

英语阅读菁华

——人文历史篇

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总 序

经过一段时间的充分酝酿和准备,《英语阅读菁华》丛书终于和大家见面了。这套丛书共有五册——幽默篇、童话篇、风土人情篇、人文历史篇和科普篇。该丛书的目的在于帮助读者通过大量的阅读提高其英语综合运用能力,特别是阅读和翻译能力。该丛书具有以下几个特点:

一、给读者提供一个较理想的、真实的语言环境。该丛书选文题材广泛、内容丰富,既反映了英语国家的历史传统和文化背景,又包括了当代科学技术的最新发展和应用前景。这样就给读者提供了一个与自己的生活、学习、工作和科学研究有密切关系的、比较真实的语言环境,使读者能够比较轻松自然地进行阅读,在吸收语言的同时也学习进行中外双向交流所必需的文化背景知识,从而增加读者的阅读兴趣,在不知不觉中提高自己应用语言的能力。

二、给读者提供既地道规范又生动活泼的当代英语。丛书取材于英语国家(特别是美国)当代有影响的报刊杂志、文学读物、科技报道及各种优秀教材。不仅有较正式的书面语体,还有非正式的口语语体。这样,读者接触到的是富有时代气息的、比较实用的语言形式,从而学到地道规范、恰当得体的当代英语,进而提高对英语的感悟能力、理解能力和表达能力。同时也可以了解英语的最新发展趋势。

三、注释翔实、明晰,译文通顺达意。丛书对原文中的难点均做了翔实明确的注释。每篇文章都配有参考译文,译文力求忠实原文,朴实无华,以利于读者自学参考。这样不仅有助于提高阅读理解能力,而且通过对照译文,促进翻译能力的提高。

四、既具有针对性,又符合科学性和系统性原则。该丛书大致适合于大学和研究生阶段的学生以及具有同等水平的英语学习者的阅读需要。愿该丛书带您走进一个较理想的英语语言学习环境,为您开辟一个新的英语世界,帮助您成为既有科学知识,又有较强的英语交际能力的 21 世纪的新型人才。

总而言之,我们是要为英语学习者设计一个多彩多姿的英语

天地,通过大量的阅读和实践,帮助您发展兴趣、开拓视野、改进方法、提高信心。我们相信,这套丛书是您感受英语、学习英语、提高英语、实践英语的新世界。

本丛书在编写过程中,参阅了大量的书刊并选编了其中的一些文章。在此我们向这些文章的作者表示最衷心的感谢。李娜、李明、孙金友、夏青、王保江等同志在文章的录入和统计、资料的收集等方面做了大量繁琐、细致的工作,并为本书提出了许多宝贵的建议和设想。

由于水平有限,书中肯定会有不少难尽人意之处,我们恳请广大读者不吝赐教,以便我们再版时作进一步的修订,使其更加完美,走进更多读者的心田。

前 言

您想了解英美国家的人文历史吗？您想知道英美国家著名的地理风貌吗？那么，请您走进《英语阅读菁华——人文历史篇》。本书是《英语阅读菁华》的第四册，精选文章 39 篇。内容主要包括与历史文化、地理环境和名人逸事有关的优秀短文。

任何一种语言都不是孤立的。它必然要受其历史及地理环境的影响。在 21 世纪，随着科学与艺术的高度发展，人们热切期待着新一代的年轻人不仅在科学技术领域，而且也在艺术文化领域，充分展示他们的才华。随着新世纪中西方文化交流的进一步融会，我们不但要放眼开放交流的未来，还必须回顾中西方文化的源远流长。因为只有具有历史的视野，才能领略和珍惜人类文明的营养精华。

本书旨在让年轻人通过阅读了解英美国家的历史、地理文化，为他们更好地掌握英语语言打下坚实的基础。

为了便于读者自学，本书对文章的难点和重点部分增加了注释，并赋有参考译文。本书适合初中级以上英语阶段的学习者，也是不错的英语教学参考教材。

本书从收集整理上百篇文章中精选而来。编写本书主要参考资料是近几年来国内外出版的英文报刊、杂志及书籍等。作者既考虑了选材的广泛性，又注意了针对所选择的读者群。

本书的作者衷心地希望读者从这本书里得到乐趣、智慧和知识！



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原文

1. The Birth of the United States

1 They were no longer really colonials^①, but neither were they yet Americans. As the year 1776 opened, the farmers who had stood against the Redcoats^② at Lexington and Concord, the militiamen^③ who had gone off on a doomed invasion of Canada were balanced precariously^④ between their ancient loyalty to their sovereign^⑤, George III, and, a forthright assertion of separatism. So, too, were the members of the Second Continental Congress sitting in Philadelphia. All through the stirring events of the preceding year the Congress had met, debated, and worried, but had failed to confront the supreme issue: independence. Instead its members had sought conciliation with King and Parliament; but their appeals for compromise^⑥ had brought only threats to crush what the monarch^⑦ called a “desperate conspiracy^⑧”.

2 Later in 1775, the King and his ministers engaged 30 000 German soldiers to help suppress^⑨ the colonists. Nothing could have stiffened colonial resistance more than this dispatch of German hirelings^⑩. Early in 1776 colonial passions were further inflamed by a small pamphlet^⑪ entitled *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine. Giving Voice to the feelings of thousands, Paine wrote of the American struggle: “The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth ... Now is the seedtime of continental union ... O ye that love mankind! ... stand forth! ... and prepare ... an asylum for mankind.”

1. ① colonial *n.* 殖民地, 居民

② Redcoats *n.* 红袄军, 英军

③ militiaman *n.* 民兵, 国民自卫队成员

④ precariously *ad.* 不稳定地, 不确定地

⑤ sovereign *n.* 最高统治者 (如皇帝、国王等)



译文

1. 美国的诞生

❶ 他们不再是殖民地居民,但也还不是美国人。随着 1776 年开始,究竟是一如既往地忠于英国乔治三世呢,还是断然决定分离,那些在列克星敦和康科德抗击英兵的农民和入侵加拿大失败的民兵们仍然举棋不定;而在费城举行第二届大陆会议的代表们也同样地犹豫不决。过去的一年,动荡多事。大陆会议一次次召开、辩论,裹足不前,但未能正视独立这一首要问题。与此相反,代表们还寻求跟英国国王与议会的和解。然而,呼吁和解换来的只不过是对方的恐吓,扬言要粉碎英王称之为“垂死的阴谋”。

❷ 1775 年底,英王与大臣们竟雇佣了三万名德国兵来协助镇压移民。没有什么可及得上调遣德国雇佣兵这一举动更能坚定殖民地人民的反抗意志了。1776 年初,托马斯·佩因一本名叫《常识》的小册子,使殖民地人民的激情进一步高涨。佩因在声援群情时,写到了美洲的斗争:“阳光从未照耀在价值更大的事业上……。现在是美洲大联合的时候了……。啊!热爱人类的人们!……。站出来吧!……。为了人类准备一个避难所吧!”

❶ compromise *n.* 妥协

❷ monarch *n.* 最高统治者,国王,女王

❸ conspiracy *n.* 阴谋,密谋

❹ suppress *v.* 制止,镇压,平定

❺ hireling *n.* (通常作贬义)可被雇佣的人

❻ pamphlet *n.* 小册子(通常指有关时事或政治见解的)

**原文**

3 In a few weeks Paine's broadside found its way to village greens in New England, counting-houses in New York, and plantations in Virginia. Up and down the coast, men discussed his bold call for independence and increasingly found that his sentiments^⑬ reflected their own. Suddenly the daring word "independence" was on everyone's lips, and a cause thought radical only a few months earlier had achieved an astounding degree of respectability. By late winter the tide of rebellion turned to full flood after the first great victory of Patriot arms. On March 4, 1776, with 50 or so cannon captured at Ticonderoga and hauled some 3 000 miles eastward through heavy snows and across hilly terrain, Gen. George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, fortified Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston. Sir William Howe, the Redcoats' commander inside the city, was faced with choice of attempting a breakthrough in the teeth of Washington's artillery or evacuating his forces by sea. Direction won over valor; the British abandoned Boston, and on March 17 Continental troops poured into the city without a fight.

4 In June the rebels scored another victory when a half-hearted British effort to land troops at Charleston, South Carolina, was repulsed^⑭. With Patriot arms triumphant North and South, the Continental Congress in early June agreed to debate Richard Henry Lee's resolution that "these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states". On June 11, a committee of five was chosen to give formal expression to Lee's initiative^⑮, and from this group Virginia's Thomas Jefferson was selected to draft a Declaration of Independence^⑯.

⑬ sentiments *n.* [pl.] 观点, 意见

⑭ repulse *v.* 击退(进攻), 驱逐

⑮ initiative *n.* 倡议, 提议

⑯ Declaration of Independence 独立宣言



译文

3 几个星期之后，佩因的大开本诗册传遍了新英格兰的乡间菜园、纽约的办公室和弗吉尼亚的种植园。沿海各地，人们都在谈论着他大胆发出的关于独立的号召，愈来愈觉得在思想上与他息息相通。突然间，“独立”这一大胆的词语出现在每一个人的嘴上。几个月前还被人视为激进的奋斗目标，现已得到了广泛的推崇，令人惊叹不已。残冬时节，爱国者武装第一次大获全胜之后，奋起反抗的浪潮汇成了滚滚洪流。1776年3月4日，美洲军总司令华盛顿在泰孔德罗加缴获了大炮五十来门，随后携炮向东推进300余英里，穿过冰天雪地，翻越群岭，巩固了俯瞰波士顿的多尔切斯特高地。城内英军司令威廉·豪爵士面临着抉择——要么突破华盛顿的炮火，要么经海路撤军。终于“谨慎”占了“逞强”的上风，英军放弃了波士顿；3月17日，大陆军士兵不战而胜地开进了该城。

4 6月，反叛者又获得了胜利，挫败了英军在南卡罗来纳的查尔斯顿试探性登陆的企图。鉴于爱国武装在北方和南方的节节胜利，大陆会议于6月上旬同意讨论查德·亨利·李的决议案：“这些联合的殖民地现在是，而且理所当然地应该是一些自由而独立的州。”6月11日，选举产生了一个5人委员会，对李的倡议进行正式表述。这个小组推举弗吉尼亚的托马斯·杰斐逊起草一份独立宣言。

**原文**

5 It was in this declaration that Jefferson asserted the natural rights of all mankind; “that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

6 On July 4, 1776, after having made several revisions in Jefferson’s text, the Congress adopted the declaration. The United States of America was born. The first signature, which is almost as large as that of a motion picture star, is that of a man from Massachusetts, John Hancock, who escaped capture by the British in the first battle of the War of Independence and then had his ship confiscated^⑮ and burned. He wrote his signature in such a way, he said, that “the King of England can read it without his glasses.” This whimsical^⑯ act alone made him immortal^⑰, for an American handing out a contract for signature is apt to ask for “your John Hancock.” After Hancock, the Declaration was signed by Franklin, John Adams, a Massachusetts lawyer who was to become the second President of United States, the thirty-three-year-old Jefferson, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut.

^⑮ confiscate *v.* 没收(某人的财产), 充公

^⑯ whimsical *a.* 异想天开的, 突发奇想的

^⑰ immortal *a.* 不朽的



译文

5 正是在这份宣言中,杰斐逊维护了全人类的天赋人权:“人人生而平等;造物主赋予他们不可剥夺的权利,其中包括生存权、自由权和追求幸福的权利。为了保障这些权利,人类才在他们中间建立政府,而政府正当的权利是经被统治者的同意才取得的。”

6 1776年7月4日,杰斐逊的文稿经过几次修改之后,大陆会议正式通过了独立宣言。美利坚合众国诞生了。宣言上的第一个签名,字体粗大得犹如电影明星的签字,出自马萨诸塞州的约翰·汉考克之手。汉考克在独立战争第一战中从英军逃脱出来,随即把所乘之船没收烧毁。用他自己的话说,他之所以用这样的方式签名,乃是“为了使英王不必戴上眼镜就能看清”。这一别开生面的举动本身就足以使他永垂青史。到如今,当一个美国人递过待签合同时,常会以“your John Hancock”(“请用约翰·汉考克式签名”)来要求对方签字。紧随汉考克在宣言上签名的是:富兰克林,约翰·亚当斯(即后来成为美国第二任总统的马萨诸塞州的一位律师),33岁的杰斐逊和康涅狄格的罗杰·舍曼。



原文

2. A Brief of the Revolutionary War in America

1 The Revolutionary War in America gave birth to a new nation. Thirteen British colonies won their freedom and became the independent United States of America. The war began on April 19, 1775, when a group of colonists fought British soldiers at Lexington^①, Massachusetts. Hours later in nearby Concord, colonists fired “the shot heard round the world” when they battled British troops near a bridge. The war lasted eight years.

2 The news of war shocked people in both the American colonies and England. But ill-feeling^② between the British government and its colonies had been gradually developing for more than 10 years. After gaining control of the French empire in North America in 1763, the British had tried to restore their authority over the American colonies and to tax them more heavily. The Americans, who had enjoyed a large measure of self-government, wanted even greater freedom from British control. They refused to pay the Stamp Tax^③ of 1765 and the Townshend duties on imports in 1767. Citizens of Boston organized a “tea party” in 1773 to dump incoming tea into the harbor rather than pay a tax on it. Britain sent troops to support its authority.

3 The First Continental Congress demanded that the British abandon their efforts to make Massachusetts bow to British authority. It asked Britain to admit that parliament had no right to tax the colonists for revenue^④. But the British government considered Massachusetts and its neighbors to be in rebellion^⑤. British troops in Boston were ordered to take swift action.

2. **①** Lexington *n.* 列克星敦 (美国 Massachusetts 州东部一城市)

② ill feeling 恶感, 反感

③ Stamp Tax 印花税

④ revenue *n.* 收入, 税收

⑤ rebellion *n.* 谋反, 叛乱



译文

2. 美国独立战争简介

1 美国独立战争使一个新的国家得以诞生。13个州的英国殖民地赢得了自由,成为独立的美利坚合众国。战争始于1775年4月19日,当时殖民地的一些人在马萨诸塞州的列克星敦和英国士兵交上火。几个小时之后,在附近的康科德城,殖民地居民打响了“响彻世界的枪声”,他们在桥边和英国军队展开了战斗。战争持续了8年。

2 战争的消息使北美殖民地和英国本土的人民都感到震惊。但是英国政府和殖民地之间的矛盾由来已久,其发展已有十多年。1763年在获得了法兰西帝国在北美的控制权之后,英国便一直试图恢复在北美殖民地的权力并加重税收。北美殖民地人民一直享有很大的自治权,他们想从英国那里获得更大的自由。他们拒绝付1765年的印花税和1767年的城镇进口税。波士顿公民1773年组织了“茶党”,他们不交纳进口茶税,而把茶叶倒进海港里。英国派出军队维护其权威。

3 第一次大陆会议要求英国放弃旨在使马萨诸塞州屈服于英国的努力,并要求英国承认英国国会没有权力向殖民地人民征税以增加其财政收入。但英国政府认为马萨诸塞州及其附近的几个州想要叛乱。英国驻波士顿的军队受命立即采取行动。

**原文**

4 The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Ties between the colonies and the mother country had now been cut. Britain launched a great offensive^⑥ to crush the rebellion. A British army under Lieutenant General^⑦ William Howe assembled at New York. General George Washington, who had taken General of the Continental Army, slowly withdrew his men in face of the British attacks. The patriots^⑧ forced Lieutenant General John Burgoyne and his army to surrender at Saratoga in 1777. They gained an active ally^⑨ in 1778, when France recognized the independence of United States and entered the war. Spain declared war on Britain in 1779, and Holland did so in 1780.

5 Faced by so many enemies, Britain found it difficult to assemble an army powerful enough to destroy the patriot forces. Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis tried to conquer the Southern States after Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton captured Charleston, South Carolina in 1780. But he found himself checked^⑩ by Nathanael Greene in the far south. Cornwallis then concentrated big forces at Yorktown, Virginia. A French fleet^⑪ cut him off there, and Washington's army of American and French soldiers attacked. On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis' army surrendered at Yorktown in the war's last major action.

⑥ offensive *n.* 进攻, 攻势

⑦ Lieutenant General 中将

⑧ patriot *n.* 爱国者

⑨ ally *n.* 同盟国, 支持者

⑩ check *v.* 阻止, 制止, 牵制

⑪ fleet *n.* 舰队



译文

4 第二次大陆会议于 1776 年 7 月 4 日通过了《独立宣言》。殖民地和母国之间的联系现已断绝。英国采取大规模军事行动镇压叛乱。英国军队在陆军中将威廉·豪的率领下集结于纽约。大陆军队总司令乔治·华盛顿将军面对英军的进攻,指挥他的军队缓缓撤退。1777 年,爱国者们迫使陆军中将约翰·伯戈因和他率领的军队在萨拉托加投降。1778 年,法国宣布承认美国的独立,并参加了战争,爱国者们有了积极的同盟者。西班牙于 1779 年向英国宣战。荷兰于 1780 年也向英国宣战。

5 面对这么多敌人,英国发现要集结一支足够强大的军队摧毁爱国者的力量困难重重。陆军中将查尔斯·康华里在亨利·克林顿爵士 1780 年夺取了南卡罗来纳州的查尔斯顿之后企图征服南部各州。但是他在远南地区遭到了陆军少将纳撒尼尔·格林的阻击。于是康华里把他的部队集结在弗吉尼亚州的约克敦。法国舰队把他的部队分割开,华盛顿率领的美国军队和法国士兵向他发起了进攻。1781 年 10 月 19 日,在战争最后的重大战役中康华里的军队在约克敦投降。