

## 98 Inaugural Address

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

We observe today not a victory of Party but a celebration of freedom, symbolizing an end as well as a beginning, signifying renewal as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty.

This much we pledge — and more.

To those old allies whose cultural and spiritual origins we share, we pledge the loyalty of faithful friends. United, there is little we cannot do in a host of co-operative ventures. Divided, there is little we can do, for we dare not meet a powerful challenge at odds and split asunder.

To those new states whom we welcome to the ranks of the free, we pledge our word that one form of colonial control shall not have passed away merely to be replaced by a far more iron tyranny. We shall not always expect to find them supporting our view. But

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約翰·甘迺迪（1917～1963），美國第三十五屆總統。1960年當選，1963年遇刺而死。

（1）1787年美國通過憲法，規定總統就職前應宣誓。

## 九十八 就職演說

約翰·費滋傑羅·甘迺迪

我們不把今天看作是一黨勝利的日子，而看作慶祝自由的佳節，它既象徵結束，也象徵開始；它意味着繼業，又意味着更新。我在你們和全能上帝面前宣讀的，是將近一百七十五年<sup>(1)</sup>前我們祖先所宣讀的同一莊嚴誓詞。

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讓每一個關心我們或對我們懷有敵意的國家知道，我們願付出任何代價，承受任何負擔，迎接任何困難，支持任何朋友，反抗任何敵人，以爭取和維護自由。

我們保證做到這些，我們還要保證做得更多。

對於和我們有共同精神文化的舊盟國，我們保證忠實不渝。團結一致時，我們合作的各項事業將無往不利。一旦分手，我們將一事無成，因為在不和與分裂中，我們不敢應付任何強有力的挑戰。

我們歡迎加入自由行列的新國家，對於他們，我們保證決不容許以另一種更暴虐的專政去替代殖民統治。我們不能總指望這些國家支

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甘迺迪於1961年1月20日發表本篇演說，距離1787年將近一百七十五年。

we shall always hope to find them strongly supporting their own freedom, and to remember that, in the past, those who foolishly sought power by riding the back of the tiger ended up inside.

To those peoples in the huts and villages of half the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required, not because the Communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right. If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich.

To our sister republics south of our border, we offer a special pledge: to convert our good words into good deeds, in a new alliance for progress, to assist free men and free governments in casting off the chains of poverty. But this peaceful revolution of hope cannot become the prey of hostile powers. Let all our neighbors know that we shall join with them to oppose aggression or subversion anywhere in the Americas. And let every other power know that this hemisphere intends to remain the master of its own house.

To that world assembly of sovereign states, the United Nations, our last best hope in an age where the instruments of war have far outpaced the instruments of peace, we renew our pledge of support: to prevent it from becoming merely a forum for invective, to strengthen its shield of the new and the weak, and

持我們的觀點，但是我們却總希望他們有力地支持他們自己的自由，總希望我們能記住，過去想騎在老虎背上攫取權力的蠢人最終必葬身虎腹。

對於半個地球上仍然住在鄉村的草舍茅屋，正在奮鬥以掙脫悲慘處境的各民族，我們保證在任何需要的時刻盡最大努力協助他們幫助自己。我們這樣做，不是爲了怕共產主義同我們爭奪陣地，也不是爲了爭取他們在聯合國的選票，只是因爲這樣做是對的。一個自由的社會如果不能幫助衆多的窮人，也就不能拯救少數的富人。

對於我們邊界以南的各姊妹共和國，我們作出特殊的保證：我們要把說好話變爲做好事，爲爭取進步結成新的聯盟，幫助自由的人民和自由的政府掙脫貧窮的枷鎖。但是這種和平革命不應成爲敵對大國的可乘之機。我們要讓鄰國知道，我們將和這些姊妹國聯合起來，反對在南北美洲任何地方進行侵略與顛覆。我們要讓每一個大國知道，這半球上的人民要繼續做自己的主人。

在戰爭手段的發展遠遠超過和平手段發展的當代，我們對聯合國這個主權國家的世界組織寄予最終和最大的希望，我們重申對聯合國的支持：我們而努力使聯合國不成爲單單互相攻訐的講壇，而成爲新生和弱小國家的庇護，

to enlarge the area in which its writ may run.

Finally, to those nations who would make themselves our adversary, we offer not a pledge but a request: that both sides begin anew the quest for peace, before the dark powers of destruction unleashed by science engulf all humanity in planned or accidental self-destruction.

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In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course. Since this country was founded, each generation of Americans has been summoned to give testimony to its national loyalty. The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe.

Now the trumpet summons us again — not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need; not as a call to battle, though embattled we are; but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, “rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation,” a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself.

Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility; I welcome it. I do not believe that

使聯合國的議決案在更大的範圍內得以實行。

最後，對於同我們敵對的國家，我們不提出保證而提出一項要求：讓我們雙方都開始重新尋求和平吧，不要等到由於科學昌明而發展的毀滅性邪惡力量，有計劃地或偶然地被觸發而吞噬整個人類。

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同胞們，我們事業的最終成敗，主要不在我手中，而在你們手中。從我國建國伊始，每一代美國人都曾經被召喚為祖國忠誠服務。許許多多美國青年回答了祖國的召喚，他們的忠骨埋遍世界各地。

現在召喚我們的號角又吹響了——不是號召我們拿起武器，雖然我們需要武器；不是號召我們奔赴戰場，雖然我們已在備戰；這號角聲召喚我們去作黎明前漫長的鬥爭，年復一年地“在希望中歡欣，在苦難中忍耐”；這是一場反對專制、貧窮、疾病與戰爭等人類共同敵人的鬥爭。

我們能否在全球東、西、南、北形成一個巨大的聯盟對抗這些敵人，以保證整個人類更美滿的生活呢？你們願意參加這具有歷史意義的事業嗎？

在世界漫長的歷史上，只有少數幾代人有幸在自由處於最危急的關頭被委以捍衛自由的重任。我對這任務當仁不讓，勇於承擔。我不

any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of us here the same high standards of strength and sacrifice which we ask of you. With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own.

相信我們有人會願意同其他民族或其他時代的人換易我們現在所處的地位。我們付與這事業的精力、信仰與忠誠將照耀我們的祖國和為國效勞的人，我們祖國發出的光芒將真正普照全世界。

因此，我的美國同胞們，請你們對國家只談貢獻，莫計報酬。

世界公民們，請你們勿問何所得於美國，但問共同為人類自由貢獻多少。

最後，美國公民和世界公民，請按照我們向你們所要求的力量與犧牲的崇高標準來要求我們。良心的平靜是我們唯一可靠的報酬，歷史將為我們的作為做最後的裁判，讓我們引導摯愛的祖國勇往直前。我們祈求上帝的祝福與幫助，雖然我們知道上帝在世上的工作就是我們自己的事業。