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前　言

阅读外报外刊不仅是我们学习英语的目标之一，而且也是学习英语的一条重要途径，因为报刊上的文章是关于正在发生的或已经发生的事件，是用今天人民大众日常应用的语言写成。教育部最新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》也明确提出，大学生应具有阅读外国报刊的能力。

为帮助读者了解和掌握地道真实的英语，我们精选了英美国家权威报刊的文章，为大家提供内容新颖、题材广泛、语言现代的读物，文章内容涉及到政治、经济、社会及科技发展等各个方面，能有效地使读者开阔视野，提高语言技能，增强思维能力，获取大量的新知识、新信息，从而激发更加强烈的求知欲望。

我们精选了 83 篇近期权威报刊的文章，并根据内容，分为政坛风云、名人轶事、科技之光、文化聚焦、人生启航、经济动向、社会掠影、卫生与健康和缤纷话题这九个部分。为提高阅读效果，我们为每篇文章配备了练习，包括选词填空、多项选择、词汇释义、完型填空、简答题等形式，并在书后附有答案。此外，为帮助读者洞悉世界最新动态，我们还附加了“趣味阅读”。

我们希望本书能为广大读者在课间余暇、在上网前后、在校园内外接触英语原文提供便利，能使读者真正体验学习英语的乐趣，真正体验英语给自己带来的实际意义，真正体验到英语能使你如虎添翼，驰骋在世界的广阔天地。

本书适用于高等院校的本科生和研究生，也适用于具有同等水平的自学者。

我们衷心希望本书能成为广大读者登上成功之梯的垫脚石。

由于我们能力有限、时间仓促，不妥之处，敬请批评指正。

薛　琛

二〇〇六年七月

于南开园

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一、政坛风云

1. Transcript of Debate Between Bush and Kerry

医疗保障事关民众的健康乃至生命，自然成为大选中两个总统候选人的辩论话题。老百姓想听听他们怎么说。

竞选连任的布什说，医疗费用太高，因为没有市场机制的力量，接受治疗的人不是直接付钱的“购买者”。此外，操作手续落后，没有应用现代信息技术等。

克里反驳说，美国的药品价格大大高于邻国加拿大，政府却不准百姓向加拿大购药。仅此一项，美国大公司的利润高达 1 390 亿，这是人工安排的“天上掉下来的横财”。怪不得医疗支出越来越大，民众得益越来越少。

布什听完不作回答，但他话锋一转，说克里从来没有当过领导。

Mr. Schieffer[1]: Mr. President, let's have a new question. It goes to you and let's get back to economic issues. Health insurance costs have risen over 36 percent over the last four years, according to The Washington Post[2]. We're paying more and we're getting less. I would like to ask you who bear responsibility for this. Is it the government, is it the insurance companies, is it the lawyers, is it the doctors, is it the administration?

Mr. Bush: Gosh, I sure hope it's not the administration. No, there is a—look, here—there's a systemic problem. Health care costs are on the rise because the consumers are not involved in the decision-making process. Most health costs are covered by third parties. And therefore, the actual user of health care is not the purchaser of health care. And there're no market forces involved with health care.

It's one of the reasons I'm a strong believer in what they call health savings accounts. These are accounts that allow somebody to buy a low-premium, high-deductible catastrophic plan and couple it with tax-free savings. Businesses can contribute, employees can contribute on a contractual basis. But this is the way to make sure people

are actually involved with the decision-making process on health care.

Secondly, I do believe the lawsuit—I don't believe, I know that the lawsuits are causing health care costs to rise in America. That's why I'm such a strong believer in medical liability reform. At the last decade, my opponent said, well, they only—these lawsuits only cause costs to go up by 1 percent. Well, he didn't include the defensive practice of medicine that costs the federal government some $28 billion a year and costs our society between $60 and $100 billion a year.

Thirdly, one of the reasons why there's still high costs in medicine is because they don't use any information technology. It's like if you looked at them—it's the equivalent of the buggy and horse[3] days compared to other industries here in America. And so we've got to introduce high technology into health care. We're beginning to do it, we're changing the language. We want there to be electronic medical records to cut down on error as well as to reduce costs. People tell me that when the health care field is fully integrated with information technology, it'll wring some 20 percent of the costs out of the system.

And finally, moving generic drugs to the market quicker.

So those are four ways to help control the costs in health care.

Mr. Schieffer: Senator Kerry?

Mr. Kerry: The reason health care costs are getting higher, one of the principal reasons is that this administration has stood in the way of common-sense efforts that would have reduced the costs. Let me give you a prime example. In the Senate we passed the right of Americans to import drugs from Canada. But the president and his friends took it out in the House[4], and now you don't have that right. The president blocked you from the right to have less expensive drugs from Canada.

We also wanted Medicare to be able to negotiate bulk purchasing. The V. A.[5] does that. The V. A. provides lower cost drugs to our veterans. We could have done that in Medicare. Medicare is paid for by the American taxpayer. Medicare belongs to you. Medicare is for seniors who are many of them on fixed income to lift them out of poverty. But rather than help you, the taxpayer, have lower costs, rather than help seniors have less expensive drugs, the president made it illegal, illegal for Medicare to actually go out and bargain for lower prices. Result, $139 billion windfall profit to the drug companies coming out of your pockets. That's a large part of your 17 percent increase in Medicare premiums. When I'm president, I'm sending that back to Congress. And we're going to get a real prescription drug benefit.

Now we also have people sicker because they don't have health insurance. So whether it's diabetes or cancer they come to the hospitals later. And it costs America more. We've got to have health care for all Americans.

Mr. Schieffer: Go ahead, Mr. President.

Mr. Bush: I think it's important since he talked about the Medicare plan I passed.

He's been in the United States for 20 years, he has no record on reforming of health care, no record at all. He introduced some 300 bills, and he's passed five. No record of leadership. I came to Washington to solve problems. I was deeply concerned about seniors having to choose between prescription drugs and food. And so I led. And in 2006 our seniors will get a prescription drug coverage in Medicare.

Mr. Schieffer: Senate Kerry 30 seconds.

Mr. Kerry: Once again, the president is misleading America. I've actually passed 56 individual bills that I've personally written. And in addition to that, they're not always under my name, there is amendments on certain bills. But more importantly, with respect to the question of no record I help write, I did write, I was one of the original authors of the early childhood health care and the expansion of health care that we did in the middle of the 1990's. And I'm very proud of that. So the president's wrong.

New Words

catastrophic *a.* causing a lot of damage as serious as caused by a catastrophe
contractual *a.* having the nature of a contract
liability *n.* legal responsibility for paying a certain amount of money
wring *v.* to twist or squeeze something in order to remove liquid from it
windfall *n.* an amount of money you get unexpectedly

Notes

1. **Mr. Schieffer**: Bob Schieffer of CBS news, the moderator who presides over the debate
2. **The Washington Post**: a U. S. newspaper
3. **buggy and horse**: a carriage with two or four wheels and a single seat usually drawn by one horse
4. **the House**: the U. S. Congress
5. **The V. A.** : the Veteran Administration

Exercise

I

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word or phrase from the list.

bargain for	**couple with**	**integrate with**	**liability**	**opponent**
deductible	**responsibility**	**cover**	**basis**	**systemic**

1. The minister has overall _____ for the country's hospitals.
2. Generally, corruption in underdeveloped countries is _____ more serious than in developed countries.
3. The insurance policy does not _____ you against theft.
4. Lack of rain _____ high temperature caused the forest fire.

5. The old man wanted his son to save money on a regular _____.
6. The city council made it clear that the transport planning should be _____ energy policy.
7. Migrant workers usually _____ better pay.
8. Donations are tax _____.
9. They reported that the company would accept no _____ for delays caused by bad weather.
10. The young man was an outspoken _____ of the minister.

Ⅱ

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate word.

People across the country—chefs and lunch ladies, district superintendents and politicians—say they're determined to __1__ what kids eat in school. Nearly everyone agrees __2__ must be done. Most school cafeterias are staffed by __3__ trained, badly equipped workers who churn out 4.8 billion hot lunches a year. Often the meals, produced __4__ about $1 each, consist of breaded meat patties, French fries and overcooked vegetables. So the kids buy muffins, cookies and ice cream __5__—or they feast on fast food from McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell, __6__ is available in more than half the schools in the nation. Vending machines packed __7__ sodas and candy line the hallways. "We're killing our kids" with the food we __8__.

(　　)1.	A. refine	B. improve	C. enhance	D. nourish
(　　)2.	A. anything	B. everything	C. nothing	D. something
(　　)3.	A. poorly	B. poor	C. poverty	D. impoverished
(　　)4.	A. in	B. for	C. by	D. on
(　　)5.	A. despite	B. spite	C. instead	D. indeed
(　　)6.	A. that	B. as	C. that	D. which
(　　)7.	A. by	B. of	C. in	D. with
(　　)8.	A. serve	B. make	C. produce	D. manufacture

2. An Interview with Bill Clinton

克林顿根据他在总统任期内的经验和体会，回答了一些颇为尖锐的问题，诸如总统所面临的挑战，美国在世界中的地位以及如何取得政治上的成功等。他的回答听起来似乎出乎意外，实质上很合乎情理。这是因为一个国家的事务极其复杂，堆在办公桌上要求总统处理，而总统其人也只是一个凡人。如果有什么神秘感的话，那是局外人想象出来的。

The former President seemed in a comfortable mood as he sat down to be interviewed. He was dressed formally, in a blue suit, white shirt and pink tie, but he spoke easily and often quite candidly about his successes and failures.

On the challenges of the presidency

I'm trying to show [in the book[1]] how everything happens at once. You come to office. If you're fortunate, you have a theory of the case. You know where America is, where America ought to go, and what you think you ought to do to take it there. And so you pursue that agenda. And then almost without exception, there are other things you have to deal with. First, unanticipated events. When I ran for President, I didn't dream that within a year I'd be dealing with what happened in Somalia[2]. George Bush certainly didn't believe he'd be dealing with 9/11.

Then there's always an opposing party. And sometimes they see their job as to stop you from doing yours. So you have to find a way to work with them and, hopefully, to reach an honorable compromise without looking like you sold out. You have to make judgments about when to hold, when to fold. And I think that the whole American system was set up to force people to compromise. So I don't think it's a bad thing. But there are some things that aren't acceptable. That's why I try to go through in some detail in the welfare-reform section why I vetoed the two bills I vetoed, why I signed the bill I signed.

Then there's another thing that happens, which is you make mistakes. [For instance,] at the end of the '96 campaign, when it was obvious that the Democratic National Committee, even though I knew nothing about it, didn't have an appropriate vetting operation for some of the contributions. So all we could do was give up the money, codify it all, give it all to the Justice Department and try to fix it. You run a big ole bureaucracy, things are going to happen. And then, you know, those of us with kids, your kid graduates from high school, things happen. I wanted to try to give people a sense of what it is like to be in the middle of this.

On mistakes he made as President

I should have done welfare reform before health care. As soon as I realized [Senate majority leader] Bob Dole wasn't going to do anything on health care, I should have told the American people the truth, abandoned it, and said we're going to do this after the '94 election, we've got to have a bipartisan solution. I hope that in my account here I have persuaded people that the blame for those two big decisions rests entirely with me, because I always thought Hillary[3] and Ira Magaziner[4] got a totally bum rap on this. Those were big, big calls I made and they were wrong. I made a lot of big calls right, but those two I made wrong.

On succeeding in politics

I think the great trick to a successful run in politics is to have both what you've called the wussy-mommy qualities and the macho-tough qualities. If you're only one or

the other, you're going to get into trouble. A party without compassion and without intellect and without appreciation for ambiguity is going to get in trouble in an environment where there are many moving parts, not all of which are under your control. On the other hand, if all you have is empathy and ambiguity and you don't know when to stand and fight and when to say no, then in the end all the sand will run out of the hourglass before you really can prevail.

I think the Republicans are better at understanding how to get and keep power. They've shown that since 1968. The Democrats tend to be more responsible in the exercise of power but sometimes don't understand how to get it or how to keep it. We have to understand, we Democrats, that not all politics is rational and you have to deal with people's fear, their need for security. We have to understand that when the Republicans come at us and paint cartoon-like images of us, even if, like [former Georgia Senator] Max Cleland, we left half our body in Vietnam, they do it for one simple reason—because it's worked so much. And they will keep on doing it until it doesn't work, because they're in business to beat us. We've got to beat them.

On America's place in the world

I believe that instead of acting on our own whenever we can to solve whatever problems we can, we should be trying to build alliances and acting with others whenever we can and acting alone only when we have to. Because I think the most important thing is not to solve all the problems in the world. We can't do that. The most important thing is to create a world we would like to live in when we are no longer the world's only superpower.

For example, if in 30 years, the E. U.[5] continues to grow together, economically and politically, China continues to grow, and India has the boom it might—then, if we're the only military superpower, it will be their choice, not ours. As soon as they're as rich as we are, it is their choice, not ours. So I think we should be trying to create a world we would like to live in even if we're not the only big dog on the block.

New Words

presidency *n.* the position of being the president of a country or an organization
veto *v.* officially refuse to approve or allow something
vet *v.* to check someone's past activities, relationships to make sure that what he or she does is acceptable
codify *v.* to arrange facts or principles in a system
ole *a.* old
bipartisan *a.* involving two different political parties
bum rap *phr.* unfair treatment or punishment
big calls *phr.* important decisions
wussy-mommy *n.* weak, ineffective, like a mother indulging her children

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macho-tough *a.* as tough as an overly aggressive and domineering man
hourglass *n.* an instrument for measuring time by the trickling of sand

Notes

1. **in the book**: referring to the book titled *My Life*, Bill Clinton's 957-page memoirs
2. **Somalia**: a country in East Africa
3. **Hillary**: Hillary Rodham Clinton
4. **Ira Magaziner**: the Clinton Administration's top Internet adviser
5. **the E. U.**: the European Union

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with words given below. Change the form where necessary.

appropriate	**operation**	**honorable**	**compromise**	**acceptable**
campaign	**judgment**	**solution**	**failure**	**abandon**

1. Fresh attempts at _____ with the committee were also on the agenda.
2. Police have launched a _____ to crack down on drug smugglers.
3. John would not accept _____ easily.
4. It is not easy to make a _____ about what the outcome will be.
5. We had to _____ the car and walk all the way to the office.
6. Both countries were trying to find a peaceful _____.
7. The agreement was _____ to all sides.
8. The old man said that acting was not an _____ profession.
9. The company failed in the first year of _____.
10. It would not be _____ for them to discuss the problem now.

Reading for Fun

The Best Films of the Year of 2004

"Kinsey". The standout in a year of biopics, Bill Clinton's life of the mid-century sex researcher Alfred C Kinsey in an intelligent, witty investigation of scientific zeal, moral fallibility and marital loyalty—a stirring and timely reminder of the complexity of human behavior, sexual and otherwise.

"Tokyo Godfathers". The anima master Takoshi Kon's third film transplants a mawkish John Ford western into modern Tokyo, a city Mr. Kon renders with breath-taking vibrancy and precision. A heartwarming Christmas fable, a candy-colored film noir, a magical-realist cartoon tear-jerker—no description of his movie can do justice to its captivating, virtuosic strangeness.

3. What Happens to the Losing Team?

2004年大选，民主党和共和党角逐总统宝座，民众支持率并驾齐驱。可是最后计票结果，民主党失利，一时高涨的情绪顿时失落。静下心来思索的问题自然是“输在哪里”。

民主党自从克林顿卸任以后，连输两局。这次共和党打赢了“反恐怖”王牌，取得了微弱多数。看来，竞选的策略奥秘大有琢磨的必要。总结经验自然必要，关键是巩固党内团结，争取2008年大选的胜利。

Coming after the 2000 cliffhanger and a negative, hard-fought campaign, it's no surprise that John Kerry's[1] loss would leave democrats deflated and searching for answers. "We had the money, we had a ground operation the likes of which has never been seen, and we had a good candidate who stood toe to toe with the President[2] and bested him in three debates," sighs Harold Ickes, who ran two of the cash-rich outside groups that sprang up in this election to help the Democrats contend with the G. O. P.[3] fund-raising advantage "We had all that, and we still lost. People are going to ask, 'What do we have to do? there's going to be a real aftershock."

With aftershock there usually comes second-guessing and recrimination. Picking over the tactical blunders and missed opportunities is a tradition in any post-election recovery. But political parties tend to make major course corrections only in the wake of catastrophe. That's what happened after the 1988 race, when the elder Bush[4] eviscerated the hapless Michael Dukakis[5] to deliver the G. O. P. a third straight electoral landslide. Out of the ashes of that defeat and a struggle between the party's liberal and moderate wings arose a Bible-citing, charisma-infused Southern moderate named Bill Clinton, who went on to give the Democrats their only presidential triumphs in a generation. Having lost two close and winnable elections in a row since the Clinton era ended, is it time for the Democrats to engage in another round of intra-party bloodletting before they settle into the task of selecting their nominee for 2000?

It depends on which democrat you ask. "In the 1980s, we got hit by a political 2-by-4," says Bruce Reed, president of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council, which helped launch Clinton on his way to the White House in 1992. "This election was a whole lot more complicated. It was so close that it's unlikely to be a learning experience for Democrats. I suspect there'll be more finger pointing than soul searching. And that's a shame." For Reed and other so-called New Democrats who struggle to keep the party from veering too far to the left, Kerry was a vast improvement over other Democratic nominees. But, insists Reed, Kerry should have run a better campaign. "We

can't let George Bush define our future...Democrats need to put forward our vision of how to win the war on terror. Defeating terrorism is going to be the defining issue for years to come. For our party's sake and our country's sake, we have to get it right because Americans won't take us seriously until we do."

Because the election was so close, party professionals and activists seem disinclined to engage in much self-criticism. They said that the Democrats coming out of the election are more unified, and would be even more unified, facing the challenges in the four years to come. Besides, there are progressive organizations and they were active in the election. They seemed to feel like they had the power to change politics.

The capacity of independent nonparty organizations like MoveOn, Americans Coming Together and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now to raise money and mobilize young voters has acted like a fresh rain on the Democratic Party's parched grass roots. Even though the Democratic candidate lost, the party and the broader network of liberal organizations succeeded in raising record sums of money and enlisting unprecedented numbers of volunteers. Far from being distraught and depressed by the election, the way they were after 2000, many democrats sound surprisingly upbeat about the future.

New Words

cliff-hanger *n.* any highly suspenseful story or situation

deflate *v.* to collapse by letting out air or gas; to make or become smaller or less important

second-guess *v.* to criticize something after it has already happened

recrimination *n.* answering an accuser by accusing that person in return

eviscerate *v.* to deprive of an essential part; to take away the force, significance

hapless *a.* unlucky

landslide *n.* an overwhelming majority of votes for one candidate or party in an election

charisma *n.* a special quality of leadership that captures the popular imagination and inspires allegiance and devotion

centrist *n.* a person with moderate political opinion and policies

veer *v.* to change direction

parch *v.* to expose (corn, grass, etc.) to great heat so as to dry or roast slightly

distraught *a.* extremely troubled, mentally confused

upbeat *a.* lively; cheerful; optimistic

Notes

1. **John Kerry**: the Democratic candidate in the 2004 election
2. **the President**: George W. Bush

3. **G. P. O.**: the Grand Old Party, another name for the Republican Party in U. S. Politics
4. **the elder Bush**: George (Herbert Walker) Bush, the 41st president of the U. S.
5. **Michael Dukakis**: an American Democrat politician and the presidential candidate in the 1988 election

Exercise

Fill in the blanks with words given below. Change the form where necessary.

distraught	**parch**	**veer**	**upbeat**	**destined**
recrimination	**charisma**	**hapless**	**disinclined**	

1. Bitter accusations and _____ followed the disaster.
2. _____ passers-by could be dragged into the argument.
3. Few Presidents have had the _____ of Kennedy.
4. The country's leaders seemed to _____ towards nationalism.
5. I liked the comedy film with an _____ ending.
6. The _____ woman gave police a description of her attacker yesterday.
7. The car _____ sharply to the right and crashed.
8. In summer, we'll see _____ soil everywhere in Africa.
9. Do you think it was _____ that we should meet one day?
10. She was _____ to talk about the incident.

Reading for Fun

The October surprise came in June. Has there ever been a campaign development quite like Fahrenheit 9/11? Everyone had heard of campaign books, but suddenly we all woke up to the election-season power of a shrewdly times... documentary. Michael Moore's bumper car of a movie crashed into Bush from all angles while attracting the kind of box-office gross (U. S. numbers: $119 million) that usually goes to Adam Sandler pictures.

Shortly after his film opened, Moore took his father to get coffee at a doughnut store in Flint, Mich. "We're going through the drive-through window," he recalls, "and a girl, about 23, said, 'I just saw your film. I voted for Bush in the last election, but I just can't do it this time because he didn't turn out to be who he said he was.'" As it happens, there weren't enough of those doughnut girls to elect Kerry. But Moore, 50, has other projects in the works. His next film is a documentary about the U. S. health-care system. Tentative title: Sicko.

4. The Shoe Bomber's World

在一架从巴黎飞往美国迈阿密的波音767飞机上，一个把炸药隐藏在鞋子中的恐怖分子，点燃了导火线。火药味惊动了飞机上的乘务员，立刻展开了一场高空中的生命与死亡的搏斗。一分一秒都裁判着生与死的胜负。

乘客与机组人员同"机"共济，用一纸杯又一纸杯的饮用水，浇灭了导火线上的火苗。

这个恐怖分子根子很深，经过"基地"组织的训练，来往于土耳其、埃及、以色列以及荷兰之间，通过互联网获得制造炸弹的技术资料。

这场自杀性航空爆炸恐怖活动，总算化险为夷了，不过，它留下了一个问题：人们相互之间的仇恨，为什么竟然到了残杀无辜的地步？

It was the scream that people noticed. Monique Danison, an American college student, had just finished lunch on American Airlines Flight 63 from Paris to Miami when she heard a woman cry out in terror. " When someone screams the way she did," says Danison, " you know something bad is happening. "

Bad is right. Richard Reid, a British passenger on the Boeing 767, was trying to light a fuse protruding from his shoe, witnesses say. According to the FBI[1], packed in the sole were enough high explosives to blow a hole in the fuselage of the aircraft. But the attempted bombing was foiled. Two flight attendants struggled with the tall, unkempt man after one of them noticed the sulfurous smell of a lighted match. Danison remembers one of the attendants crying " Oh, my God ! Somebody help me !" and then calling for "water, contact solution, anything you have. " Passengers passed cups and glasses back to the scene. One of the attendants poured a bottle of water over Reid, who was then restrained with passengers' belts and sedated with drugs from the onboard medical kit. For the rest of the tense flight—the captain had warned the Reid might have accomplices onboard—passengers and crew guarded their prisoner, one of them keeping a grip on his long ponytail. Escorted by Air Force fighters, Flight 63 was diverted to Boston, where Reid was taken into custody. He was denied bail on Dec. 28, and is awaiting trial in Plymouth, Mass[2].

Immediately after the incident, it was tempting to view Reid more as a lone nut[3] than a cog in a terrorist machine. On Dec. 21, when he first tried to fly to Miami, he raised enough concern—he paid for his ticket in cash and had no checked bags—that airport officials questioned him so long that he missed the flight. When he showed up the next day, his appearance—long-haired, disheveled, druggie—seemed almost calculated to draw attention. At the boarding gate, says Annie Joly, a French woman on the

flight, "I was immediately struck by how bizarre he looked." After Reid's arrest, the bare bones of his life as a small-time London crook came out, and he claimed to have made the bomb from a recipe on the Internet. He seemed to be what looked like, the ultimate loser.

Few now think Reid was a bungling amateur. On Jan. 16, a U. S. federal grand jury indicated Reid on nine counts, including use of a weapon of mass destruction and attempted murder. He has pleaded not guilty. The indictment alleges that Reid received training at camp in Afghanistan run by al-Qaeda[4], the organization headed by Osama bin Laden[5]. The bomb inside his shoe was a sophisticated one. In fact, it turns out to be a favorite of European al-Qaeda operatives. Both FBI and French law-enforcement sources tell TIME there were palm prints and hair on the shoe that didn't belong to Reid. Clearly he had had help.

Reid certainly seems to have had friends in strange places. In January the *Wall Street Journal* published an astonishing tale. *Journal* reporters in Kabul[6] purchased a secondhand computer whose hard drive contained thousands of files written by al-Qaeda members. One file was a detailed account of the travels last summer of "Abdul Ra'uff," who flew from the Netherlands to Israel, Egypt and Turkey scouting locations for terrorist attacks. Abdul Ra'uff's itinerary matched one known to have been taken at the same time by Reid. FBI analysts now firmly believe that Reid and Ra'uff are the same man. Moreover, in the past two weeks, European investigators have linked Reid to some of the best-known terrorist cells on the continent.

The story of Richard Reid, however, is about more than one failed terrorist attempt. An investigation of Reid's case by TIME has underlined a truth that experts on terrorism know very well, even if you rarely hear it mentioned by officials in the Bush Administration. As the fighting in Afghanistan winds down, the Administration seems ready to prosecute the war against terrorism and its state supporters elsewhere—in the Philippines, Somalia or even Iraq. But the heartland of Islamic extremist terrorism is now Western Europe, where U. S. military power has less to offer by way of a solution. That's why understanding Richard Reid's world is so important.

New Words

fuselage *n.* the main part of an aircraft that the wings are fixed to
foil *v.* to prevent someone from doing something that they are trying to do
unkempt *a.* dirty and messy
sedate *v.* to give someone a drug that makes someone calmer
accomplice *n.* someone who helps another person do something illegal or wrong
ponytail *n.* long hair that is tied at the back of the head and hangs down
bail *n.* money that is given to a court when someone is allowed to stay out of prison until their trial

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