

Unit One
Chinese Affairs

Lesson One

美英报刊简介

美国和英国的日报总数约两千多家,各种期刊为五千余种,其中绝大多数是地方性和专业性报刊,全国性大报和杂志为数并不多。下面介绍在美英国内外若干有影响的报刊。

美国报纸

1. *The New York Times* 《纽约时报》,1851 年创刊。属苏兹贝格 (Sulzberger) 家族所有。同《华盛顿邮报》和《洛杉矶时报》一起被列为美国最有影响的三家大报。它内容充实,资料齐全,拥有一批名记者,因而有“博大精深,当之无愧为美国第一大报”之说。在评选优秀报纸的民意测验中曾多次名列第一,也是获美国最高新闻奖——普利策奖最多的一家美国报纸,其订户遍及国内外。为了招徕更多的客户,该报于 2001 年发行电子版或网络版。

《纽约时报》一贯标榜客观和公正,其口号是“刊登一切适合刊登的新闻”。它常用较大篇幅刊登政府重要文件和领导人讲话,但也不时发表一些批评政府政策的报道和评论以及披露一些内幕和机密。例如,它于 1971 年刊登了轰动政界的关于越南战争起因的“五角大楼文件”(the Pentagon Papers)。它虽有“执美国舆论之牛耳”之说,但由于与东部权势集团关系密切,所报道和评述的国际新闻基本上反映美国政府的外交政策及其动向。

该报的主要读者是美国政界、工商界和知识界等上层人士。平日版日发行量约 120 万份,周日版发行量约 200 万份。在近年美国日报发行量的排行榜上名列第三。

2. *The Washington Post* 《华盛顿邮报》,1877 年创刊。注重报道国会消息 号称“国会议员和政府官员早餐桌上少不了的一份报纸”。它曾多次揭发内幕而几乎具有与《纽约时报》一样影响美国舆论力量的大报,如导致尼克松下台的水门事件(Watergate)和副总统阿格纽(Spiro Agnew)丢官的索贿案都是它揭露的。

该报属格雷厄姆(Graham)家族所有,其董事长兼发行人凯瑟琳·格雷厄姆(Katharine Graham)是美国新闻界女强人 据称 美国政要、名流以及外国使节、王宫贵族都竞相与她攀交情。

邮报在近年美国日报发行量的排行榜中名列第五,平日发行量约 100 万份 周日版约 80 万份。邮报还出版小开张的全国性周末版(*The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*)。

3. *Los Angeles Times* 《洛杉矶时报》,1881 年创刊。号称美国最有影响的三大报之一,是西部最大的报纸。在 20 世纪 50 年代 曾因竭力支持尼克松竞选总统而引起美国政界人士的重视,随后一跃而成为全国有影响的大报。自由派色彩较浓。

该报发行量在近年的排行榜中名列第四。

4. *USA Today* 《今日美国报》由甘内特报业集团(Gannet Co., Inc)创办于 1983 年,是美国惟一的全国性日报,因为其他报纸都冠以 New York、Washington 和 Los Angeles 等地方色彩的字眼。它利用通信卫星在全美各地同时印刷和发行,其彩色技术的运用使美国其他报纸纷纷效仿。

该报报道详实而不浮夸,原以国内新闻为主,较少刊载国际新闻,而且为迎合大众化趣味而一味模仿电视。为此,它付出了巨大的经济代价,现在已改变这一倾向。该报发行量在近几年的排行榜上名列第二 仅次于《华尔街日报》。

5. *The Wall Street Journal* 《华尔街日报》创刊于 1889 年。社址在美国金融中心纽约市华尔街附近,由美国主要财政金融新闻出版企业集团“道·琼斯公司”(Dow Jones & Company Inc.)出版,以报道经济方面动态为主,是金融企业家必读的报纸。日发行量约 200 万份,在排行榜上稳居第一。

“道·琼斯公司”与香港《南华早报》(*South China Morning Post*)、日本《经济新闻》和新加坡及马来西亚的《海峡时报》(*Strait Times*)和股,于 1976 年在香港出版《亚洲华尔街日报》(*The Asian*

Wall Street Journal) 行销亚洲各地。

6. *The Christian Science Monitor* 《基督教科学箴言报》, 1908 年在美国波士顿发行的日报, 由美国基督教教会创始人艾娣 (Mary Ed- dy) (1821—1910) 任社长。其主要目的在于抑制当时黄色报刊刊登的耸人听闻的新闻浪潮。该报历来对犯罪及灾祸等消息也尽量不作报道, 并且一贯拒绝刊登烟酒广告。以精心处理新闻报道, 对国际问题分析透彻和具有独到之处而著称。以往常入选美国十大名报。因资金不足, 1989 年不得不缩减版面, 削减栏目, 其影响力大减。我国读者常看到的是该报的国际版 *World Edition* 周报。

7. *International Herald Tribune* 《国际先驱论坛报》, 1963 年原由《华盛顿邮报》与《纽约时报》及原来的《纽约先驱论坛报》(The New York Herald Tribune) 共同在巴黎出版, 行销欧亚各地。现在由前两家合办, 并发行亚洲版。在海外工作的美国人是该报的主要读者。其观点较保守。

Text

Exploding Tourism Eroding China's Riches

Asia: From the Gobi Desert to the Great Wall,
visitors are viewed as rich sources of cash.

The damage they do is often ignored.

By HENRY CHU
TIMES STAFF WRITER^①

DUNHUANG, China — For the growing army of middle-class Chinese with a little extra money to spend, touring their vast country has become almost as natural as breathing. Both activities, it turns out, are harming the ancient Buddhist grottoes that make this place

one of China's cultural wonders.^②

Carved directly into a cliff face in the Gobi Desert, the Mogao caves contain a millennium's worth of work by travelers along the old Silk Road who turned countless small caves into stunningly painted shrines between the 4th and 14th centuries.^③

Wind, rain, sand and Western plunderers have all damaged the caves over the years. But the greatest scourge these days comes from the tourists who swarm here by the busload, bringing destructive amounts of carbon dioxide and moisture into the caves along with their eagerness for a glimpse of ages past.

"If I didn't get to see this before I died, it would have been the greatest regret of my life," said Liu Rui, 57, a retiree who made the journey from Shanghai, hundreds of miles away. "They should let as many people see it as possible."

It's a nice sentiment, but totally insupportable if the art inside the 492 grottoes is to survive. Many of the murals are already sagging or peeling from the earthen walls, their delicate beauty faded away. Others have deteriorated beyond the repair efforts of Chinese and foreign experts, including workers from the Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles.

The plight of the Mogao caves is a familiar one in China, where the breakneck rush toward freer markets and greater openness has resulted in an explosion of tourism and a corresponding erosion of some of the world's most precious cultural monuments, from the terra-cotta warriors in Xian to the mighty Great Wall itself.

After 20 years of economic reforms, the Chinese government is waking up to the need to preserve the nation's heritage in a systematic, comprehensive way before the sites themselves — and the revenue they rake in — disappear altogether.

"Asia's share of tourism growth is the fastest-growing in the world, and the lion's share is in China," said Richard Engelhardt, a regional advisor for the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known as UNESCO^④.

“Unless we take some measures, we may be in danger of losing our heritage to death,” Engelhardt told a conference on cultural conservation in Beijing last month.

Although the Communist regime^⑤ recognizes the challenge, tackling it has turned out to be a relatively slow and haphazard business.

At the root of the problem is money. As a poor nation, China has few resources left over for cultural conservation after struggling to overhaul its command economy, dampen rising unemployment, take care of an aging population, put in infrastructure and modernize its massive military.

At the same time, precisely because the nation *is* so poor, local officials have increasingly turned to tourism as a cash cow, often exploiting cultural and natural sites to their limit and threatening sites of inestimable value.

In the scenic southern city of Guilin, for example, so many tour boats ply the adjacent river that their churning wake has worn away sculptures erected along the water-way’s banks hundreds of years ago.

But the material benefits of tourism for local residents are hard to overstate, especially for people long mired in poverty and desperate for a way out.

Here in Dunhuang — in Gansu province, one of China’s poorest areas — tourist receipts account for a whopping one-third of the revenue for the entire province, officials say.

The city is home to two four-star hotels opened in the last five years, a number of other smaller establishments^⑥ and its own new airport. The latter has eliminated the need to drive hours across inhospitable terrain to reach the site, which helped keep tourist numbers down. Now, souvenir stalls line Dunhuang’s sidewalks, all selling the same things, from stuffed animals to tacky jewelry to colorful batik prints.

About 300,000 visitors a year, nearly all of them in the summer, converge on this oasis town, which essentially exists to serve the Mogao grottoes.

It all adds up to a headache for Fan Jinshi, director of the Dunhuang Academy, who is under constant pressure to grant more tourist access even as she oversees the protection of the caves on a barebones budget funded by ticket receipts and the state.

“Preservation is No. 1,” she said. “You can’t enjoy what’s not there.”

Authorities have tried to lessen tourism’s negative effects by rotating and limiting the number of caves open to the public — only about 20 to 30 at a time — and prohibiting photography.

Visitors must be accompanied by guides inside the darkened grottoes, which contain astonishingly beautiful paintings of paradise, *apsaras* (angels) and the patrons who commissioned the various caves.

In one cavern sits a Buddha more than 100 feet tall, in the same serene pose of blessing as when it was installed during the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-906). Other caves are cramped spaces barely large enough to hold a few people at a time. The earliest grotto dates from the 4th century.

“You can’t have a site like that that’s open carte-blanche to tourists. They have to be guided and supervised,” said Neville Agnew of the Getty Conservation Institute.

The Getty has been involved in preservation programs at Dunhuang since 1989 and received an award just this month from the Chinese government for its contributions.

Its original work centered on reducing sand and wind erosion and monitoring the environment inside the caves, including changes in humidity, temperature and carbon dioxide levels. Conservators are now concentrating on rescuing Cave 85, another Tang Dynasty grotto, to serve as a model for future restoration.

“Tourism and conservation should be good partners,” Agnew said. “The problem is . . . that connection hasn’t been made in the mind of the tourist authorities. . . The political heads have often not seen that a tourist site is often a nonrenewable resource, like Mogao.”

Agnew said he was shocked last year when he visited Taishan,

one of China's major religious sites, and discovered "cable cars and junk and crass commercialism and so on. That's the most sacred mountain in China."

Similarly, at the Great Wall outside Beijing, tourists can mount the wall on cable cars, then whoosh back down on toboggan slides.

Fierce competition for tourist dollars, which in China (including Hong Kong) equaled \$21.1 billion last year, has accelerated the degradation of cultural monuments.

In Lijiang, a postcard-pretty mountain village in Yunnan province, greed risks destroying some of the very beauty and ethnic flavor that tourists come to experience.

Near the city, rushing waters thunder through the Tiger Leaping Gorge, a favored destination of hikers and backpackers. For those who prefer convenience and comfort, however, a road has been carved along one side of the gorge to make way for cars and buses.

Not to be left out of the tourist boom, local officials on the other side of the river are blasting their own road through the gorge, to the dismay of those who want to keep the area as pristine as possible.

"To build a highway on the other side of the river may not seem in tune with the natural beauty, but it brings visitors convenience and safety," said Yao Ruixiong, director of Lijiang's preservation bureau. "If not for that highway, travelers would have to walk a long way and climb hills to enjoy the scenery" — which for many hikers is precisely the point.

In the town of Lijiang itself, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its snowcapped peaks and classic Chinese architecture, souvenir shops have proliferated in the Old City, as have canned performances for tourists that purport to showcase indigenous life.

Lijiang hosted 2.8 million visitors in 1999, and some experts think that's too many.

"At any given time, visitors may well outnumber local inhabitants," said Engelhardt, the UNESCO advisor. "When the carrying capacity of a historic site is exceeded, it is impossible to maintain its

conservation up to expected World Heritage standards.”

But Yao wants even more tourists — up to 10 million, if they'll come.

“Yes, the increasing number of tourists has affected the Old City, but we have to keep our door open to every tourist,” he said. “Economic development here depends on it.”

(From *Los Angeles Times*, August 23, 2000)

Notes

- ① HENRY CHU, TIME STAFF WRITER — Henry Chu 是《洛杉矶时报》记者或时报本报记者。(cf. STEVEN V. ROBERTS, Special to the *New York Times* [Note 1 of Lesson Fourteen])
- ② Both activities... one of China's cultural wonders. — refer to too many tourists and their breathing.
 这里 ,tourism 对保护文化古迹不利可以理解,但呼吸有什么害处呢?我们只要看到第三段,作者就说明 carbon dioxide 和 moisture 对壁画的损害。若能这样从字里行间联系起来看书,就能看懂有的词语和意思了。
- ③ Carved directly into a cliff face... the 4th and 14th centuries — 直接在戈壁沙漠的峭壁上雕刻而成的莫高窟是丝绸之路的旅行者经历了千年之久才创造的艺术成果。从公元 4 世纪到 14 世纪,他们把不计其数的小洞穴接连成令人瞩目的绘画神殿。
 a. a millennium's worth of — sth that takes a 1,000 years to happen, do, or use.
 b. work — here result.
- ④ UNESCO/ju:'neskəu/ — a UN agency set up in 1945 to promote the exchange of information, ideas, and culture. Its headquarters are in Paris (联合国教科文组织,美英两国分别于 1984 和 1985 年退出该组织。)
- ⑤ the Communist regime — 共产党政权(见第 3 单元‘报刊的政治倾向性’)。
- ⑥ smaller establishments — 较小的旅馆或其他旅游设施。

Questions

1. What activities are harming ancient Buddhist grottoes?
2. Who turned the caves into the painted shrines?
3. Are murals in good shape?
4. Why is it difficult for the authorities to prevent them from being destroyed?
5. Does the Chinese government value the preservation of those historical and cultural sites?
6. Why did Mr. Neville Agnew say “tourism and conservation are good partners”?

新闻语言解说

establishment

establishment 在现代英语中是个多义词。

1. 具有“机构”、“单位”等义 如：
 - a. The hotel is a well-run **establishment** (*Los Angeles Times*)
 - b. “It is truly regrettable. It is deplorable that a diplomatic **establishment** has been mistakenly hit,” Keizo Obuchi was quoted as saying by Kyodo News Agency. (AP)
 例 a. 这家旅馆是个管理得很好的“单位”例 b. 外交“机构”或外事“单位”
2. “界”如：

the intelligence **establishment**
3. 具有“编制”、“建制”等义 如：

The Pentagon argues for a leaner military **establishment**. . . (*Time*)

 美国国防部主张缩小军队编制
4. 具有“当局”、“当权派”、“官方”、“统治集团”等义 如：
 - a. Indeed the West German **establishment**, like the Polish and East

German governments, seems to be cordially displeased with Judge Stern's judgment. (*Newsweek*)

- b. Khomeini's curious blend of mysticism and activism still made him slightly suspect in the eyes of the Islamic **Establishment** — as a holy man who tried to run around with the Mob, one might say — but his following was growing steadily. (*Time*)
- c. Some **establishment** figures remain wary of Byrne because she defeated their candidate, but the new mayor has moved to patch up differences. (*Time*)

例 a. 指西德“当局”例 b. 指在伊斯兰“当权派”的眼里例 c. 指一些“官方”人士

5. 具有“权势集团”、“门阀”、“财阀”或“财团”等义如：

Despite his contribution in the field of social progress President Johnson “was never accepted by the liberal Eastern **Establishment**,” Carter said. “I don't know why.” (*Washington Star News*)

“东部权势集团”，一译“东部财阀或财团”

6. 具有“现存体制国家”、“社会既成权力结构”等义如：

a. The Church of England is the official (established) church of the United Kingdom, created in the 16th century as a protestant church by the Act of Supremacy. Its secular head is the sovereign, and its religious head, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Its senior clergy — archbishops, bishops and deans — are appointed by the Prime Minister. It is one of the main forces of the **Establishment** in Britain. (*Adrian Room*)

b. Several senior strategists recommended that the White House adopt an **anti-Establishment** strategy, taking on organized labor, civil-rights groups, feminists and other GOP foils. (*U. S. News & World Report*)

例 a. 英国的“现存体制”例 b. 反对“既成权力结构”

7. 具有“领导集团”、“核心集团”或“权势集团”等义如：But Dole had the near-unanimous support of the GOP **establishment** and wrapped up the nomination after a shaky start. (*The World*)

Almanac)

共和党的“核心集团”或“权势集团”

应该说明，以上不是 *establishment* 的全部词义，在不同的上下文还有其他意思。

工具书介绍（一）

“工欲善其事 必先利其器”这句古话对我们学习外语亦适用。没有几本得心应手的词典要读懂某方面书刊是不行的。我们在中学和大学一二年级打英语基本功时用的如 *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*（简称 *ALD*）是适用的，但到了大学高年级要读懂英文报刊，这本词典在词汇上不够多和新，知识面不够广。根据编者多年的读报经验，认为下列词典对我们看报较适合 特作推荐。

1. *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* 简称 *Longman*), 1995 年由外语教学与研究出版社和 *Longman* 联合出版。收词多于 *ALD*。释义新，尤其是英美报刊上常出现的一些抽象名词，其释义很有针对性，列出许多引申词义。如 *presence*, *ALD* 只有两条词义：1. being present in a place, etc.（具有在场、出席等义）；2. bearing; person's way of carrying himself（仪态、风度）。*Longman* 有 6 条词义，其中第 4 条词义对读现代报刊很有帮助，4. [*singular*] a group of people from another country, an army, or the police, who are in place to watch and influence what is happening（从外国来的一批人，指驻扎在某地的一支军队、警察或治安部队，旨在密切注视动向并施加影响）。事实上在现代报刊中，*presence* 如用于外交 可指“驻军”或“联合国”维和部队”等 如 *American presence in Asia* 可指“驻亚美军”或“美国在亚洲的军事力量”，*UN presence in East Timor* 指“联合国驻东帝汶维和部队”。再如 *technical*, *ALD* 的释义基本上只有“技术的”词义 而 *Longman* 的词义除此之外还有现代报刊上常见的一条词义：4. according to rules, according to the exact details in a set rules（根据规则或具体条款）。此外 *Longman* 还将 *technically* 另列条目。其中第 1 条释义“strictly”对我们理解和翻译此字时尤为重

要。不仅如此 *Longman* 的另一个特点是列出许多其他词典所没有的习语或短语，如本课第二段中有 'a millennium's worth of work' 表达法 其他词典都无此释义 但在 *Longman* 的 *worth* 条目中就有这样的一条习语释义：**ten minutes'/week's etc worth of sth: something that takes ten minutes or a week to happen, to do or use.**

不仅如此，*Longman* 与 *ALD* 一样，释义用字浅显易懂；释文详尽、准确；并列同义词和反义词。它确实是一本不可多得的好书。

美中不足的是，*Longman* 没有列出词源。

Lesson Two

美英报刊简介

美国期刊

1. *Time* 《时代》周刊, 1923 年创刊于纽约, 由时代出版公司 (Time Inc.) 出版 (近年来时代已兼并 CNN 和 AOL[美国在线])。它是美国三大新闻周刊中最成功的一家, 影响和发行量也最大, 每期发行量为 400 多万份。除发行国内版、军队版、大学生版外, 还发行国外版。国外版又分欧洲版、亚洲版和拉丁美洲版。

《时代》以报道精彩、及时、分析问题深刻和文字新颖取胜, 自称是“现代英文的代表”。每期除综述一周国内外重大时事外, 还对经济、科技、音乐、文教、宗教、艺术、人物、书刊、体育等方面的新闻精选整理, 综合分析和评述, 并配以插图和背景材料分类刊出, 使之较一般报纸报道更具有深度, 但又不是这些方面专业性杂志, 旨在让没有时间天天读报的“忙人”了解世事。政治上较保守, 倾向于共和党。

2. *Newsweek* 《新闻周刊》创刊于 1933 年, 新闻周刊公司属于华盛顿邮报公司, 为格雷厄姆家族所有, 因而它在重大政治问题上与《华盛顿邮报》立场基本相同。

该刊除了有名记者综述重大事件和报道、评论白宫新闻外, 还聘请其他国家的名记者撰写专栏评论。其版面与《时代》周刊相仿, 但在文字上较后者平易一些, 这两家是竞争对手。其发行量在三大新闻周刊中位居第二, 每期发行量约 300 万份。除发行国内版外, 还有大西洋 (即欧洲) 版和太平洋 (即亚洲) 版。

3. *U. S. News & World Report* 《美国新闻与世界报道》周刊, 1948 年由 *The United States News & World Report* 和 *U. S. Weekly* 三家刊物合并而成。是仅次于《时代》周刊和《新闻周刊》的美国第三大新闻周刊。在华盛顿出版, 发行量约 200 多万份。

该刊着重登载美国政治、经济、军事和国防问题等综合性报道与评论。专题报道美国国内问题和对官方人物的访问是其一大特色。文字较上述两份周刊浅显易懂。

4. *Reader's Digest* 读者文摘》创刊于 1922 年。号称资本主义世界发行量最大的月刊。用英、德、法、西、意、日、中、阿拉伯等 17 种语言在几十个国家和地区出版。在国内发行量为 1,800 万份,居国内各杂志之首。在国外发行量为 1,200 万份。

该杂志原以摘取书刊的报道为主,现在文摘只占 60% 其余为本刊或特邀记者所写文章。其编辑方针是“每月从一流杂志选出文章加以精简,务使文意紧凑,以保持永久可读性”。每期内容广泛,从国内外政治、社会、科学到生活琐事,无所不包。体裁活泼,有小说、散文、日记、小品、游记等。另一特色是利用文末到处补白,插以警句、箴言、座右铭、笑话等。此外,为帮助读者扩大词汇量,还辟有“Word Power”栏,这也是其他刊物所没有的。

5. *Fortune* 《幸福》杂志创刊于 1930 年,由时代公司在芝加哥出版。原为月刊,1978 年改为双周刊。它以丰富的专业知识为背景,对各企业的经营作深入的研究报道,极具权威性。尤其是每年 5 月第一周刊登的美国企业 500 强排行榜(The Fortune 500)、8 月第二周刊登的外国企业 500 强排行榜(The Fortune 500 Outside the U.S.)、外国 50 家最大的银行排行榜(The Largest Banks Outside the U.S.)及全球 50 家最大的工业公司排行榜(The Largest Industrial Companies in the World)最具权威性。此外,它有时还发表一些有分量的外交及军事方面的文章。

6. *Far Eastern Economic Review* 《远东经济评论》创办于 1946 年,周刊在香港出版。1997 年香港回归中国后,业主易人,由道·琼斯公司(Dow Jones & Company, Inc.)出版。主要是报道和评论远东国家和地区的经济,但也发表政治、军事等方面的文章。该刊语言较《时代》周刊等浅显些。每期发行约 8 万册,其主要订户是该地区的公司,其次是投资和关注该地区的美欧国家公司。

Text

Beijing Dreams of 2008A Finalist, City Is Running Hard for Olympics^①

By Elisabeth Rosenthal
New York Times Service^②

BEIJING — It seems recently that all of Beijing is flushed with Olympic fever, busy making preparations.

The posters are up at Beijing International Airport. Commemorative stamps have been issued. Taxi drivers are learning English to prepare for the influx of foreign guests. The logo is cropping up on key chains and bumper stickers.

Sydney? Oh no, not that Olympics. Not the one that begins Sept. 15 in Australia.

We're talking the Summer Olympiad 2008, the games to which Beijing desperately, desperately wants to play host — although the International Olympic Committee^③ will not choose a site for about another year.

“Holding the Olympics in 2008 is the common wish of all Chinese,” said Beijing’s deputy mayor, Liu Jingmin, who is chief of the bid committee. “We are confident and full of hope that they will be held here.”

Last week, the bid effort got a big push when the International Olympic Committee announced that Beijing was one of five finalists for 2008, along with Paris, Toronto, Istanbul and Osaka, Japan.

Mr. Liu, speaking at the space-age command center that has been constructed to mastermind the bid — an entire floor of a hotel — walks

with determination past Olympic statues decked with Beijing's newly designed Olympic logo and huge pictures of stadiums, real and yet to be built.

Teams of engineers pore over designs from international architects for a new Olympic village in northern Beijing.

But to understand why this teeming city with so many day-to-day problems is investing so much in pursuit of a distant dream, rewind history a bit: seven years ago, Beijing lost to Sydney by the slimmest of margins in an effort to hold the Olympics this year. (In 2004, the site will be Athens.)

To the Chinese it was a huge loss of face, the big fish that got away. And watching Australia basking in Olympic glory has no doubt left them itching with desire, determined that no price is too high to get the Games this time, no flaw too small to expunge in order to win^④.

"Last time we only lost by two votes and there was really no loser, we were just unlucky," Mr. Liu said. "But our wish of holding an Olympics never faded. And compared to 1993, Beijing is much more competitive now."

As Mr. Liu points out, Beijing has enjoyed strong economic growth and vast amounts of public construction since 1993, and China has become far more engaged internationally, moving from a pariah state to a growing economic powerhouse that is about to enter the World Trade Organization^⑤.

And to get the Olympics, Beijing has already essentially promised to speed up remodeling of the city, building three new subway lines and a new highway to ease the city's horrible traffic. It will also turn 495 hectares(1,235 acres) of bare earth into green space and shoo factories out of the city to improve its now mostly gray environment and clean up its foul air.

The Bid Committee's Web site(www.beijing-olympic.org.cn) lists reasons for choosing Beijing, among them:

- China, which has one-fifth of the world's population, has nev-

er held the event.

- China ranked fourth in medals at the past two Summer Olympics.

- Stable politics and a low crime rate.

- Independent surveys show that 94.6 percent of Beijing's residents want the Olympics there.

"Of course I support the bid," said Lin Xuezu, 36, a cab driver waiting for a customer outside a luxury hotel. "The roads will be improved, it will make Beijing more famous and for me it means more customers — there's nothing bad."

Last month, the Beijing city government began an English-speaking campaign whose goal is to teach half of all Beijingers 100 English phrases to prepare for the Olympics.

With the city government's Olympic obsession mounting, everything is now evaluated in terms of how it will affect the bid.

Radio talk shows advise people on what they can do to support the effort: Drivers must not overcharge, by even a penny. Industry managers must make sure company vans do not pollute. People should not spit on the ground, a still widespread habit.

But not everyone in this city of 15 million gets excited about an event eight years away that will require billions in government outlays.

"Sure it's great for the country, but it's bad for me," said a scraggly laid-off worker named Wang who was sitting nearby, hoping to find a customer for his pedicab.

"Already they're telling us you can't drive on this road and that road — you look too bad," Mr. Wang said. "If we get the Olympics, they'll totally shut us out."

(From *International Herald Tribune*, September 7, 2000)

Notes

- ① Olympics — the Olympic Games, a festival of sport held at Olympia (from 776 BC, every four years) by the ancient Greeks until abol-