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The greening of America美国绿了 How America is likely to take over leadership of the fight against climate change. and how it can get it right美国领导各国共同应对气候变化的可能性有多大？该如何正确应对呢？

(1) A COUNTRY with a presidential system tends to get identified with its leader. So, for the rest of the world, America is George Bushs America right now. It is the country that has mismanaged the Iraq war. holds prisoners without trial at Guant á namo Bay. restricts funding for stem-cell research because of fundamentalist religious beliefs. and destroyed the chance of a global climate-change deal based on the Kyoto protocol.人们往往认为，总统制国家就是其总统的国家。因此，在世界其他国家看来，现在的美国就是乔治#8226.施瓦辛格率先在本州采取了有力措施，按照《京都议定书》的有关要求，通过了强制性限排的立法，他也因此重拾威信。现在联邦政府一级也开始有所行动，而这才是真正重要的。自从11月中期选举后民主党主政国会以来，关于对付气候变化问题的提案越来越多。三名2008年总统候选人也都在力促联邦政府拿出举措，他们是约翰#8226.克林顿和巴拉克&#8226.奥巴马。Europes good, and bad, example欧洲榜样，择其善者而从之

(5) Unfortunately, Mr Bushs new-found interest in climate change is coupled with, and distorted by, his focus on energy security. Reducing Americas petrol consumption by 20% by 2017, a target he announced in the

state-of-the-union address, would certainly diminish the countrys dependence on Middle Eastern oil, but the way he plans to go about it may not be either efficient or clean. Increasing fuel-economy standards for cars and trucks will go part of the way, but for most of the switch America will have to rely on a greater use of alternative fuels. That means ethanol (inefficient because of heavy subsidies and high tariffs on imports of foreign ethanol) or liquefied coal (filthy because of high carbon emissions).不幸的是，布什最近对气候变化的关注，是同他对能源安全的关注扯在一起的，人们因此也怀疑他醉翁之意不在酒。他在国情咨文中宣布要在2017年以前将美国的油耗减少20%。这一目标无疑会让美国对中东石油的依赖性减低，但是他计划实现这一目标的方式却与提高能效或者环保无关。虽然这中间涵盖了提高汽车节油标准在内，但大部分还是依赖更多的采用其他形式的燃料，也就是乙醇或者液态煤。前者由于补贴大、进口关税高因而能效并不高，后者则由于碳排放量高所以容易造成环境污染。

The measure of Mr Bushs failure to tackle this issue seriously is his continued rejection of the only two clean and efficient solutions to climate change. One is a carbon tax, which this paper has long advocated. The second is a cap-and-trade system of the sort Europe introduced to meet the Kyoto targets. It would limit companies emissions while allowing them to buy and sell permits to pollute. Either system should, by setting a price on carbon, discourage its emission. and, in doing so, encourage the development and use of cleaner-energy technologies. ( 6 ) Just as Americas adoption of catalytic converters led eventually to the worlds conversion to

lead-free petrol, so its drive to clean-energy technologies will ensure that these too spread. 布什并没有认真对待这一问题。之所以这么说，是因为他仍拒绝采用解决气候变化问题仅有的两种既高效又清洁的方法。一个是征收碳排放税，这也是《经济学人》杂志长期以来所提倡的。另一个则是欧洲为达到《京都议定书》要求所实行的“配额-贸易”制度。该制度一方面限制企业排污，同时也允许其买卖排污许可证。该制度通过对碳排放进行定价（实际上就是要收费），因而应当会减少排放，并且可以促进企业开发利用清洁能源技术。正如美国当年采用催化式排气净化器最终引导了世界应用无铅汽油的潮流一样，美国努力开发的清洁能源技术也肯定能得到推广。

A tax is unlikely because of Americas aversion to that three-letter word. Given that, it should go for a tough cap-and-trade system. In doing so, it can usefully learn from Europes experience. First, get good data. Europe failed to do so: companies were given too many permits, and emissions have therefore not fallen. Second, auction permits (which are, in effect, money) rather than giving them away free. Europe gave them away, which allowed polluters to make windfall[4] profits. This will be a huge fight. for, if the federal government did what the Europeans did, it would hand out \$40 billion-50 billion in permits. Third, set a long time-horizon. Europeans do not know whether carbon emissions will still be constrained after 2012, when Kyoto runs out. Since most clean-energy projects have a payback period of more than five years, the system thus fails to encourage green investment. 美国人对“税”这个字一向反感，因此征收碳排放税是不可能的。既然如

此，那么美国就只能采取严格的“配额-贸易”制度。为此美国可以借鉴欧洲有益的经验。首先，要确定适当的配额数量。欧洲就没能做到：配额发放过多，排放量因此并未减少。其次，对配额进行定价而不是免费发放，企业需要配额就必须花钱购买。欧洲无偿发放配额，结果却让排污企业赚得盆满钵满。对配额定价将带来巨大收益，而如果联邦政府效仿欧洲的做法，就等于将配额中所蕴含的400~500亿美元拱手送人。第三，要设定一个较长的有效时间范围。欧洲不清楚2012年《京都议定书》到期后是否仍需限制碳排放。既然大多数清洁能源项目的效益回报期都在5年以上，那么“配额-贸易”制度并不能鼓励环保投资。 One of Americas most admirable characteristics is its belief that it has a duty of moral leadership. At present, however, its not doing too well on that score. Global warming could change that. ( 7 ) By tackling the issue now it could regain the high moral ground (at the same time as forging ahead in the clean-energy business, which Europe might otherwise dominate). And it looks as though it will. for even if the Toxic Texan continues to evade the issue, his successor will grasp it.美国最难能可贵的一个特征在于，它坚信自己有责任成为道义领袖。不过就目前来看，在这一点上它的表现并不好，而全球变暖问题有可能令其有所改变。把眼下这个问题解决好了，美国就能重新树立自己的道义形象（与此同时，还能在清洁能源业中迎头赶上，避免欧洲占去先机）。现在看来似乎在未来它也能做到这一点，因为即便“有毒的得克萨斯人”（暗指布什是全球最大的污染制造者）继续回避这个问题，他的继任者也会抓住这一机会。 [NOTES]1. dig sb ' s heels/toes in be

stubborn. refuse to give in 固执己见. 寸步不让2. afloat adj. [pred 作表语] 1 floating in water or air ( 在水中或空中 ) 漂浮著: The boat stuck on a sandbank but we soon got it afloat again. 小船在沙丘搁浅, 没过多久我们就又使它航行自如了. \* The ship was listing badly but still kept afloat. 船倾侧得很厉害, 但却仍然漂浮不沉. 2 at sea. on board ship 在海上. 在船上: enjoy life afloat 喜欢海上生活. 3 out of debt or difficulties 无债. 无困难: The firm managed to stay afloat during the recession. 在经济衰退期间, 公司设法渡过了难关. 4 functioning 起作用: get a new business afloat, ie start it 创办新的企业. 5 (of rumours) being generally talked about. circulating ( 指谣言 ) 传播. 流传: There's a story afloat that he'll resign. 有个传闻说他要辞职.3. momentum n. 1 force that increases the rate of development of a process. impetus 动力. 冲力. 势头: The movement to change the unions constitution is slowly gathering momentum. 修改工会宪章的运动正慢慢加强. 2 (physics 物) quantity of motion of a moving object, measured as its mass multiplied by its velocity 动量: The sledge gained momentum as it ran down the hill. 雪橇从山上下冲时动量越来越大.4. windfall n. 1 fruit, esp an apple, that has been blown off a tree by the wind 风吹落的果实 ( 尤指苹果 ) . 2 (fig 比喻) unexpected piece of good fortune, esp a legacy 意外的好运. ( 尤指 ) 意外获得的遗产. 100Test 下载频道开通, 各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)