



# 各国

# 左撇子

# 名人大盘点(上)

NO. 1

*Barack Obama*

巴拉克·奥巴马

In the past hundred years, the U.S. presidency has veered more and more to the left—not in policy, but in handedness. Barack Obama is the latest to join a long list of left-handed presidents from the 20th century: James Garfield, Herbert Hoover, Henry Truman, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton were all southpaws.

What makes lefties so electable? Some experts think left-handed people have a greater aptitude for language skills, which may help them craft the rhetoric necessary for political office. And as for the bout of recent left-handed presidents, some think it's because teachers only recently stopped working to convert lefties to righties at an early age.

在过去的一百年中,美国的总统们越来越“左倾”,这不是指他们的政见,而是他们的用手习惯。二十世纪以来一长串左撇子总统名单中,奥巴马是最近加入的一个。在他之前,加菲尔德总统、胡佛总统、杜鲁门总统、里根总统、福特总统、老布什总统和克林顿总统都是左撇子。

怎么会有那么多左撇子总统当选呢?一些专家认为,左撇子人群的语言运用能力更强,这种能力或许可以使他们在组织一些政治措辞时更为游刃有余。而至于近些年左撇子总统出现更为集中的问题,有些人认为这和教师最近停止对左撇子儿童进行右手使用纠正训练有关。





## NO.2 *Bill Gates*

比尔·盖茨

Claiming the nation's richest man among their number is a source of considerable pride for America's society of southpaws. In fact, the Microsoft titan and philanthropist is one of a surprising number of U.S. business moguls to be left-handed, including Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller and former IBM head Lou Gerstner. But the club seems to be a guys-only fraternity—research suggests that while left-handed men tend to earn more than their right-handed colleagues, there is no similar advantage for women. A study by the National Bureau of Economic Research floated the idea that left-handed men favor "divergent" thinking, a form of creativity in which the brain moves "from conventional knowledge into unexplored association." Maybe that's what it takes to develop a net worth estimated at billion.

包括美国第一首富在内的这一人群,是美国左撇子最引以为豪的。事实上,这位微软巨头兼慈善家仅仅只是美国商界左撇子巨贾中的一位,如福特、洛克菲勒和前 IBM 总裁郭士纳都是左撇子。不过美国商界的左撇子团体似乎是一个“女士止步”的男士联谊会,研究表明,尽管男性的左撇子商人要比右撇子盈利更多,但是这条规律却不适合于女性。美国国家经济研究所指出,左撇子男士更青睐于“发散性”思维,这是一种创造性的思维方式,使大脑“从传统的知识转移到未曾探知的联想中去”。也许正是这样的一种思维方式创造了一张价值约估为 570 亿美元的“网络”。

## NO.3 *Oprah Winfrey*

奥普拉·温弗瑞

The talk-show queen doesn't need much more to set her apart from the rest—what with her estimated .7 billion fortune and a magic ability to sell books just by glancing at them—but she also has the distinction of being a member of the left-handed club. Since men are more likely to be left-handed than women, that makes Oprah doubly impressive. She's in good company: Other show-biz ladies of the southpaw persuasion include Whoopi Goldberg, Julia Roberts and Angelina Jolie (her husband Brad Pitt is also a lefty).

拥有约 7 亿美元的身价和仅需她瞄一眼就能把书卖到脱销的神奇力量,这位脱口秀女王已无需更多特质来使她鹤立鸡群了,但是她同样也是左撇子俱乐部中的一员。由于左撇子男性本身要比女性多,这无疑使奥普拉更为引人注目。其他与她同为女性左撇子的名人也都非常出众,包括乌比·戈德堡、茱莉亚·罗伯茨和安吉丽娜·朱莉(朱莉的老公布拉德·皮特也是左撇子)。

(To be continued)