

星火 **5元** 丛书

美国总统 英语经典演说辞



范希春 编著

中国对外经济贸易出版社

5元丛书第五辑 英语经典演说辞

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丛书主编 马德高 张晓博 范希春

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国总统英语经典演说辞/范希春编著. —北京: 中国对外经济贸易出版社, 2000. 8

(5元丛书, 第五辑, 英语经典演说辞/马德高, 张晓博, 范希春主编)

ISBN 7-80004-753-9

I. 美... II. 范... III. 英语-语言读物, 演说
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 41695 号

5元丛书第五辑 英语经典演说辞
丛书主编 马德高 张晓博 范希春
美国总统英语经典演说辞
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中国对外经济贸易出版社出版
(北京安定门外大街东后巷 28 号)
邮政编码: 100710

新华书店发行
山东淄博印刷厂印刷
787×1092 毫米 36 开本
印张: 38.125 字数: 880 千字
2000 年 8 月第 1 版
2000 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 7-80004-753-9
H · 112

全套定价: 40.00 元

丛书致读者

从蒙昧时代到文明社会，人类一直怀有一种根深蒂固的热望，那就是实现与他人的交流与沟通。尤其是在今天这样一个信息化时代，人与人之间的交流和沟通就变得更为迫切和重要了。然而，不管人们交流沟通的手段多么先进，但更真切、更生动、更直接、更便捷的方式之一还是演讲。

记得西方的一位哲人曾经说过：**尽管我不同意你的观点，但我愿意用生命维护你讲话的权利**——每个人都希望能够自由地表达自己的意见，阐明自己的观点，而且这种权利必须受到他人的尊重！由此，演讲，成为我们生活中须臾而不可离的一种生存手段。

而真正好的演讲，不只是一种思想的载体，一种交流沟通的手段，更重要的是它表现出了演讲者的道德品格、知识修养、气度风范，因此，从这套丛书中，你应该不仅仅是学习英语语言艺术，更重要的是你学到了英语语言之外的东西——怎样更好地传达你的思想，展示你的人格的独特魅力，与历史上直至今天几乎所有杰出的人物交流对话。——**在得到这套丛书的同时，这种交流和沟通便开始了。**

真诚地希望，你会有许多意想不到的收获！

范希春

2000年6月18日

于中国社会科学院研究生院

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**The Experiment of the
American People**
George Washington

April 30, 1789

美国人民的实验

乔治·华盛顿

1789年4月30日

【作者简介】

乔治·华盛顿(George Washington 1732~1799), 美利坚合众国之父, 美国第一任总统。美国历史上惟一以全部选举人票两次当选的总统。两任届满后拒绝连任, 确立了美国政治中总统任期两届的传统。本篇是他在临时首都纽约发表的就职演说(首任)。

【作品原文】

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

Among the vicissitudes^① incident to life no event could have filled me with greater anxieties than that of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the 14th day of the present month. On the one hand, I was summoned by my country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration^② and

① vicissitude: 变化; 盛衰兴败。

② veneration: 尊敬, 崇拜。

love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and, in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years—a retreat which was rendered every day more necessary as well as more dear to me by the addition of habit to inclination, and of frequent interruptions in my health to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand, the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken in the wisest and most experienced of her citizens a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence one who, inheriting inferior endowments^① from nature and unpracticed in the duties of civil administration, ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions all I dare aver^② is that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance by which it might be affected. All I dare hope is that if, in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendent proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens, and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me, my error will be palliated by the motives which mislead me, and its consequences be judged by my country with some share of the partiality in which they originated.

Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential

① endowment: 才能, 天资; inferior endowment, 谦指自己天资愚钝。

② aver: 断言, 主张。

aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage^① to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency; and in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government^② the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities from which the event has resulted can not be compared with the means by which most governments have been established without some return of pious gratitude, along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me, I trust, in thinking that there are none under the influence of which the proceedings of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.

By the article establishing the executive department it is made the duty of the President "to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."^③

① homage: 敬意。

② 系指美国立国之时,通过制宪会议,将原来松散的邦联变成了统一的联邦。

③ 引自《美利坚合众国宪法》第二条第三节。

The circumstances under which I now meet you will acquit me from entering into that subject further than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are assembled, and which, in defining your powers, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute, in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, the rectitude, and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications I behold the surest pledges that as on one side no local prejudices or attachments, no separate views nor party animosities, will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests, so, on another, that the foundation of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality, and the pre-eminence of free government be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my country can inspire, since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; between duty and advantage; between the genuine maxims^① of an honest and magnanimous policy and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity; since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained; and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, perhaps, as

① maxim: 箴言, 格言。

deeply, as *finally*, staked on the experiment intrusted to the hands of the American people.

...

Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the Human Race in humble supplication that, since He has been pleased to favor the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquillity, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government for the security of their union and the advancement of their happiness, so His divine blessing may be equally *conspicuous* in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

【作品点评】

政治,似乎永远不那么十分地光明磊落,总是在真诚的表象后面有些令人难以捉摸的存在。但是,无论你是否了解华盛顿的政治品格,读了这篇演说辞,至少你会明白,政治家是应该持有怎样的襟怀。不错,政治家永远不同于政客,正如飞腾于天空的龙,永远不同于地上爬行的蛇。

Farewell Address^①

George Washington

September 17, 1796

告 别 演 说

乔治·华盛顿

1796年9月17日

【作品原文】

Friends and fellow-citizens:

The period for a new election of a citizen, to administer the executive government of the United States, being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me, on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments, which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observa-

① 1796年,乔治·华盛顿在要求其连任的呼声中,拒绝再次连任,表现出了无私的政治品格,本文便是他向国民告别的演讲,有删节。

tion, and which appear to me all-important to the permanency of your felicity as a people.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice^① of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee, that from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union, to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity, watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our union, it occurs, as a matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—Northern and Southern, Atlantic and Western—

① edifice: 大厦, 高大或宏伟的建筑物, 常用于比喻, a main pillar in the edifice 亦是比喻意义。

whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart-burnings which spring from these misrepresentations; they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection.

There is an opinion, that parties, in free countries, are useful checks upon the administration of the government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This, within certain limits, is probably true; and, in governments of a monarchical^① cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking, in a free country, should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding, in the exercise of the powers of one department, to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominate in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositaries, and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasion by the other, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern; some of them

① monarchical; 君主政体的。

in our country, and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships and enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause that neutrality we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own, to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice?

'Tis our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maximum no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But, in my opinion, it

is unnecessary, and would be unwise, to extend them.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish; that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations! But, if I may even flatter myself, that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit; to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigues; to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare, by which they have been dictated.

【作品点评】

中国人常常讲“功成身退”或“激流勇退”，但往往是在政治前途有点“灰”的情况下，一种无可奈何的选择。而华盛顿虽然不知道中国人有功成身退的口头“教义”，但却树立了这方面的典范。