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# 丘吉尔自传

## 我的早年生活

### MY EARLY LIFE

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[英] Winston Churchill 著

张小米 译



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When I look back upon them I cannot but return my sincere thanks to the high gods for the gift of existence. All the days were good and each day better than the other. Ups and downs, risks and journeys, but always the sense of motion, and the illusion of hope. Come on now all you young men, all over the world. You are needed more than ever now to fill the gap of a generation shorn by the War. You have not an hour to lose. You must take your places in life's fighting line. Twenty to twenty-five! These are the years! Don't be content with things as they are. 'The earth is yours and the fulness thereof'. Enter upon your inheritance, accept your responsibilities. Raise the glorious flags again, advance them upon the new enemies, who constantly gather upon the front of the human army, and have only to be assaulted to be overthrown. Don't take No for an answer. Never submit to failure. Do not be fobbed off with mere personal success or acceptance. You will make all kinds of mistakes; but as long as you are generous and true, and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her. She was made to be wooed and won by youth. She has lived and thrived only by repeated subjugations.

——Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*, Chapter IV Sandhurst

Prowess at polo, in the hunting-field, or between the flags, might count for something. But the young soldier who had been 'on active service' and 'under fire' had an aura about him to which the Generals he served under, the troopers he led, and the girls he courted, accorded a unanimous, sincere, and spontaneous recognition.

——Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*, Chapter VI CUBA

Let me counsel my younger readers to beware of dislocated shoulders. In this, as in so many other things, it is the first step that counts.....

This accident was a serious piece of bad luck. However, you never can tell whether bad luck may not after all turn out to be good luck. Perhaps if in the charge of Omdurman I had been able to use a sword, instead of having to adopt a modern weapon like a Mauser pistol, my story might not have got so far as the telling. One must never forget when misfortunes come that it is quite possible they are saving one from something much worse; or that when you make some great mistake, it may very easily serve you better than the best-advised decision. Life is a whole, and luck is a whole, and no part of them can be separated from the rest.

——Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*, Chapter VIII India

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First because I approached it with an empty, hungry mind, and with fairly strong jaws; and what I got I bit; secondly.....

But now I pity undergraduates, when I see what frivolous lives many of them lead in the midst of precious fleeting opportunity. After all, a man's Life must be nailed to a cross either of Thought or Action. Without work there is no play.

——Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*, Chapter IX Education at Bangalore

Let us learn our lessons. Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on that strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. Always remember, however sure you are that you can easily win, that there would not be a war if the other man did not think he also had a chance.

——Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*, Chapter XVIII With Buller to the Cape

I had needlessly and by many exertions involved myself in a useless and hopeless disaster. I had not helped anybody by attempting to return to the Company. I had only cut myself out of the whole of this exciting war with all its boundless possibilities of adventure and advancement. I meditated blankly upon the sour rewards of virtue. Yet this misfortune, could I have foreseen the future, was to lay the foundations of my later life. I was not to be done out of the campaign. I was not to languish as a prisoner. I was to escape, and by escaping was to gain a public reputation or notoriety which made me well-known henceforward among my countrymen, and made me acceptable as a candidate in a great many constituencies. I was also put in the position to earn the money which for many years assured my independence and the means of entering Parliament.

——Winston Churchill, *My Early Life*, Chapter XIX The Armoured Train

感触最深的大都在上述原文段落中了，不赘。

如果一定要再说点什么的话，那就是我觉得温斯顿·丘吉尔与我之前刚刚读完的亚伯拉罕·林肯相比，有着许多相似之处，比如，他们都热爱读书，他们都擅长演讲。套用《安娜卡列尼娜》首章首节第一句话，大概是因为失败的人各有各的原因，而成功人士有着类似的优点。

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