是黑暗的季节；那是希望的春天，那是失望的冬天；我们全都在直奔天堂，我们全都在直奔相反的方向——简而言之，那时跟现在非常相象，某些最喧嚣的权威坚持要用形容词的最高级来形容它。说它好，是最高级的；说它不好，也是最高级的。”（《双城记》，狄更斯）。

日子过得飞快，我们总是感叹时光的匆匆。来到美国已经快6年了。再读狄更斯的这段话，感触颇深。

美国究竟是什么样子的？每个人心里都有一个答案。

可能会相同的是，这是一个值得停留的地方。说这句话，不代表我不热爱我的祖国，人各有命，在我暂不能呆在自己祖国的时候，陌生国度的一切，是我必须思考、钻研、学习、体验、适应的。如蒲公英的一粒种子，不论飘在哪里，都要发芽。

盖洛普最新于2012年4月公布的民调显示，全世界有6亿3千万人想从自己的国家移民到国外。其中有1亿5千万人首选移民地是美国。美国之所以成为世界强国，跟它能吸引全球各地的精英来到此处不无关系。大的方面讲，美国的政治体系、经济体系、法制体系，好在哪里，评论阐述的文章不胜枚举。小的方面，街头一景，普通家庭的生活，或许更利于我们观察和了解。

这是我想在此《序》行将结束之时，与大家分享的。

2012年5月初，偶然机会得以相识著名摄影家龚建华先生，深感万分荣幸。《彼岸》这本摄影集是龚老师最新力作。是目前我看到、接触到的最真实、最贴切反应当今美国现状的一本书。他从四个主题——宗教、警察、民众普通生活、占领华尔街，给大家多角度呈现了一个真实的美国。

龚老师最擅长纪实摄影。纪实摄影是以记录生活现实为主要诉求的摄影方式，素材来源于生活，真实、如实反映我们所看到的。正因如此，纪实摄影不仅有记录和保存历史的价值，更有作为社会见证者独一无二的资格。

借用美国著名女摄影家多萝西娅·兰格（Dorothea Lange）说过的一句话，献给大洋彼岸的中国读者：“照相机是一个教具，教给人们在没有相机时如何看世界。”

2012年5月30日，写于美国加州旧金山

Preface : **What's America like?**

Preface to *Across the Ocean* (Wang Ying: Editor in Chief of Sina North America)

Before I came to America, my fantasy about it was filled with scenes from Hollywood movies: dining and wining, fancy houses, blue sky, cops and robbers, open minds, nation of freedom, and so on.

In May 2005, I came to visit America for the first time, to cover Intel ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) hosted in City of Phoenix, Arizona. And the trip thus gave me a chance to visit several local middle schools. The students there were in good manners and the schools were well-equipped with various teaching instruments. And also that the schools standing in such deserts turned out to be so modern and advanced inside gave me the impression how strong and developed America was.

In October, 2006, I was lucky to be assigned to work in the Silicon Valley area of San Francisco, California in West America. Finally I got the chance to get close to America, to feel, to ponder, to explore, what America was really like.

After tiring procedures were final, my life was slowed down. This is a society of rules and institutions. Individual rights and dignity is highly protected, as well as peace of mind and fulfillment of faith. Enfolded by rules and institutions, this strong society shelters people of happiness.

Like any other new-comer, at the start of my life in America, I was advised by many of my fellows to join the church so that I could get accustomed to this land soon and gain selfless and enthusiastic help from many American locals.

America is a relatively typical "religious" nation, with Christianity as established religion and basic system of ethics and morals based on its creeds and doctrines. There are over 300,000 sites for religious

activities including Christian churches, Catholic churches, synagogues, mosques and others. The religious take up around 80% of total American population. Let's take Bible, the doctrine for Christianity, for example. Its position as one the best-sellers in US is never changed, with annual sale as much as around 9 million. As Michael Novak, authority in American realm of thought, once put it that among three systems of politics, economy and culture in America, the cultural system is still centered around Christian culture. This still remains a mainstream viewpoint.

The Constitution of the United States ensures the people's religious freedom, and the US government adopts separation of church and state, with bias on any religion. Religion also plays an active part in American politics. Most American presidents are somehow related to Protestantism. For most constituents, whether a presidential candidate goes to church every week is an essential element.

Diversity in religions probably is the basic element for the cultural diversity in America. The fact that the US is an immigrant-friendly country contributes a lot to this phenomenon. The entry of varied immigrants brings along all kinds of religions. Of course, with constitution protecting the people's religious freedom, the strong legal institution and law enforcement system lays a sound foundation for the insurance of religious freedom.

A strong America is not just guaranteed by its economic power, military power and high technology, the soundness and strictness of the lawmaking system and law enforcement system is also essential. Many of us know about America from those cops and robbers on the screen. Hunter is one of the most well-known. So far, cops and robbers is still

one hot genre for many TV series lovers. Just like I see in my daily life, enforcement officers are visible nearly every day on the highways. The police plays an irreplaceable part in American daily life, from neighbor disputes to homicides.

Federal police alone has over 80 types and every state has its own state policemen (except Hawaii). And every local government (including county, city, town and village) has its own police system. There are around 920,000 policemen in America, taking up 3.25% of the total population. Municipal police is the biggest and most important component of the US institutions. Right now, fulltime police officers hired by municipal police office take up three quarters of all the fulltime policemen in America.

Starting from September of 2011, continual Occupy Wall Street protests broke out. During this, the confrontation between the police and the citizens is a perfect microcosm to study the real America. This incident aroused in-depth reflections on kinds of problems America is facing today, even on traditional American mainstream consciousness.

Perhaps Occupy Wall Street can be described as the biggest wealth equality campaign in American history. This is a strike-back from the left wing and the disadvantaged against the policies in favor of the affluent. This campaign reflects the hidden contradiction of American society, whether America is a finance-capitalism ruling nation or a manufacturing based capitalism nation; whether it is pure marketing economy or it should be shifted to be state-administrated; whether it should emphasize on individual dedication or on fairness and society supply by the society. The discussion and reflections brought by these subjects were all presented in this campaign.

Since the financial tsunami in 2008, the whole America is facing serious challenge. The recession pushed high unemployment rate in America, especially that of the young. According to Washington Post, the unemployment rate of young people from 16 to 24 is 18.5%, nearly twice the national average rate.

I live in San Francisco, California and City of Oakland is in that area. In January of 2012, another fierce police-civilian conflict occurred, named Occupy Oakland. Around 400 people were arrested within the conflict,

rendering it the single with most arrested people within the Occupy series.

City of Oakland in California is a beautiful port city with amiable climate. But it also ranks 6th among top 10 most dangerous cities in America. Recent years have witnessed a controversial incident: a police officer killed an African-American teenager when he was on duty. The officer did not get a heavy sentence and massive protests were aroused from the African-Americans who took up one quarter of the population of Oakland, followed by street fights.

Whoever has stayed or lived in America for a while are clearly aware that when one meets the police and not follows their orders as told, the next thing he is to expect might be bullets. I believe from this angle we can see the American law enforcers are to assume absolute power.

As the saying 'drama derives from life and goes above life' goes, the popular cops and robbers scenes being so fabulous is reasonable since there is no shortage of actual events in life as raw materials.

The United States bear the best, most beautiful and most secured cities, as well as the most dangerous and most violent ones. This is best of times and also the worst. However, this fact bothers not the people, who live by their own bearings, their own wishes and minds, who to live their own life.

America is rich, as proved by a GDP of 47,132 dollars per capita in 2011. Apart from the developed west coast and east coast, most areas are relatively traditional. People are leading family-centered life. Of course, even in west coast and east coast, for standard middle-class families in American, people's timetable is quite set.

In San Francisco, the highways reached rush hours after 7:30 am while after 7 pm, except Downtown, all the towns switch the silent night-mode. The streets are short of people.

America life is centered upon family. For all the activities, big or small, family will be regarded as the unit.

Traditionally, Americans' purchase for family order and happiness is based on their religious belief, God's law on the marital law on man and woman. Alexis de Tocqueville, famous French thinker regarded this kind

of religious belief as one of the secrets for American success. He said, "when the American retires from the turmoil of public life to the bosom of his family, he finds in it the image of order and of peace. There his pleasures are simple and natural, his joys are innocent and calm; and as he finds that an orderly life is the surest path to happiness, he accustoms himself easily to moderate his opinions as well as his tastes."

Most Americans still believe conjugal relationship and relationship with their children is still the center of their life, the core of happiness.

A standard American middle-class family: the husband is engaged in positions like doctors, lawyers or engineers, or own his small family business, or store, or works in the government or has another job that provides steady income while the wife stays at home as a fulltime mom after she has given birth. Beyond the children's school hours, the mothers would send their children to all kinds of extracurricular classes. With household to manger, the mothers' schedule is pretty full.

American families are highly involved with all kinds of community activities. They go to church of the community and participate in volunteer work. Helping and watching for each other is part of the mainstream consciousness and culture in traditional America.

In March this year, a new classmate came to my son's kindergarten. During my conversation with the kid's mother on plans for summer camps, the mother said that she would like to send the kid to the sport-themed summer camp hosted by the community center of the city she was living in. That's because, as she said, they had just moved to this city, they wanted to get familiar with the community and the families around, which was also part of the kid's life.

Though the mainstream consciousness and values of America are still old-fashioned, but they keep changing as time goes by.

A lot of forms needed to be filled out when I was having baby in an America hospital. I couldn't help noticing one detail: the blank for the baby's father was titled as "partner", but not "husband. Respect for personal choice and individual is also a main composing part of values and ethics of America.

From a smaller edge, let's take seeing the doctor as an example, the

patient is always meeting the doctors in a separate room so that privacy is well protected.

America spends as much as 260 billion dollars on medical health care every year, equally 18% of GDP. That's to say, Every American citizen, male or female, elderly or young, spends annually over 8,400 dollars on medical health on average. This kind of expense, however, did not bring equal treatments to the people.

Many top hospitals are located in America, and also many small ones for the disadvantaged and charity institutes are also there. As American cities of all levels are dived into different communities according to main areas, many community activities are medical-concerned, including periodic free diagnosis, in rest homes, and some even in fairs hosted by the community.

What needs to be pointed out is that community church also plays an important part. The people in the community would do volunteer work in the church, in periodic activities, like giving food to the homeless or offering cheap lunch to senior citizens, or providing assistance in urgent situations like fire and flood.

The American medical system contains the bright side, as well as the ineffective side. What President Obama tried to achieve in the health care bill he kept pushing was to include 95% of the American aged below 65 into the medical insurance. When this bill becomes law, 32 million American without medical insurance now would be insured. The new law would also prohibit insurance companies from providing insurance for confirmed patient.

The Supreme Court had an open trial in March of 2012 to determine whether Obama's health care bill was against the Constitution. What aroused the controversy was how the fund to support the bill came from and another point was that everyone is required to purchase medical insurance in 2014 or he is to be fined and pay the tax. Those for this said that it was necessary to make this compulsory in order to split up the insurance expense for those millions American citizens who had not bought health insurance. And those against this act maintained that forcing the citizens to buy health insurance was Federal government's

overdoing, which was against the Constitution.

The problem of this is that America is a capitalism society that honors marketing economy, which worries 'nation-run health care' would jeopardize free competition from the individual business and people's rights to choose. It is in traditional American concept that one should go against grand-government as the government should not have power beyond control. What worried the people is that the government, having power on health care and life-related issues, would extend it to a grand government.

All these problems entwined together become America's major headache right now. The young people who participated in Occupy Wall Street were unsatisfied with the injustice of the society and protested against the government's uncontrollable monitor over the greedy Wall Street bankers and against the government's impotency in the high unemployment rate for the young people. On the contrary, the yearning and desire for freedom and independence is craved in the Americans' mind, as well as alert and distrust to fated supremacy. Combined with the fact that the grand government became impediment to social and economic development, this issue has caused a complex that the Americans have never experienced before.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. — A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens

How time flies! We are always brooding over the rush of time. 6 years have gone by since my relocation to US. Reading these words from Dickens makes me quite sentimental.

What is America like? Everyone has his answer inside.

What the answers would possibly share: this is a land worth staying.

Saying this does not mean

According to a poll result leased by Gallup in April 2012, there are 630 million people in the world who want to relocate to another country, among which, 150 million people would put America at top of the list. This also contributes to the fact that elites from all over the globe like to come here. From a grand view, the strength of its' political system, economic system and institutional system is frequently stated in countless articles; from a smaller view, a street scene and life of a normal family perhaps helps us better observe and understand.

Below is what I want to share as this preface is being brought to closure.

In early May of 2012, I was so honored to meet by chance Mr. Gong Jianhua, a well-known photographer. Across the Ocean is Master Gong's latest dedication. This book is one that most reflects the authentic America I have ever encountered. He has presented a real America from four topics: religion, police, everyday life and Occupy Wall Street.

Master Gong is best for his documentary photography, which is to record life in reality as an expressive way. The materials come from life, truly and really reflecting what we see. That's why documentary photography only records and preserves history, but also is qualified as the witness of the society.

I would like to quote something Dorothea Lange, a famous American photographer, has said, "The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera" to present to Chinese readers across the ocean.

May 30th, 2012. In San Francisco, America.



7月4日是美国国庆日，当地华人与美国人同庆。图为一对华裔男女青年与装扮成“山姆大叔”的美国演员在一起。



2008年，數千華人集中在舊金山CNN門前，抗議《脫口秀》節目主持人侮辱中國。



2008年北京奥运圣火在伦敦和巴黎传递引起大规模抗议活动之后，全世界都将目光聚焦在旧金山，这也是北京奥运圣火在北美传递的唯一城市，数以千计的反对人士抵达旧金山，计划举行大规模的抗议活动，而当地华人和华侨万人上街，支持奥运火炬传递。当日，旧金山警方出动大量警力严密保护火炬。为了保障安全传递，旧金山启动了紧急传递方案和传递路线，从而圆满完成了火炬传递。



愤怒。医上网是一家在美国注册经营医疗器械公司，十余年来一直与大陆做着正常的生意。2012年7月，一批从中国大陆进口的物理治疗仪器被美国FDA扣查，原因是缺少文件，FDA令整批货物退回中国。图为该公司老板面对几万美元的损失愤怒无奈地拿着FDA的通知单。



“中国制造”在美国随处可见。对中国商品，美国人曾用“想躲也躲不开”来形容。价廉物美的中国商品丰富了美国市场，降低了美国的通货膨胀率，给美国民众带来了实实在在的好处。据中国海关统计，2011年中国向美国出口达3245亿美元，美国是中国第二大出口市场，出口货物包括机电产品、高新技术产品、自动数据处理产品、服装及衣着附件类产品、鞋类、家具及零件、电话机、纺织纱线及纺织制品、塑料制品等。由旧金山联邦储备银行做出的研究显示，美国消费者每花费1美元购买中国制造商品，其中大约只有45美分是付给中国。另一方面，大约有55美分是用来购买美国境内产生的服务，如商品运输、销售商品店铺的租金、销售人员的薪水、产品营销费用、零售商股东的分红等。图为一列运载着中国货物的集装箱列车正驶过加州佛利蒙市的交通道口。



2012年8月22日，第34届美洲杯帆船赛在三藩市开幕，一艘参赛的中国帆船正驶过天使岛。100多年前美国加州天使岛移民站（Angel Island Immigration Station）是专门关押中国移民的地方。天使岛从1910年起在这里开始关押试图进入美国的华人，30年间有超过17万中国移民曾被关押在天使岛。



美国加州圣何西 Santana Row 富人街街景，2012年4月