【3.21】

**3.21每日一篇 | 外刊精读**

Vax populi：In Texas, **vaccine**-choice activists are **ascendant**  
   
Amid a **measles** outbreak they are lobbying for more “medical freedom”  
   
【1】IN THE OILTOWNS of west Texas a **measles** outbreak is spreading. At least 58 people have been **infected** and 13 are in hospital, the biggest **surge** in Texas in 30 years. Health officials **reckon** hundreds more cases have yet to be **detected**. Gaines County, where the **flare**-up began, had the state’s third-highest share of children **exempt** from **measles** and other vaccines for religious or **philosophical** reasons last year. In the decade to 2023 the rate of schoolchildren without the **recommended** jabs there more than doubled, from 7% to 18%.  
   
【2】But rather than **addressing** an **incipient** public-health crisis, Texas **legislators** meeting in Austin, the state capital, are **debating** new laws to relax **vaccine** rules, urged on by Texans for **vaccine** Choice (TFVC). On February 18th activists in “Come and Make Me” shirts took to the Capitol to lobby and **celebrate**. As many as 45 **vaccine**-related bills have been introduced in the first month of the **legislative** **session** and 37 of them are anti-**vaccine**, according to the Immunisation Partnership, a non-profit. Two especially worry public-health **experts**: one would make it easier for parents to **exempt** their children from school mandates and the other would give politicians, rather than health officials, control over which are required.  
   
【3】Austin’s moment comes as Robert F. Kennedy junior, a **vaccine** **sceptic**, is taking charge as America’s health **secretary**. If such an **appointment** had been made two years ago “you would have thought we were crazy”, says Chip Roy, a **congressman** **allied** with the **demonstrators**. In the states, **grassroots** movements ride on the **convictions** of people like Carrie Bigford, the **outreach** director for TFVC. Her friend Kristin’s baby died suddenly after being vaccinated. The hospital said the **shots** were **blameless** and there is no **contrary** evidence. But on the day after what would have been the child’s second birthday Kristin killed herself. Twenty years on Ms Bigford is **committed** to “medical freedom”. She believes that vaccines pose **intolerable** risks. Even Botox goes through more **rigorous** **clinical** **trials**, she **contends**, **falsely**.  
   
【4】To achieve **herd** **immunity** for the eight primary **diseases** doctors **vaccinate** against, roughly 95% of the population must be immunised. Last year the share of five-year-olds entering classrooms fully vaccinated **dropped** below 93% **nationally**. Populous Texas is at 94% but would fall further if some of the **proposed** bills pass. Between 2013 and 2023 the share of kindergarteners who got the **measles** **jab** fell in 29 states (see map). Because **vaccine** **sceptics** tend to **cluster** in neighbourhoods, the risk of outbreaks is higher yet.Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished  
   
【5】Before the covid-19 **pandemic** TFVC activists had to **whisper** in the halls of the Texas Capitol, says Rebecca Hardy, their **leader**. But in 2020, as people took to the internet to learn about getting jabbed, **scepticism** **snowballed**. By then the Texas mums had made rich and influential Republican friends and today they have **lawmakers** **lining** up to back them. For a long time Americans were more **receptive** to vaccines than Europeans; a decade ago the French were the most distrusting, according to research by the **vaccine** Confidence Project. Now most of the world’s anti-**vaccine** digital content comes from America.  
   
【6】Heidi Larson, the **vaccine** Confidence Project’s founder, reckons that the movement could have been **stymied** a decade ago with a stronger **dose** of **empathy**. “The medical **community** **hardened** these mothers’ views because we weren’t listening,” she says. Ms Bigford **admits** that **trauma** **fuelled** her **vaccine** anxieties. Had more people taken her fears seriously back then she would not be an activist today.Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished

**①短语**：

1. 原文：At least 58 people have been infected and 13 are in hospital,

词典：in hospital: To be admitted to a hospital for medical treatment.

住院

例句：She stayed in hospital for two weeks after the accident.

她在事故后住院了两周。

Doctors kept him in hospital for observation.

医生让他住院观察。

He was in hospital recovering from a severe illness.

他因重病住院康复。

1. 原文：Gaines County, where the flare-up began, had the state’s third-highest share of children exempt from measles and other vaccines for religious or philosophical reasons last year.

词典：exempt from: To be free from an obligation or liability imposed on others.

免除；豁免

例句：Students with high grades are exempt from taking the final exam.

成绩优异的学生可免修期末考试。

This income is exempt from taxation under the new law.

根据新法律，这笔收入免税。

He was exempt from military service due to his health condition.

由于健康原因，他免服兵役。

1. 原文：Gaines County, where the flare-up began, had the state’s third-highest share of children exempt from measles and other vaccines for religious or philosophical reasons last year.

词典：flare up: To suddenly become more intense or severe.

突然加剧；复发

例句：His allergies tend to flare up in spring.

他的过敏在春天容易复发。

The conflict between the two nations flared up again.

两国之间的冲突再次加剧。

Tensions flared up during the heated debate.

激烈的辩论中，紧张局势骤然升级。

1. 原文：But rather than addressing an incipient public-health crisis, Texas legislators meeting in Austin, the state capital, are debating new laws to relax vaccine rules, urged on by Texans for Vaccine Choice (TFVC).

词典：urge on: To encourage someone to continue or succeed.

鼓励；激励

例句：The coach urged on his team during the last minutes of the match.

教练在比赛的最后几分钟不断激励球队。

She urged on her friend to pursue his dreams.

她鼓励朋友去追逐梦想。

Fans urged on the marathon runners with loud cheers.

观众们用热烈的欢呼声激励马拉松选手。

1. 原文：and the other would give politicians, rather than health officials, control over which are required.

词典：control over: The power to influence or direct people’s behavior or the course of events.

控制；掌握

例句：He has complete control over the company’s finances.

他完全掌控公司的财务状况。

Parents often struggle with control over their teenage children.

父母常常为如何管理青少年子女而苦恼。

The government is tightening control over the media.

政府正在加强对媒体的控制。

1. 原文：Kennedy junior, a vaccine sceptic, is taking charge as America’s health secretary.

词典：take charge: To assume control or responsibility.

负责；掌管

例句：She took charge of organizing the annual conference.

她负责组织年度会议。

When the manager resigned, he took charge of the department.

经理辞职后，他接管了这个部门。

It’s time for you to take charge of your own future.

是时候掌控自己的未来了。

1. 原文： If such an appointment had been made two years ago “you would have thought we were crazy”, says Chip Roy, a congressman allied with the demonstrators.

词典：ally with: To unite or form a connection or relation with another.

与…结盟；联合

例句：The country allied with its neighbors for mutual defense.

该国与邻国结盟以共同防御。

Several tech firms allied with each other to challenge the industry leader.

几家科技公司联合起来挑战行业领军者。

He allied with his colleagues to push for workplace reforms.

他与同事们联合推动职场改革。

1. 原文：In the states, grassroots movements ride on the convictions of people like Carrie Bigford, the outreach director for TFVC.

词典：ride on: To depend on.

依赖；取决于

例句：The success of the campaign rides on public support.

这场活动的成功取决于公众的支持。

His entire career rides on this one project.

他的整个职业生涯都取决于这个项目。

The company’s future rides on the outcome of the negotiations.

公司的未来取决于这次谈判的结果。

1. 原文：Twenty years on Ms Bigford is committed to “medical freedom”.

词典：commit to: To pledge or bind to a certain course or policy.

致力于；承诺

例句：She committed to a rigorous training schedule.

她承诺遵守严格的训练计划。

The government has committed to reducing carbon emissions.

政府承诺减少碳排放。

He committed to the project despite the challenges.

尽管面临挑战，他仍然全身心投入这个项目。

1. 原文：Even Botox goes through more rigorous clinical trials, she contends, falsely.

词典：go through: To experience or undergo.

经历；经受

例句：She went through a tough breakup last year.

去年她经历了一次痛苦的分手。

The team went through several setbacks before achieving success.

这个团队经历了多次挫折才取得成功。

He went through all the documents before making a decision.

他在做决定之前仔细查看了所有文件。

②长难句

1. 原文：Gaines County, where the flare-up began, had the state’s third-highest share of children exempt from measles and other vaccines for religious or philosophical reasons last year.
2. 分析：本句话中主语为Gaines County，后为where引导的地点状语从句，从句中主语为the flare-up，谓语为began。主句的谓语为had，宾语为the state’s third-highest share，of children exempt from measles and other vaccines为介词短语对share进行修饰补充，其中exempt from measles and other vaccines为动词过去分词做后置定语修饰children。for religious or philosophical reasons为介词短语充当状语表原因，last year为时间状语。
3. 译文：疫情最初爆发于盖恩斯县。去年，由于宗教和哲学原因，该县未接种麻疹及其他疫苗的儿童占比位列全州第三。
4. 原文：But rather than addressing an incipient public-health crisis, Texas legislators meeting in Austin, the state capital, are debating new laws to relax vaccine rules, urged on by Texans for Vaccine Choice (TFVC).
5. 分析：But rather than addressing an incipient public-health crisis为本句的状语，addressing an incipient public-health crisis为动名词短语，Texas legislators为主语，meeting in Austin为现在分词修饰legislators，the state capital为Austin的同位语，谓语为are debating，new laws为宾语，to relax vaccine rules为介词短语表目的，urged on by Texans for Vaccine Choice为动词过去分词作后置修饰。
6. 译文：但德克萨斯州议会在州府奥斯汀召开会议时，并未及时将这一公共卫生危机扼杀于摇篮中，而是受到德克萨斯疫苗选择组织（TFVC）的敦促，在讨论放宽疫苗规定的新法律。

**③写作技巧:**

But in 2020, as people took to the internet to learn about getting jabbed, scepticism snowballed.

**表达：**一个小小的雪球，随着它的滚动，会逐渐吸附更多的雪，变得越来越大，最后变得无法控制。类似地，某些问题或现象一旦开始发展，就可能迅速扩展，并变得越来越严重或复杂。当作为动词时，snowball 具有比喻的含义，指某个事情从小规模开始，迅速变得越来越大或越来越严重，就像一个雪球从小到大越来越滚越大。这个动词可以形容各种情绪、问题、事件、情况等迅速扩展的过程。

例句：His small mistake snowballed into a major scandal.

他的小错误原本可以轻易解决，但由于一系列不当处理，它变得越来越严重，最终成为一个大丑闻。

**④背景知识：**

麻疹（Measles）：

麻疹是一种由麻疹病毒引起的高度传染性病毒性疾病。它通常通过空气传播，特别是通过感染者咳嗽、打喷嚏或说话时释放的飞沫传播。麻疹的症状包括高烧、咳嗽、流感症状、结膜炎（眼睛红肿）以及典型的皮疹，最初出现在脸部和耳后，随后扩展到全身。麻疹病毒感染可能导致严重并发症，包括肺炎、脑炎和死亡，特别是对于未接种疫苗的儿童和免疫系统较弱的人群。

麻疹的预防主要依赖于接种麻疹疫苗，通常为麻疹、腮腺炎和风疹（MMR）联合疫苗。自从20世纪中期疫苗的普及以来，麻疹的发生率大幅下降，但随着全球疫苗接种率的波动和疫苗犹豫的增加，某些地区麻疹的复发情况有所增加。

麻疹是世界卫生组织（WHO）重点关注的传染病之一。为控制麻疹的传播，全球卫生组织提倡普及疫苗接种和提高公共卫生意识，尤其是在疫苗接种覆盖率较低的地区。

**⑤段落大意：**

【1】德克萨斯州麻疹开始蔓延之地有大量儿童未注射疫苗

【2】德克萨斯州议会仍在在讨论放宽疫苗规定的新法律

【3】各州都有人以信念推动“医疗自由”

【4】美国目前的疫苗接种率不足以形成群体免疫

【5】新冠疫情之后，越来越多的美国人怀疑疫苗

【6】间歇性禁食理论上能够引起细胞自噬

【7】但相关实验结果并不统一

【8】若有更多同理心，一切或许都会不同