



For all the bullish¹ talk, President Bush will end his whirlwind² Middle East tour in little doubt that US policies in the region are failing

尽管布什的讲话都很乐观,在他即将结束其旋风式中东之行时,毫无疑问的是,美国在该地区的政策正在遭受失败

Many miles, no breakthroughs

踏破铁鞋, 仍无突破

By Ian Black

President George Bush may have been feeling upbeat as he *wrapped up³ his Middle East tour in Egypt today and headed back to Washington *laden with⁴ gifts from kings and emirs⁵.

But otherwise he has little to show for his eight days in the region and—with the glaring exception of Israel—he can have little doubt that US policies are both unpopular and unsuccessful.

Less than a week after he announced—to widespread disbelief—that an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty could be signed within a year, the Gaza Strip saw its worst fighting in months, when Israel killed 19 members of Hamas it said were involved in firing rockets across the border.

Talks between Mahmoud Abbas and Ehud Olmert seemed to be *going nowhere⁶ slowly, with cynics talking of a “virtual”, not a real, peace process.

And now the resignation of Olmert's far-right coalition partner, Avigdor Lieberman, has underlined the fragility of the Kadima-led coalition in the face of even minor concessions to the Palestinians.

Middle Easterners may be less surprised than the Americans by how rapidly things have deteriorated since November, when Bush hosted the Annapolis summit—belated recognition of the urgent need to do something after seven years of letting the conflict fester⁷.

But hardliners are quick to blame Washington: “This crime is the ugly fruit of Bush's visit to the region,” Khaled Mashal, the Hamas leader in Damascus, said of the latest Gaza killings. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian president, followed suit.

Lack of progress *on the ground⁸ made it hard for ►

当乔治·布什总统今天在埃及结束其中东之行,满载着国王和埃米尔们的礼物返回华盛顿之际,他可能一直都感觉良好。

但除此之外,他对该地区为期8天的访问却几乎没有什么收获——以色列是明显的例外——他可以毫不怀疑的是:美国的政策既不得人心,也不成功。

在他宣布了为人们普遍怀疑的一年内即可签订以巴和约不到一周后,加沙地带就爆发了几个月来最激烈的冲突:以色列打死了19名据说参与了火箭越境发射的哈马斯成员。

穆罕默德·阿巴斯和埃胡德·奥尔默特之间的会谈看来正缓慢地走向失败,有人讽刺说,这是一个“虚拟”而非真实的和平进程。

现在,奥尔默特的极右翼联盟伙伴阿维格多·利伯曼的辞职则突显出前进党领导的联盟在面对对巴勒斯坦人做出即使微不足道的让步时是多么的脆弱。

对于(2007年)11月份以来局势的迅速恶化,中东人可能并不像美国人那样感到吃惊。在任凭这场冲突恶化7年之后,去年11月,布什主持了安纳波利斯峰会,这是对采取措施的紧迫必要性为时已晚的承认。

但坚持强硬路线的人立即指责华盛顿,“这一罪行是布什访问中东地区的恶果,”在大马士革的哈马斯领导人哈立德·马沙尔在谈到加沙地带最近的杀戮时如是说。伊朗总统穆罕默德·艾哈迈迪-内贾德也跟着谴责美国。

由于没有取得实际的进展,所以在沙 ►

Bush to press his Arab allies to do much more to help after the Saudis went to Annapolis and the smaller Gulf states made generous donations for Palestinian economic development.

Condi Rice talked to them of the need for “outreach”. But none is prepared to go any further towards “normalisation” with Israel without evidence of a deal with the Palestinians.

“I don’t know what kind of outreach we can have for the Israelis but to offer a peace that is built on equity and justice for all,” retorted⁹ Saud al-Faisal, the kingdom’s veteran foreign minister.

The president was encouraged by signs of progress in Iraq, despatching¹⁰ Rice from Riyadh to Baghdad to congratulate the Nuri al-Maliki government on its repeal¹¹ of the law banning former Ba’athists from government jobs—a small but necessary step towards national reconciliation¹².

Yet Iraq still casts¹³ a giant shadow over the region, a magnet¹⁴ for jihadis and a constant reminder that Iran remains the greatest beneficiary of the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and the chaos that has followed.

Bush found his Arab interlocutors¹⁵ less concerned about Iran than he is. Recent months have seen something of a rapprochement¹⁶ with Tehran, with Ahmadinejad taking part in the hajj¹⁷ pilgrimage to Mecca and some cautious fence-mending¹⁸ across the Gulf.

Last November’s US intelligence report stating that Iran had halted its nuclear weapons programme undermined the hawks in the US and Israel. Only the US has warned Tehran of “serious consequences” if there is a repeat of the recent incident involving American warships and Iranian Revolutionary Guard speedboats in the Straits of Hormuz.

Even if the rulers of Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates do genuinely fear the Iranians (the Bahrainis hint darkly at Hizbullah-trained “sleeper¹⁹ cells²⁰” waiting ▶

特人参加了安纳波利斯峰会和较小的海湾国家对巴勒斯坦的经济发展慷慨捐助之后依然没有取得实质性的进展，布什很难迫使其阿拉伯盟国提供更多的援助。

康迪·赖斯与其阿拉伯盟国谈了“延伸接触”的必要性。但在没有迹象表明以色列与巴勒斯坦达成一项协议之前，任何中东国家都不准备与以色列实现关系“正常化”。

沙特王国的资深外长沙特·费萨尔反驳说：“除了向所有各方提供建立在公平与公正基础上的和平之外，我不知道我们能够如何对以色列延伸接触。”

布什总统受到伊拉克局势好转迹象的鼓舞，派遣赖斯从利雅得前往巴格达，祝贺努里·马利基政府废除了禁止前阿拉伯复兴社会党成员担任政府职务的法规——这是朝着民族和解迈出的微小但却必要的一步。

然而，伊拉克依然给该地区投下了一个巨大的阴影。该地区对圣战主义者有强大的吸引力，并不断地提醒人们，伊朗一直是推翻萨达姆·侯赛因政权以及随后发生的混乱的最大受益者。

布什发现，跟他会谈的阿拉伯人并不像他那样关心伊朗问题。内贾德参加了麦加朝觐，并谨慎修复了同波斯湾国家的关系，最近几个月，阿拉伯国家与德黑兰之间的关系有所改善。

美国情报机构去年11月发表的声称伊朗已经停止其核武器计划的报告，使美以两国鹰派受挫。不过美国警告德黑兰如果最近在霍尔木兹海峡发生的美国军舰和伊朗革命卫队快艇事件重演，就会有“严重后果”。

即使科威特、巴林和阿联酋的统治者真的害怕伊朗人（巴林人隐晦地暗示真主党训练出来的“潜伏组织”正伺机发动袭击，而沙特人则对其什叶派聚居的不安分的东部各省感到 ▶

1. bullish['bulɪʃ] a. 抱有希望的; 乐观的
2. whirlwind['hwɜ:lwaɪnd] a. <口> 匆匆忙忙的; 快速的; 旋风式的
3. wrap up <美口> 完成; 结束
4. laden with sth 载满的; 装满的
5. emir[ə'mɪə(r)] n. 埃米尔 对某些穆斯林统治者的尊称
6. go nowhere 毫无结果; 徒劳; 不成功
7. fester['festə(r)] vi. (问题) 恶化; (怨恨) 郁积
8. on the ground 在实际情况下
9. retort[rɪ'tɔ:t] vt. 反驳; 答复; 驳回 论点、指责等
10. despatch[dɪ'spætʃ] = dispatch vt. 派遣 某人)

11. repeal[rɪ'pi:l] n. 撤销, 废止; 取消
12. reconciliation[,rekənsɪli'eɪʃən] n. 和解, 修好, 和好
13. cast[kɑ:st] vt. 投射 光、影、视线等); 把...加于)
14. magnet['mægnɪt] n. <喻> 有强大吸引力的人(或物)
15. interlocutor[,ɪntə'lɒkjʊtə(r)] n. 对话者; 参加谈话者
16. rapprochement <法>[,rɑ:prɔʃ'mɒŋ] n. (尤指两国间) 友好关系的重建(或恢复); 和睦, 友好
17. hajj[hædʒ] n. (usually the Hajj)(伊斯兰教徒去麦加)朝觐
18. fence-mending['fens'mendɪŋ] n. <美> 友好关系的修复
19. sleeper['sli:pə(r)] n. 潜伏特工; (暂不活动的)间谍
20. cell[sel] n. (政党等的)基层组织, 支部, 基层组织指挥部

to strike and the Saudis worry about their restive²¹, Shia eastern provinces, home to their vast oil reserves) their peoples remain deeply suspicious of American power.

Arab commentators warned all week against Bush dragging the region recklessly into a new confrontation. Iran's nuclear ambitions were invariably²² *coupled with²³ furious denunciations²⁴ of Israel's *all too²⁵ real WMD²⁶ arsenal and western "double standards" in tolerating it.

Bush's "freedom agenda" was distinctly muted²⁷. Promoting democracy and universal values seemed like a good idea after the Iraq war but looked less attractive when loyal allies fretted²⁸ about the strength of domestic Islamist opposition—the impressive performance of the Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood in the 2005 elections was the most glaring²⁹ example of this. When Hamas *swept into power³⁰ in the Palestinian territories a few months later, the new watchword³¹ was "stability".

US officials insisted in media briefings that in private the president had raised concerns about these issues. "Heads nod," said Stephen Hadley, the national security adviser.

But in his only formal speech of the trip Bush spoke in generalisations³² that will be easy to ignore. Imprisoned Saudi and Egyptian bloggers and journalists, beleaguered³³ NGOs³⁴ and human rights activists are likely to see little change.

Air Force One's brief stopover in Egypt seemed to symbolise the limits of the influence Bush can wield³⁵ in his final year in office. Hosni Mubarak, in his fifth consecutive term as president, chose to receive his guest without fanfare³⁶ in Sharm al-Sheikh on the Red Sea, where there is no risk of the sort of demonstrations routinely seen in the teeming³⁷ streets of Cairo.

Mubarak came to power when Anwar Sadat was assassinated by Egypt's homegrown jihadis back in 1981, and has been the recipient of the largest amount of US aid to any country except Israel ever since—one reason why Islamists at home and abroad routinely lambast³⁸ him as a "Pharaoh"³⁹ *in the pocket⁴⁰ of "Crusaders⁴¹ and Jews" who has resisted attempts to get him to open up his country's sclerotic⁴² political system. ►

担忧,因为那里蕴藏着大量石油),这些国家的人民仍对美国的实力深表怀疑。

本周,阿拉伯评论家们一直在警告说布什正不顾一切地把该地区拖入一场新的对抗。伊朗的核野心总是与其对以色列拥有实际存在的大规模杀伤性武器库及西方对此采取“双重标准”加以容忍的强烈谴责交织在一起。

布什显然放低了其“自由议程”的调子。在伊拉克战争后,提倡民主和普世价值观似乎是个好主意,但当美国忠实的盟友们因国内伊斯兰反对派势力的强大而焦虑不安时——埃及穆斯林兄弟会在2005年的选举中令人印象颇深的表现,是对此最明显的例证——那些主张就似乎不那么有吸引力了。数月后,当哈马斯在巴

勒斯坦领土上进行竞选而大获全胜时,新口号成了“稳定”。

在媒体吹风会上,美国官员一口咬定,总统在私下里表示对这些问题担忧。国家安全顾问斯蒂芬·哈德利说:“人们表示赞同。”

但在其中东之行的唯一一次正式讲话中,布什发表的却是一番无足轻重的泛泛之论。身陷囹圄的沙特和埃及博

客作者和新闻记者、处于困境的非政府组织以及人权积极分子可能看不到什么变化。

“空军一号”在埃及的短暂停留似乎象征着布什在其执政的最后一年里所能发挥的有限影响力。连续第五个任期担任总统的胡斯尼·穆巴拉克选择了在红海之滨的沙姆沙伊赫低调地接待他的客人,因为那里没有开罗闹市区经常可见的示威之类的风险。

在安瓦尔·萨达特于1981年被埃及本土的圣战主义者暗杀后,穆巴拉克上台,此后埃及一直是除以色列外美国对外援助的最大受益者——这是一个原因,可解释国内外的伊斯兰教徒为什么经常指责他是听命于“十字军战士和犹太人”的“法老”,说他一直抵制迫使他开放本国僵化的政治体制的努力。►



US President George W. Bush and Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud hold talks in al-Janadriya. Bush has made a flying visit to Egypt as he wrapped up a Middle East tour after failing to win wholesale backing from Arab allies for his efforts to seal a peace deal and isolate Iran.

Now, to his fury, he is being accused by the US of failing to secure Egypt's border with the Gaza Strip and thus facilitating⁴³ Hamas attacks on Israel.

Bush, many Arabs argue, has *been the architect of his own undoing⁴⁴ since 9/11 and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Most would probably have preferred it if he had stayed at home.

As Mubarak put it slyly⁴⁵, in an unmistakable⁴⁶ reference to Iraq: "We have in our region and elsewhere examples of societies that faced instability and chaos as a result of uncalculated⁴⁷ and sudden transformation." The US president probably *got the message⁴⁸.

现在,令他感到愤怒的是,他受到美国的指责,说他未能维护埃及与加沙地带接壤的边境地区的安全,从而为哈马斯袭击以色列提供了便利。

许多阿拉伯人认为,自从“9·11”事件和入侵阿富汗及伊拉克以来,布什一直是“搬起石头砸自己的脚”。大多数人大概都宁愿他呆在国内。

正如穆巴拉克并不言明地所指——他显然是指伊拉克问题——“在我们所处的地区和其他地区,都存在着由于不计后果的突然变革而面临着不稳定和混乱的实例。”美国总统大概对此心领神会。

(尹宏毅 译自 the guardian Jan. 16, 2008)

21. restive['restɪv] a. 不稳定的,不受约束的
22. invariably[ɪn'veəriəblɪ] ad. 始终如一地,永不变地
23. couple sb/sth with sb/sth 将某人(某事物)与某人(某事物)联系在一起
24. denunciation[dɪˌnʌnsɪ'eɪʃən] n. 谴责,指责,痛斥
25. all too 太
26. WMD= weapons of mass destruction 大规模杀伤性武器
27. mute[mju:t] vt. 减弱;缓解
28. fret[fret] vi. 苦恼;烦躁;焦虑不安
29. glaring['gleəriŋ] a. 显眼的;明显的;易见的
30. sweep to/into power 在竞选中大获全胜
31. watchword['wɒtʃ,wɜ:d] n. 口号,标语
32. generalisation[ˌdʒenərəlaɪ'zeɪʃən] n. 归纳;泛论;概括
33. beleaguered[bi'li:gəd] a. 饱受批评的;处于困境的
34. NGO abbr. Nongovernmental Organization 非政府组织。以前是无足轻重的组织,现在已成为全球化时代世界事务中的一支重要力量,不过有的组织已沦为一国的政治工具。联合国已经确认了1500多个非政府组织,如世界妇女大会 Women's Conference)就是其中一个较大的组织。
35. wield[wi:lɪd] vt. 持有,运用(权力);施加(影响)
36. fanfare['fænfəə(r)] n. 号角花彩,号角齐鸣(欢迎仪式等上奏的响亮短曲)
37. teeming['ti:mɪŋ] a. 充满的;拥挤的;热闹的
38. lambast(e)[læm'beɪst] vt.(尤指公开地)猛烈抨击;严厉地批评
39. Pharaoh['feərəʊ] n. 法老(古埃及君主称号),暴君
40. in sb's pocket 受某人使唤,受某人掌握
41. crusader[kru:'seɪdə(r)] n. [史]十字军战士
42. sclerotic[ˌskliə'rɒtɪk] a. 僵化的,峻拒改革的
43. facilitate[fə'sɪləteɪt] vt. 使便利;推动;促进
44. be sb's undoing 是某人失败的原因
45. slyly['slɪli] ad. 狡猾地;心照不宣地
46. unmistakable[ˌʌnmɪ'steɪkəblɪ] a. 清楚明白的;明显的
47. uncalculated[ˌʌn'kælkjuleɪtɪd] a. 未经事先考虑(或计划)的;一时冲动造成的
48. get the message <口> 懂得暗示(或话语等)的意思,领会;明白

BusinessWeek(Feb.11, 2008) 房贷业的崩溃

Why home prices could drop 25% more on average before the market finally hits bottom. 为何在房贷市场最终降至谷底前,房价总体上会再下跌25%?



Scientific American (Feb., 2008) 物理学的未来

They call it the tera-scale. It is the realm of physics that comes into view when two elementary particles smash together with a combined energy of around a trillion electron volts, or one tera-electron-volt. The machine that will take us to the tera-scale—the ring-shaped Large Hadron Collider at CERN—is now nearing completion. 他们称之为“兆兆等级”。两个基本粒子相撞,共释放出约1万亿伏电压(1兆兆伏电压)的能量时,展现在人们眼前的是物理学的领域。这台将使我们达到兆兆等级的机器——欧洲核子研究中心的环状大型强子对撞机——现在正临近完工。



USA Weekend (Jan.27, 2008) 支持演员工会

Star power will light up Sunday's awards ceremony, but at the center of attention is the Screen Actors Guild itself, which was formed 75 years ago. 本周日的颁奖礼将星光闪耀,但焦点都集中在有75年历史的演员工会身上。(赵昆仑 摘译)

