

0002 Why so glum(a.)忧郁的；死气沉沉的；闷闷不乐的, China?

Table of Contents

- [1. Why so glum\(a.\)忧郁的；死气沉沉的；闷闷不乐的, China?](#)
- [2. <pure> Why so glum, China?](#)

1. Why so glum(a.)忧郁的；死气沉沉的；闷闷不乐的, China?

IT TOOK 125 years /for *America's Declaration* 公告；宣告；宣言 of Independence to reach a wide Chinese audience, and when it did, some *lofty* 崇高的；高尚的 phrases got lost.

主 The earliest known(a.)知名的；已知的 Chinese translation 翻译；译本 of the declaration, published in 1901 by young nationalists /burning(v.) 有强烈的情感；渴望 to overthrow the Qing empire, 系 is an impatient, combative text.

主 The document's name, 后定 noted(v.) the scholar /who rediscovered it, Frank Li of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 谓 became the "*American War Proclamation* 宣言；公告；声明 of Independence".

主 The rights 后定 it deemed 认为；视为；相信 inalienable 不可剥夺（或分割）的—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—谓 **turned into** something bleaker(a.) 无遮掩的；荒凉的；索然无味的；不乐观的；无望的；暗淡的: "life, liberty and all interests".

Example 1. 标题 lofty

(a.) very high and impressive 巍峨的；高耸的；/ showing a belief that you are worth more than other people 傲慢的；高傲的；/deserving praise because of its high moral quality 崇高的；高尚的

burn

(v.) (with sth) :to feel a very strong emotion or desire 有强烈的情感；渴望；/ to make sb very angry 激怒；使大怒

proclamation

[CU] an official statement about sth important that is made to the public; the act of making an official statement 宣言；公告；声明

bleak ⇒ 词源同bleach, 漂白, 指苍白的, 暗淡的。

→ bleak(a.)=(of a place 地方) exposed, empty, or with no pleasant features 无遮掩的；荒凉的；索然无味的) concrete housing 索然乏味的混凝土住宅群

→ a bleak=(of a situation 状况) not encouraging or giving any reason to have hope 不乐观的；无望的；暗淡的) outlook/prospect 暗淡的前景/前途

→ a bleak(a.)=(of the weather 天气) cold and unpleasant 阴冷的) winter's day 一个阴冷的冬日

《美国独立宣言》花了125年的时间才接触到广大的中国观众，当它到达时，一些崇高的短语就丢失了。该宣言最早的中文译本，由渴望推翻清帝国的年轻民族主义者，于1901年出版，是一篇不耐烦、好斗的文本。重新发现该文件的学者，中国社会科学院的弗兰克·李（Frank Li）指出，该文件的名称成为“美国独立战争宣言”。它认为不可剥夺的权利——“生命、自由和追求幸福”——变成了更黯淡的东西：“生命、自由和一切利益”。(happiness 被改成了 all interests)

It explores /how China's *propaganda machine* **devote (v.)**把...用于 **extraordinary efforts /to promoting** 促进；推动 the idea /that the Chinese people enjoy good and meaningful lives /under Communism — precisely (加强同意的语气) 对，的确如此，一点也不错 because *economic growth* alone **does a poor job of** generating happiness.

Back in 1974 /Richard Easterlin, an American economist, **spotted** 看出；注意到 **a puzzle** 不解之谜；疑问.

Although richer countries /are generally more contented(a.) (尤指因生活好而) 满意的，惬意的，满足的, 主 rising *material prosperity* 谓 **does not necessarily lead to ever**不断地；总是；始终-higher levels of self-reported well-being.

"Chinese Discourses 论文；演讲；语篇；话语" **calls (v.)** China /a giant *Easterlin* 美国经济学家伊斯特林 *Paradox* 悖论.

Chinese *real GDP per person* **grew (v.) more than fivefold** /between 1990 and 2015.

Yet, rather than **climbing [in lockstep(n.)** 齐步走 (步伐)] with the economy, the *self-reported happiness* of the Chinese /**fell sharply** from 1990, **reaching a nadir** (n.)最糟糕的时刻；最低点 in 2000-05 (a time of *breakneck (a.)*飞速惊险的;断颈 *GDP growth*) before recovering.

It has probably yet(ad.)用于否定句和疑问句，谈论尚未发生但可能发生的事 **to regain** 回到 (原位)；返回 **the level of** 1990.

Example 2. 案例

DEVOTE STH TO STH :

to give an amount of time, attention, etc. to sth 把...用于

ever

(=all the time or every time; always 不断地；总是；始终

discourse

[CU] (n.) (formal) a long and serious treatment or discussion of a subject in speech or writing 论文；演讲

paradox

⇒ 来源于希腊语中由para(在旁)和doxa(观点)组成的复合词paradoxon(相反的观点)。词根词缀：para-侧面 + dox(-doc-)教

Easterlin Paradox

伊斯特林悖论：由美国南加州大学经济学教授理查德·伊斯特林 (R.Easterlin) 在1974年的著作《经济增长可以在多大程度上提高人们的快乐》中提出, 即他发现一个令人迷惑的重要问题是：为什么更多的财富并没有带来更大的幸福？对此的解释性理论包括:

1. 经济学仅关注收入、财富和消费，而忽略了影响人们幸福的其他许多重要因素，包括：激励与创造、健康、政治参与、社会渴望、自由、利他主义的丧失、不平等、社会资本的减少和地位外部性。特别是，如果这些非经济因素与收入、财富和消费等经济因素呈负相关时，那么随着GDP的增长，许多影响幸福的非经济因素会下降，从而在不同程度上抵消经济因素带来的正面作用。
2. 个人效用与自己的收入水平正相关，但与社会的平均收入水平（攀比水平）负相关；当社会变得更富裕时，攀比水平随之提高，导致收入—幸福曲线下移，从而使得总效用水平保持不变。一个人的主观福利与其相对地位有关。因此，地位竞争仅仅导致个人福利的再分配，而作为一个整体的社会的幸福并没有增加。

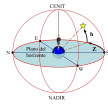
-fold :

乘以；...倍；由...部分组成

nadir

/ˈneɪdər/ [sing.] (formal) the worst moment of a particular situation 最糟糕的时刻；最低点

⇒ 来自阿拉伯语nazir,相反的, 来自nazir as-samt,反方向的, 与天顶相反的底点, 词源同zenith.后引申词义最低点。



breakneck

(a.)very fast and dangerous 飞速惊险的;断颈

yet :

ad. used in negative sentences and questions to talk about sth that has not happened but that you expect to happen (用于否定句和疑问句, 谈论尚未发生但可能发生的事)

→ I haven't received a letter from him yet. 我还没有收到他的信呢。

→ 'Are you ready?' 'No, not yet.' "你准备好了吗?" "还没有。"

→ We have yet to decide what action to take (= We have not decided what action to take) . 我们尚未决定采取何种行动。

它探讨了中国的宣传机器如何做出非凡的努力来宣传这样一种观念,即在共产主义制度下,中国人享受着美好而有意义的生活——正是因为经济增长本身在产生幸福感方面做得不够。

早在1974年,美国经济学家理查德·伊斯特林(Richard Easterlin)就发现了一个谜题。尽管较富裕的国家通常更满足,但物质繁荣的增加并不一定会导致自我报告的幸福水平不断提高。《中国话语》称中国是一个巨大的伊斯特林悖论。从1990年到2015年,中国人均实际GDP增长了五倍多。然而,中国人自我报告的幸福并没有随着经济同步攀升,而是从1990年开始急剧下降,并在2000-05年达到最低点(这段时间GDP的高速增长)在恢复之前。它可能还没有恢复到1990。

主 A chapter of *the 2017 World Happiness Report*, co-written (v.) by Mr Easterlin, 谓 **dug into** 探究; 细查 **Chinese data** /from the previous quarter-century /and **found(v.) weak correlations** 相互关系; 关联 **between happiness and several trends** /**commonly blamed for** (对坏事) 负有责任 gloom.

Take 以...为例; 将...作为例证 *inequality of income*, which in China **marched (v.)**齐步走; 行进 **upwards** /between 1980 and about 2010.

[During the same period] levels of *self-reported happiness* **fell and rose** in a U-shape.

The chapter studies(v.) other "predictors" 预测器; 预示物 of happiness, including ① *the consumption* 消耗, 消耗量 of coal 煤 (a proxy (测算用的) 代替物, 指标 for pollution), ② *housing prices*, ③ *GDP per person*, ④ *healthy-life expectancy*, ⑤ *self-reported levels of freedom* /to **make** big decisions /and corruption (**measured** by asking /whether bribery is acceptable).

None of these indicators /谓 **tracks(v.)** 跟踪; 追踪 happiness **closely** in China.

Two others **are a good fit**: unemployment /and **access to social safety nets**.

主 **Misery** (n.) 痛苦; 悲惨; 穷困, notably (ad.)尤其; 特别 among low-income Chinese, 谓 **deepened** (使) 变糟, 恶化, 严重 /as unemployment spiked(v.) 迅速升值; 急剧增值; /用尖物刺入 (或扎破) /and **safety nets collapsed** in 2000-05, as **state-owned firms** were restructured 调整结构; 改组; 重建.

As employment 工作; 职业; 受雇 rebounded 价格等回升; 反弹, so did happiness.

Example 3. 标题

dug into

dig deep (into sth) : to search thoroughly for information 探究；搜集；细查；掘（地）；凿（洞）；挖（土）

blame for

be to blame (for sth) : to be responsible for sth bad （对坏事）负有责任

correlation

~ (between A and B) ~ (of A with B) a connection between two things in which one thing changes as the other does 相互关系；相关；关联

⇒ cor-共同 + re-回 + -lat-携带, 拿取 + -ion 名词词尾

spike

[VN] to push a sharp piece of metal, wood, etc. into sb/sth; to injure sth on a sharp point 用尖物刺入（或扎破）

[V] (especially NAmE) to rise quickly and reach a high value 迅速升值；急剧增值

⇒ 可能来自中古瑞典语 *spijk* 钉子，来自 Proto-Germanic *spikaz* 钉子，来自 PIE *speī* 尖刺，尖头，词源同 *spire*, *spoke*, *pin*. 词义麦穗来自该印欧词根衍生的拉丁语 *spica* 麦穗，穗状花序。

伊斯特林与人合写的《2017年世界幸福报告》(2017 World Happiness Report) 的一章，深入研究了中国的过去25年的数据，发现幸福与几个通常被认为是悲观的趋势之间，存在微弱的相关性。以收入不平等为例，从1980年到2010年，中国的收入不平等一直在上升。在同一时期，自我报告的幸福水平，呈U形下降和上升。这一章研究了其他幸福的“预测因素”，包括煤炭消费(污染的代表)、房价、人均GDP、健康预期寿命、自我报告的能做出重大决策的自由程度，和腐败(通过询问被访者，贿赂是否可以被接受?)。这些指标中没有一个是与中国人的幸福感密切相关。而另外两个却很适合：失业和社会保障。2000年至2005年，随着国有企业重组，失业率飙升，社会保障体系崩溃，中国人的苦难(尤其是低收入人群)进一步加深。而随着就业率的回升，幸福感也随之回升。

Even **main people** /后定 normally considered **clear (a.)** 明显的；显然的；明确的 **beneficiaries (n.)** 受益者；受惠人 **of** China's economic opening — the hundreds of millions of **rural migrants** /who found work in cities /over the past 30 years — **are not collectively** 集体地，共同地 **cheerier(a.)** 高兴的；兴高采烈的。

The most recent World Happiness Report, from 2018, finds that, on average, Chinese migrants **secure (v.)** (尤指经过努力) 获得，取得，实现 **higher incomes** by moving to cities /but, once there, say /they are **less happy /than** long-established 使立足；使稳固 **city folk** 人们，普通百姓。

More surprisingly, such migrants are also unhappier than cousins 远房亲戚；同辈表亲（或堂亲）/who stayed in the countryside.

Dig into the numbers, and **the jobs** of the unhappiest migrants /are unusually insecure (a.) 不安全的；无保障的；不牢靠的, **harsh** 残酷的；严酷的；严厉的 and **badly paid**, **thrusting** 猛推；冲；操；挤；塞 **them into an underclass** 社会底层；贫困阶层 /made more painful by **hukou** 户口 **residency** 居住；定居 **laws** /that limit their access to schooling (n.) 学校教育 for their children /and other **public services**.

Rising prosperity /cannot **compensate** 补偿；弥补 **for** a sense of **being left out** 忽视，不考虑；被遗忘；排除在外。

Example 4. 标题

long-established

to hold a position for long enough or succeed in sth well enough to make people accept and respect you 确立；使立足；使稳固

folk

(especially in NAmE also folks) [pl.] (informal) people in general 人们 / (某国、某地区或某生活方式的) 普通百姓

即使是那些通常被认为是受益于中国经济开放的人——在过去30年里，在城市中找到工作的数亿农民工——总体上也并不乐观。最新的《世界幸福报告》(World Happiness Report) -- 从2018年开始发布 -- 该报告发现，平均而言，中国的移民，通过移居到城市中来获得更高的收入，但一旦移居完成之后，他们却表示，自己的幸福感不如那些早在城市中定居的人。更令人惊讶的是，这些农民工甚至比留在农村中的表亲们，更不快乐。深入研究这些数据，你会发现，最不幸福的农民工的工

2. <pure> Why so glum, China?

IT TOOK 125 years for America's Declaration of Independence to reach a wide Chinese audience, and when it did, some lofty phrases got lost. The earliest known Chinese translation of the declaration, published in 1901 by young nationalists burning to overthrow the Qing empire, is an impatient, combative text. The document's name, noted the scholar who rediscovered it, Frank Li of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, became the "American War Proclamation of Independence". The rights it deemed inalienable — "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" — turned into something bleaker: "life, liberty and all interests".

It explores how China's propaganda machine devotes extraordinary efforts to promoting the idea that the Chinese people enjoy good and meaningful lives under Communism — precisely because economic growth alone does a poor job of generating happiness.

Back in 1974 Richard Easterlin, an American economist, spotted a puzzle. Although richer countries are generally more contented, rising material prosperity does not necessarily lead to ever-higher levels of self-reported well-being. "Chinese Discourses" calls China a giant Easterlin Paradox. Chinese real GDP per person grew more than fivefold between 1990 and 2015. Yet, rather than climbing [in lockstep] with the economy, the self-reported happiness of the Chinese fell sharply from 1990, reaching a nadir in 2000-05 (a time of breakneck GDP growth) before recovering. It has probably yet to regain the level of 1990.

A chapter of the 2017 World Happiness Report, co-written by Mr Easterlin, dug into Chinese data from the previous quarter-century and found weak correlations between happiness and several trends commonly blamed for gloom. Take inequality of income, which in China marched upwards between 1980 and about 2010. During the same period levels of self-reported happiness fell and rose in a U-shape. The chapter studies other "predictors" of happiness, including the consumption of coal (a proxy for pollution), housing prices, GDP per person, healthy-life expectancy, self-reported levels of freedom to make big decisions and corruption (measured by asking whether bribery is acceptable). None of these indicators tracks happiness closely in China. Two others are a good fit: unemployment and access to social safety nets. Misery, notably among low-income Chinese, deepened as unemployment spiked and safety nets collapsed in 2000-05, as state-owned firms were restructured. As employment rebounded, so did happiness.

Even people (normally considered clear beneficiaries of China's economic opening) — the hundreds of millions of rural migrants who found work in cities over the past 30 years — are not collectively cheerier. The most recent World Happiness Report, from 2018, finds that, on average, Chinese migrants secure higher incomes by moving to cities but, once there, say they are less happy than long-established city folk. More surprisingly, such migrants are also unhappier than cousins who stayed in the countryside. Dig into the numbers, and the jobs of the unhappiest migrants are unusually insecure, harsh and badly paid, thrusting them into an underclass made more painful by hukou residency laws that limit their access

to schooling for their children and other public services. Rising prosperity cannot compensate for a sense of being left out.
