Reading Course In American & British News Publications
(Intermediate Level)

美英报刊阅读教程(中级本)
(精选版)

主　编　端木义万

编著者　端木义万　李德俊　王文江　张延续　徐清平
　　吕　瑞　陈　戎　蔡　芳　端木栋林　徐　健
修订者　端木义万　郑志恒　黄　琳　俞　睿　刘斯宁　朱　琳
　　李媛媛　郁晓婧　陈惠芬　徐清平

文化顾问　James R. Jackson [美]
　　Elaine S. Jackson [美]

编　委　王传经　王少琳　王子信　王银泉　王　帅　马壮寰　石运章
　　叶　蕾　白济民　叶　青　何　树　肖　辉　严轶伦　严轶宁
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内容提要

本书是特别为大学英语专业中级水平学生和其他具有同等水平读者编著的外报外刊教材。其课文是从英美近期 17 种主要新闻刊物精选文章 42 篇，以专题为线，共分 10 个单元。书中所选文章质量上乘、内容典型、语言丰富、趣味浓厚、时效较长。教材编写突出能力培养。每课设有七个栏目：I. 课文生词；II. 知识介绍；III. 难点注释；IV. 语言简说；V. 内容分析；VI. 问题思考；VII. 话题讨论。

“知识介绍”栏目提供与课文相关的社会文化背景；“语言简说”栏目结合文章介绍现代报刊英语特色。增设这两大栏目的意图是架设两座桥梁，帮助读者步入阅读外报外刊的自如境界。“内容分析”项目提供课文内容和语言的多项选择练习，目的在于帮助学生深入、综合理解课文。出于提高学生思辨能力，增加口语交际实践考虑，本书专设了适宜用作课堂讨论的话题。

本书配有教学参考手册，提供“内容分析”和“问题思考”两项练习答案以及文章的层次分析。

主编主要著作介绍

一、教材系列

《美英报刊阅读教程(高级本)》(北京大学出版社,2001,已 9 次印刷)
《新编美英报刊阅读教程(中级本)》(中国社会科学出版社,2000,已 5 次印刷)
《新编美英报刊阅读文选(普及本)》(学苑出版社,2001,已 3 次印刷)
《美英报刊阅读教程》(南京大学出版社,1994,迄今已 16 次印刷)
《大学英语外报外刊阅读教程》(北京大学出版社,2003,已 6 次印刷)
《21 世纪中学生英文报　高中英语报刊阅读》(北京大学出版社,2004,已 2 次印刷)

二、专著系列

《传媒英语研究》(中国社会科学出版社,2000)
《美国传媒文化》(北京大学出版社,2003,已 2 次印刷)
《高校英语报刊教学论丛》(北京大学出版社,2000)
《美国社会文化透视》(南京大学出版社,1999)

三、学术论文 44 篇

前　言

英语报刊具有贴近时代、贴近大众、贴近现实、贴近生活的特点。作为英语教学资料，报刊具有以下四点显著优势：内容新颖、语言现代、资料丰富、词语实用。

伴随我国与国际交流的迅猛增加，英语报刊课程的重要性日趋突出，越来越多的高校为英语专业和非英语专业学生开设了这门课程。

教育部对英语报刊教学给予高度重视。教学大纲中的四、六、八级阅读项目都明确将阅读英美报刊水平作为评定阅读能力的标准。

为了适应形势的需求，自 20 世纪 90 年代初以来我们先后编著出版了针对大学不同层次学生水平，构成完整系列的英语报刊教材（详情请见“主编主要著作介绍”）。这套教材的共同之处在于突出学生的能力培养。

选材所坚持的标准是：专题为线布局、题材面域广泛、文章内容典型、语言质量上乘、知识含量丰富、使用时效较长。

为了加强英语报刊阅读能力的培养，本教材中除保留一般英语报刊教材所设的“课文生词”、“难点注释”和“问题思考”项目外，还增设了“知识介绍”、“语言简说”、“内容分析”和“话题讨论”四个项目。

“知识介绍”项目根据课文内容简明系统地提供了文章相关专题的内容，旨在拓宽读者社会文化和科技等方面的知识面域。“语言简说”项目结合课文语言，简要介绍了报刊英语和现代英语的常见语言现象，意在帮助读者熟悉外报外刊语言的规律和特点。这两个项目有助学生构建和丰富外报外刊语言和文化的认知结构，引导他们步入轻松自如地阅读英语报刊的理想境界。“内容分析”项目提供与课文内容和语言有关的多项选择练习，目的在于帮助学生深入、综合理解课文。“话题讨论”项目提供与课文内容相关并有一定深度的讨论题，意图是培养学生的思辨能力，增加口头交际实践的机会。

本书的精选版增设了“世界热点”、“文教体育”两大单元，共选入了 42 篇文章，其中新选文章有 19 篇。

当前，各个高校英语教师工作负荷很重，为了减轻授课老师的备课负担，本书配有教学参考手册，提供“内容分析”与“问题思考”两项练习的答案和课文篇章层次的分析。

本书凝结着许多人的深情厚谊和汗水心血。高校英语报刊教学界的许多同仁和我的博士生、硕士生们为此书献计献策，我的夫人郭荣娣同志为我创造理想的工作环境，全力保障我的教学和科研。尤为一提的是，本书在文化点的注释方面得到了美国朋友 James R. Jackson, Elaine S. Jackson 和 Karen O’Neill 的热情帮助。在此，谨向为此书做出贡献的所有人士致以诚挚、深切的谢意。

由于功力不深、锤炼不足，书中定有不少疏漏和错误，竭诚欢迎并殷切期望高校英语教师和广大读者提供宝贵意见。

主编　端木义万

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Lesson 1

Good News about Racial Progress

The remaining divisions in American society should not blind us to a half-century of dramatic change

By Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom

In the Perrywood community of Upper Marlboro, Md.[1], near Washington, D.C., homes cost between $160,000 and $400,000. The lawns are green and the amenities appealing[2]—including a basketball court.

Low-income teen-agers from Washington started coming there. The teens were black, and they were not welcomed. The homeowners' association hired off-duty police[3] as security, and they would ask the ballplayers whether they "belonged" in the area. The association's newsletter noted the "eyesore" at the basketball court.[4]

But the story has a surprising twist: many of the homeowners were black too.[5] "We started having problems with the young men, and unfortunately they are our people," one resident told a reporter from the *Washington Post*. "But what can you do?"

The homeowners didn't care about the race of the basketball players. They were outsiders—intruders. As another resident remarked, "People who don't live here might not care about things the way we do. Seeing all the new houses going up, someone might be tempted."

It's a telling story[6]. Lots of Americans think that almost all blacks live in inner cities. Not true. Today many blacks own homes in suburban neighborhoods—not just around Washington, but outside Atlanta, Denver and other cities as well.

That's not the only common misconception Americans have about race. For some of the misinformation, the media are to blame. A reporter in *The Wall Street Journal*, for instance, writes that the economic gap between whites and blacks has widened. He offers no evidence. The picture drawn of racial relations is even bleaker. In one poll, for instance, 85 percent of blacks, but only 34 percent of whites, agreed with the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial.[7] That racially divided response made headline news.[8] Blacks and whites, media accounts[9] would have us believe, are still separate and hostile. Division is a constant theme, racism another.

To be sure, racism has not disappeared, and race relations could—and probably will—improve. But the serious inequality that remains is less a function of racism than of the racial gap in levels of educational attainment, single parenthood and crime.[10] The bad news has been exaggerated, and the good news neglected. Consider these three trends:

A black middle class has arrived. Andrew Young recalls the day he was mistaken for a valet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel[11] in New York City. It was an infuriating case of mistaken identity for a

man who was then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

But it wasn't so long ago that most blacks *were* servants—or their equivalent. On the eve of World War II, a trivial five percent of black men were engaged in white-collar work of any kind, and six out of ten African-American women were employed as domestics.

In 1940 there were only 1,000 practicing African-American lawyers[12]; by 1995 there were over 32,000, about four percent of all attorneys.

Today almost three-quarters of African-American families have incomes above the government poverty line. Many are in the middle class, according to one useful index—earning double the government poverty level[13]; in 1995 this was $30,910 for a two-parent family with two children and $40,728 for a two-parent family with four children. Only one black family in 100 enjoyed a middle-class income in 1940; by 1995 it was 49 in 100. And more than 40 percent of black households also own their homes. That's a huge change.

The typical white family still earns a lot more than the black family because it is more likely to collect two paychecks. But if we look only at married couples—much of the middle class—the white-black income gap shrinks to 13 percent. Much of that gap can be explained by the smaller percentage of blacks with college degrees, which boost wages, and the greater concentration of blacks in the South, where wages tend to be lower.

Blacks are moving to the suburbs. Following the urban riots of the mid-1960s, the presidential Kerner Commission[14] concluded that the nation's future was menaced by "accelerating segregation"—black central cities and whites outside the core. That segregation might well blow the country apart, it said.

It's true that whites have continued to leave inner cities for the suburbs, but so, too, have blacks. The number of black suburban dwellers in the last generation has almost tripled to 10.6 million. In 1970 metropolitan Atlanta, for example, 27 percent of blacks lived in the suburbs with 85 percent of whites. By 1990, 64 percent of blacks and 94 percent of whites resided there.

This is not phony integration, with blacks moving from one all-black neighborhood into another. Most of the movement has brought African-Americans into neighborhoods much less black[15] than those they left behind, thus increasing integration. By 1994 six in ten whites reported that they lived in neighborhoods with blacks.

Residential patterns do remain closely connected to race. However, neighborhoods have become more racially mixed, and residential segregation has been decreasing.

Bigotry has declined. Before World War II, Gunnar Myrdal[16] roamed the South researching *An American Dilemma*, the now-classic book that documented[17] the chasm between the nation's ideals and its racial practices. In one small Southern city, he kept asking whites how he could find "Mr. Jim Smith," an African-American who was principal of a black high school. No one seemed to know who he was. After he finally found Smith, Myrdal was told that he should have just asked for "Jim." That's how great was white aversion to dignifying African-Americans with "Mr." Or "Mrs."

Bigotry was not just a Southern problem. A national survey in the 1940s asked whether "Ne-

groes should have as good a chance as white people to get any kind of job." A majority of whites said that "white people should have the first chance at any kind of job."

Such a question would not even be asked today. Except for a lunatic fringe[18], no whites would sign on to such a notion.[19]

In 1964 less than one in five whites reported having a black friend. By 1989 more than two out of three did. And more than eight of ten African-Americans had a white friend.

What about the last taboo?[20] In 1963 ten percent of whites approved of black-white dating; by 1994 it was 65 percent. Interracial marriages? Four percent of whites said it was okay in 1958; by 1994 the figure had climbed more than elevenfold, to 45 percent. These surveys measure opinion, but behavior has also changed. In 1963 less than one percent of marriages by African-Americans were racially mixed. By 1993, 12 percent were.

Today black Americans can climb the ladder to the top.[21] Ann M. Fudge is already there; she's in charge of manufacturing, promotion and sales at the $2.7-billion Maxwell House Coffee and Post Cereals divisions of Kraft Foods.[22] So are Kenneth Chenault, president and chief operating officer at American Express[23], and Richard D. Parsons, president of Time Warner, Inc.[24] After the 1988 Democratic Convention[25], the Rev. Jesse Jackson[26] talked about his chances of making it to the White House. "I may not get there," he said "But it is possible for our children to get there now."

Even that seems too pessimistic. Consider how things have improved since Colin and Alma Powell[27] packed their belongings into a Volkswagen[28] and left Fort Devens, Mass., for Fort Bragg, N. C. "I remember passing Woodbridge, Va.," General Powell wrote in his autobiography, "and not finding even a gas-station bathroom that we were allowed to use." That was in 1962. In 1996 reliable polls suggest he could have been elected President.

Progress over the last half-century has been dramatic. As Coretta Scott King wrote not long ago, the ideals for which her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., died have become "deeply embedded in the very fabric of America[29]."

From *Reader's Digest*, March, 1998

I. New Words

amenity	[ə'mi:niti]	*n.*	生活福利设施;便利设施
attainment	[ə'teinmənt]	*n.*	成就;造诣
aversion	[ə'və:ʃən]	*n.*	a strong dislike
bigotry	['bigətri]	*n.*	偏见;偏执
chasm	['kæzəm]	*n.*	a pronounced difference
domestic	[də'mestik]	*n.*	a household servant
embed	[im'bed]	*v.*	to fix firmly

fabric	['fæbrik]	*n.*	a complex underlying structure
infuriating	[in'fjuərieitiŋ]	*a.*	very annoying
interracial	[ˌintə'reiʃəl]	*a.*	人种间的, 人种混合的
misconception	['miskən'sepʃən]	*n.*	misunderstanding
paycheck	['peitʃek]	*n.*	salary or wages
phony	['fəuni]	*a.*	*informal* false or not real
segregation	[ˌsegri'ɡeiʃən]	*n.*	种族隔离

II. Background Information

种族成分

美国是个多民族国家(multiracial country),种族成分极为复杂。美国的多种族现象是由白人殖民、征服土著、输入黑奴和自愿移民综合形成的。印第安人是美国大陆原来的主人。白人殖民者反宾为主,用武力和欺骗的方式从他们手中夺取大片土地,把他们逼入不毛之地。1846 年到 1848 年,美国对墨西哥发动侵略战争,兼并(annexed)其一半以上领土。原先住有的 8 万墨西哥人大多成为美国公民。17、18 世纪为了缓解南方农业劳动力的严重短缺,从非洲购入黑奴,到 1780 年美国奴隶劳动力增至 53 万。随着国内工商业发展,东部、西部引进了大量外来移民充当劳工。1965 年美国取消了根据种族歧视实行了多年的移民限制,增加了非欧洲白人的名额,亚洲、拉美移民人数急剧增加。上述因素造成了现今美国的多血裔种族现象。

犹太移民伊斯雷尔·赞格威尔(Israel Zangwill)曾于 20 世纪早期在书中称美国是"上帝所创造的大熔炉"(God's crucible, the great melting pot)。自此之后,这一比喻就成了脍炙人口的描述美国社会的术语。它指的是移民来到美国与本地美国人(native Americans)融为一体,失去自身的特性(lose their own identity),被同化(be assimilated),也就是被美国化(be Americanized),使用的是同一种语言(英语),接受了主流文化的价值观念。许多社会学家认为把美国比作"大熔炉"不够恰当,称作"意大利馅饼"(Pizza)更为贴切。形容这种多民族文化的词语还有"杂烩锅"(a pot of stew)、"马赛克"(mosaic)、"色拉拼盘"(salad bowl)、"交响乐"(symphony)、"彩虹"(rainbow) 和 "万花筒"(kaleidoscope)。这些不同的说法强调不同的特色。

今日的美国,许多种族的后裔人数众多。美国爱尔兰人的后裔比爱尔兰共和国的人口还要多;犹太人的数量大于以色列国的人口数量;黑人的数量超过大多数非洲国家的人口;底特律市的波兰人后裔多于波兰多数大城市的人口;纽约市的意大利人后裔是威尼斯人口的两倍多。

美国主要种族所占比例情况如下：

年代	白人	黑人	西语裔	亚裔	印第安人
1995	72.7%	12.6%	10.3%	3.5%	0.9%
2000	75.1%	12.3%	12.5%	3.6%	0.9%

（根据美国人口统计局 2000 年 6 月数据，统计数字包括一人同时登记两种种族情况）

III. Notes to the Text

1. Md.—Maryland
2. the amenities appealing—生活设施舒适
3. off-duty police—不当班的警察(The homeowners' association hires off-duty police as security personnel)
4. The association's newsletter noted the"eyesore" at the basketball court. —协会通讯提到(社区)篮球场地上的"丑物"。(①newsletter—a small sheet of printed news sent regularly to a particular group of people;②eyesore—here referring to those black teen-ager basketball players from other areas)
5. But the story has a surprising twist: many of the homeowners were blacks too. —但此事让人奇怪的是,社区的很多住户本身也是黑人。(twist—an unexpected change or development)
6. a telling story—a very convincing example
7. the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial—辛普森杀妻案的判决(辛普森为美国前著名黑人橄榄球运动员，因 1994 年其妻及一朋友之死被控涉嫌谋杀,1995 年被无罪释放,但 1997 年民事诉讼中陪审团认为其对谋杀负有法律责任并判罚损害赔偿金数百万元。)
8. made headline news—to hit the headlines 成为显要新闻
9. media accounts—media reports
10. But the serious inequality that remains is less a function of racism than of the racial gap in levels of educational attainment, single parenthood and crime. —这种遗留下来的严重的不平等,与其说是来自种族主义的影响,不如说是教育程度、单亲和犯罪等层次上种族差距的影响。(a function (of)—a quality of fact which depends on and varies with another)
11. the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel—沃尔多夫旅馆
12. practicing lawyers—挂牌律师
13. poverty level —贫困水平(1996 年美国政府规定的贫困线:四口之家年收入为 15,600 美元。据统计,全国低于此贫困线的家庭共有 3,930 万,占人口总数的 15.1%。)
14. presidential Kerner Commission—a commission headed by Kerner and established by the Congress for researching and reporting on the issue of urban violence resulting from segregation especially after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968.
15. neighborhoods much less black...—neighborhoods in which there live more non-black people...
16. Gunnar Myrdal—贡纳·默达尔（1898– ,瑞典经济学家,社会学家,下文的 *An American*

*Dilemma*即为其所著的《美国难题:黑人问题与现代民主》)

17. document—*v.* to prove or record with documents
18. lunatic fringe—the people with the strongest or most unreasonable ideas or beliefs in a political or social group
19. ..., no whites would sign on to such a notion.—..., no whites would accept such an idea.
20. What about the last taboo?—The last taboo refers to interracial marriages that was once tabooed.
21. Today black Americans can climb the ladder to the top. — It means now black Americans can climb the social ladder to the top of the society.
22. Maxwell House Coffee and Post Cereals divisions of Kraft Foods—(伊利诺斯州北田市)卡夫食品有限公司的麦斯威尔咖啡和波斯特谷类食品部
23. American Express—美国运通信用卡
24. Time Warner, Inc.—时代-华纳公司
25. Democratic Convention—民主党代表大会
26. the Rev. Jesse Jackson—杰西·杰克逊牧师大人[the Rev. 即 the Reverend—大人(对教士的尊称)
27. Colin and Alma Powell—科林·鲍威尔, 美国前参谋长联席会议主席及总统国家安全顾问
28. Volkswagen—大众轿车
29. deeply embedded in the very fabric of America—已经深深地植根于美国社会结构之中(embed—to fix firmly and deeply in a solid object)

IV. Language Features

新闻英语特色

英语新闻报刊多种多样:有新闻报纸、新闻杂志,还有电子报纸(electronic newspaper,简称 e-paper)和电子杂志(electronic magazine,简称 e-zine)。报纸可细分为日报、晨报、晚报、半周报(semiweekly)、周报(weekly)和双周报(biweekly)、城市报(metropolitan newspaper)、郊区报(suburban newspaper)和乡村报(rural newspaper)、大报(quality newspaper)和通俗小报(tabloid)。

新闻英语主要受以下五个因素制约:大众性,节俭性,趣味性,时新性和客观性。

报刊是大众传媒,写作必须适合广大读者水平,语言必须通俗易懂。

报业十分珍惜版面, 要求新闻写作人员在有限的篇幅内提供尽可能多的信息,读者看报珍惜时间,希望在很短的时间得到所要的信息,这就迫使新闻写作人员养成文字简洁的风格。

西方新闻界一向注重趣味性,报刊又面临电视、广播、网络传媒的巨大挑战,要稳住报业市场就得加强趣味性,因而新闻报道必须写得生动有趣。

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时新性是新闻价值之一。新闻报道在提供最新消息的同时也传播了相关的新词。此外,不少新闻写作人员为了增加文章的吸引力,在语言上刻意求新,因而新闻英语具有新颖活泼的特色。

客观性是纯新闻报道所遵循的准则,没有客观性报道就要丢掉可信性,也就会失去读者。客观性要求新闻报道文字准确具体,避用情感词语和夸张手法。

初读美英报刊的人往往会遇到很多困难,主要是因为他们对报刊英语特点了解不够。譬如,新闻标题短小精悍,在句式和用词上都有相应的省略手段。又如,新闻报道为了节约篇幅,采用一系列手段浓缩、精练句式。较常见的有前置定语、名词定语、身份同位语前置、词性转化、借代、缩略词等。再如,为使语言生动、活泼,报刊常常使用比喻和成语活用手段。新闻刊物不仅是报导新闻的媒介,而且是"使用新词的庞大机器和杜撰新词的巨大工厂"。这些特点会给读者带来理解上的困难。为了帮助读者克服这些困难,本书把新闻英语特色分成若干细目,结合每篇课文,逐一进行介绍。

V. Analysis of Content

1. According to the author, _____.

A. racism has disappeared in America

B. little progress has been made in race relations

C. media reports have exaggerated the racial gap

D. media accounts have made people believe that the gap between blacks and whites has become narrower

2. What the Kerner Commission meant by "accelerating segregation" was that _____.

A. more and more whites and blacks were forced to live and work separately

B. more and more blacks lived in the central cities, and whites outside the core

C. more and more whites lived in the central cities, and blacks outside the core

D. nowadays more and more blacks begin to live in the suburbs

3. The last taboo in the article is about _____.

A. political status of America's minority people

B. economic status of America's minority people

C. racial integration

D. interracial marriages

4. Gunnar Myrdal kept asking whites how he could find "Mr. Jim Smith," but no one seemed to know who he was, because _____.

A. there was not such a person called Jim Smith

B. Jim Smith was not famous

C. the whites didn't know Jim Smith

D. the white people considered that a black man did not deserve the title of "Mr."

5. In the author's opinion, _____.

A. few black Americans can climb the ladder to the top

B. Jesse Jackson's words in this article were too pessimistic

C. Colin and Alma Powell could have been elected President in 1996

D. blacks can climb to the high class only if they work hard

VI. Questions on the Article

1. Why were those low-income teen-agers who came to the Perrywood community considered to be "the eyesore"?
2. What is the surprising twist of the story?
3. According to this article, what has caused much of the white-black income gap?
4. Why did the presidential Kerner Commission conclude that the nation's future was menaced by "accelerating segregation"?
5. Why wouldn't questions as "Should negroes have as good a chance as white people to get any kind of job?" be asked today?

VII. Topics for Discussion

1. Can you tell briefly the dramatic progress in the status of America's minority people over the last half-century?
2. Do you think the article is unbiased? What do you think of the author's view on the African-Americans?

Lesson 2

Who Are America's Hispanics?

The answers may surprise you

By Michael Barone

As you walk around the Cisco Brothers, furniture factory in South Central Los Angeles, you'd hardly guess that Francisco Pinedo is the boss. Short and slight[1], wearing jeans and speaking rapid-fire[2] Spanish to his workers, he seems younger than his 35 years. Pinedo came to the United States in 1976 from Jalisco, Mexico, a 13-year-old boy who spoke no English. He dropped out of the 11th grade to work for a furniture manufacturer to support his family. Later he and his wife, Alba, borrowed everything they could to buy a one-bedroom, no-windows house for $36,000.

Today the Pinedos own Cisco Brothers which employs 115 and last year sold more than $9 million worth of furniture to stores around the world. "Being American offers you almost every opportunity," says Pinedo, who speaks English fluently and has applied for U.S. citizenship.

His is one of the success stories written by what the Census Bureau[3] calls Hispanics: people of Latin American or Spanish origin. Whether recent immigrants or descendants of people who lived in the Southwest before the Pilgrims[4] came to America, they are all members of one of this country's most important ethnic groups—and one of the least understood. Consider these facts:

The Census Bureau estimates that there are 28 million Hispanics in the United states today, approximately one in ten of us. That number is projected to reach 53 million in the year 2020, or one in six Americans. Most of that growth will *not* be because of immigration, legal or illegal, but will come from the natural increase among Hispanics already here.

Like Fransisco Pinedo, most Hispanics come from humble backgrounds—many from unthinkable poverty. But the large majority are not poor or on welfare. Indeed, Hispanic men have a higher labor-force participation rate than the national average.

Some Hispanics speak only Spanish—but the overwhelming majority growing up in the United States see English as their primary language.

In recent years the public spotlight on America's Hispanics has often focused on drug crime, urban poverty and illegal immigration. But beyond these publicized problems are millions of ordinary, and many extraordinary, people. Who are they—and what will be their impact on the nation's future?

The Ninth of 12 Children, Danny Villanueva grew up in California and Arizona border towns. His father was a minister and a supporter of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers. His diminutive[5] mother insisted that her sons raise themselves through athletics. After every game, win or lose, she would ask, "Did you give it all you had?[6]"

Villanueva was, by his own description, "short, fat and slow—but nobody outworked me." He became the kicker for the Los Angeles Rams[7], then helped found the Spanish-language Univision television network[8]. Today he is head of the nation's first Hispanic investment fund[9], its high-rise offices overlooking the mansions of Beverly Hills[10].

Family ties, like the strong partnership between Villanueva's parents that gave him a future, remain important to today's young Hispanics. Many of the men working in Francisco Pinedo's factory, for instance, are about the same age as the characters on TV's "Seinfeld" or "Friends."[11] But instead of hanging out[12] with contemporaries, most are married with children.

According to the most recent statistics, 37 percent of Hispanic households are composed of two parents raising minor[13] children—as compared with 25 percent of non-Hispanic Americans. Divorce is significantly less common among Hispanics than among non-Hispanics.

Sleepless in El Paso. As a boy, Cesar Viramontes crossed the Mexican border to El Paso, Texas, knowing no English. He dropped out of high school to work in a laundry. Then he and his wife saved enough money to buy a laundromat[14]. When the fashion for prewashed jeans[15] started, the Viramontes family got into the business. Closing the laundromat at 10 p.m., they'd set the machines spinning with jeans from local manufacturers. Then they'd clean out the blue water and lint[16] before customers arrived at 7 a.m. All for 15 cents a pair.

When did they rest? "We didn't ," says Cesar Viramonters. "You can sleep when you're 60." Today the family owns International Garment Processors, which employs more than 750 workers at two large plants just outside El Paso. The company processes 50,000 garments a day for Levi Strauss[17] and other makers, and grosses[18] more than $30 million a year.

America's Hispanics are known as hard workers. "Latinos[19] have a strong work ethic[20] and strong loyalty to employers," says Jose de Jesus Legaspi, a real-estate developer who came to Los Angeles from Mexico as a teen-ager. Their attitude, he says, is: " I'm asked to do this job, and I go and do it. If I need more money, I'll get an extra job."

Statistics back up Legaspi's opinion: the percentage of Hispanic men in the labor force in 1996 was 80 percent, well above the U.S. average of 67 percent. And many are entrepreneurs: the number of Hispanic-owned businesses rose to 863,000 in 1992, with receipts of $77 billion.

All Together Now. In 1994 (the last figures available)[21], Hispanic income per person was only 57 percent of the national average—reflecting low earnings by immigrants with little English and few marketable skills. But often several people in each family work, so average Hispanic *household* income was 73 percent of the U.S. average.

This is one way immigrants work themselves up to the middle class. Mexican-born Elena Lomeli is a top assistant to Laurie Gates, a pottery designer whose work appears in leading department stores. Arriving here in 1969 at age 13 and knowing no English, Lomeli baby-sat and did housekeeping. Today she helps transform Gates's designs into finished products. "I surprise myself every day by what we do here," she says.

The Language Crisis. When Miami lawyer Nicolas Gutierrez, Jr., was interviewed on Spanish-language television, his Cuban-born family called him later to "correct what I got wrong,"[22] he says. Although he grew up hearing Spanish at home, he spoke English in school, college and law

school—and speaks it today in his business and personal life.

Today, in many workplaces and with family and friends, Spanish is usually the choice for Hispanic immigrants. As a result, many critics of immigration worry that Hispanic America will become a separate, Spanish-language community.

It's an old controversy, one that also raged early this century when Italian, Polish and Jewish immigrants did not learn English. But the second generation did. And the experience of Nick Gutierrez and many others is reason to believe that things are no different today.

Indeed, more than three-quarters of U.S.-born Hispanics have a solid command of English[23]. And in a 1996 poll conducted for the Center for Equal Opportunity, 51 percent of Hispanic parents said that learning to read, write and speak English was the most important goal of their children's education; only 11 percent said the same of Spanish.

Unfortunately, public schools—the great entryway to American success for the children of earlier immigrants—have not served Hispanic students well. Part of the problem: the "experimental" bilingual education programs started a generation ago. Technically voluntary[24], these programs enlist many Hispanic children regardless of parents' wishes. States such as California and Illinois can keep pupils in bilingual classes for five years. The effect is to hold back children from learning the English that they need and their parents desire.

And because many Hispanic students are thus ill-prepared when they get to college, bilingual programs have even found a foothold there. Herman Badillo, a former New York City Congressman of Puerto Rican descent, spoke to one student from Hostos Community College, a bilingual branch of the City University of New York. The woman had failed a required English-proficiency test twice. "She couldn't speak fluent English, and she'd majored in gerontology and gotten a job in a nursing home," Badillo said. "If she's working with elderly people who don't speak Spanish, it will be a calamity."

Clearly, reform of bilingual education programs is long overdue[25].

Citizens Who Vote. Eighty years ago it was said that Italian immigrants would never be absorbed into mainstream society. Yet in time they became unequivocally American. Today, writes cultural critic John Leo[26], " Hispanics are blending into the general population at least as fast as earlier white ethnic groups did."

In the past two years Hispanics have become U.S. citizens at a record pace[27]. Already the largest ethnic minority, they will in time be the largest voting bloc—maybe even the majority—in several of our largest metropolitan areas. And competition for Hispanic votes is becoming as politically crucial as past battles for immigrants' votes.

Texas and California, the nation's two largest states, with the two largest Hispanic populations, have already developed very different Hispanic politics. Hispanics in Texas's Congressional delegation, for example, include a conservative Republican as well as both conservative and liberal Democrats. In California—with 54 electoral votes, 20 percent of those needed to win the Presidency—Hispanic voters tend to favor government-spending programs[28] and activism, positions that usually help liberal Democrats. But they are also likely to support capital punishment[29] and oppose abortion, views that help Republicans.

In any event, the GOP[30] could pay a high price if it is perceived as engaging in immigrant-bashing[31]. In 1994, for example, one in four Hispanics voted for California's Proposition 187[32], which barred state aid to illegal immigrants. But many resented Republican Governor Pete Wilson's ads for the measure, which they thought labeled all Hispanics as lazy. Two years later the Republicans' share of the Hispanic vote sharply declined.

Whatever they may be in the future, Hispanic preferences and priorities are likely to strongly influence the direction of our politics and government. But it will be *American* politics.

Consider Texas Congressman Silvestre Reyes. Growing up in a small Texas town, he learned English at school, served in Vietnam and then got a job with the Border Patrol[33]. In 1993 he devised Operation Hold the Line[34], which stationed agents at the border along the Rio Grande and vastly reduced the flow of illegal immigrants. In 1996 he was elected to Congress.

A reporter once asked him, "How do you guys celebrate independence day?"

"With fireworks and a picnic," Reyes replied.

The writer was surprised. "I had no idea you celebrated the 16th of September [Mexico's independence day] that way," he said.

Reyes explained: "I'm talking about the Fourth of July."

From *Reader's Digest*, January, 1998

I. New Words

bilingual	[bai'liŋgwəl]	*a.*	written or spoken in two languages
calamity	[kə'læmiti]	*n.*	灾难, 不幸事件
contemporary	[kən'tempərəri]	*n.*	one of the same time or age
controversy	['kɔntrəvəːsi]	*n.*	a serious argument or disagreement
descendant	[di'sendənt]	*n.*	后裔;子孙
entryway	['entriˌwei]	*n.*	入口
foothold	['futhəuld]	*n.*	立足处
gerontology	[ˌdʒerən'tɔlədʒi]	*n.*	老人医学
metropolitan	[ˌmetrə'pɔlitən]	*a.*	relating to, or characteristic of a major city
outwork	['autwəːk]	*v.*	to work better or faster than
participation	[pɑːˌtisi'peiʃən]	*n.*	the act of taking part in an activity
receipt	[ri'siːt]	*n.*	收入;收益
spotlight	['spɔtlait]	*n.*	*figurative* public attention
unequivocally	['ʌni'kwivəkəli]	*adv.*	very clearly

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