

ANGLAIS

TRADUCTION DU FRANÇAIS A L'ANGLAIS

Je suis allé voir la petite maison où habitaient ma tante Tania, ma tante Bella. Julien posait mille questions, très pratiques.

- Il faut combien de temps pour descendre l'escalier et aller au bout du couloir ?
- Je ne sais pas, deux ou trois minutes, pas plus.
- Pourquoi l'hôtelier n'a-t-il pas retenu les Allemands en bas, le temps qu'ils descendent du deuxième étage ?
- Avec une mitraillette dans le dos, il a fait ce qu'il a pu. Et puis, ils avaient mal aux jambes, c'était difficile pour eux de se dépêcher. C'était la nuit, ils n'étaient pas habillés.
- Les autres y sont bien arrivés, pourquoi pas eux ?

Puis nous nous sommes rendus à la gare de Dégagnac où mon grand-père était allé remplir son devoir de citoyen (...), réquisitionné par les services de police français pour prévenir les « attentats terroristes ».

Le soir tombait, la gare, en pleine campagne, sans aucune construction autour, était sans doute identique à celle que mon grand-père avait connue en mars 1943.

Jamais, Julien à mes côtés, je ne m'étais senti si proche de mes grands-parents.

Nous sommes restés longtemps, seuls, dans cette gare plongée dans la nuit.

Jérôme Clément *Plus tard, tu comprendras*
Editions Grasset, 2005

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TRADUCTION DE L'ANGLAIS AU FRANCAIS

Almost a year had passed since my wife's announcement that she was leaving New York and returning to London with Jake. This took place one October night as we lay next to each other in bed on the ninth floor of the Hotel Chelsea. We'd been holed up in there since mid-September, staying on in a kind of paralysis even after we'd received permission from the authorities to return to our loft in Tribeca. Our hotel apartment had two bedrooms, a kitchenette, and a view of the tip of the Empire State Building. It had also extraordinary acoustics: in the hush of the small hours, a goods truck smashing into a pothole sounded like an explosion, and the fantastic howl of a passing motorbike once caused Rachel to vomit with terror. Around the clock, ambulances sped eastward on West Twenty-first Street with a sobbing escort of police motorcycles. Sometimes I confused the cries of the sirens with my son's nightmare cries. I would leap out of bed and go to his bedroom and hopelessly kiss him, even though my rough face sometimes woke him and I'd have to stay with him and rub his tiny back until he fell asleep once more. Afterwards I slipped out onto the balcony and stood there like a sentry. The pallor of the so-called hours of darkness was remarkable. Directly to the north of the hotel, a succession of cross streets glowed as if each held a dawn.

Joseph O'Neill, *Netherland*,
Édition Pantheon, 2008

ANGLAIS

Expression écrite - 1ère langue

Lire soigneusement le texte ci-dessous :

Liberals have long lamented that, despite much stirring rhetoric about the mother of parliaments and Magna Carta, modern Britons have little real interest in their hard-won liberties. On June 17th, as Gordon Brown gave a speech on the subject, that pessimism seemed confirmed when one rapt listener fell asleep in the middle of the prime minister's oration.

Yet civil liberties are much in the news these days. Mr Brown's speech came in the wake of the surprise resignation on June 12th of David Davis, the Conservative shadow home secretary. Mr Davis quit the House of Commons after it voted to allow terrorist suspects to be detained without charge for up to 42 days (the bill now looks set for a rocky ride in the House of Lords)*. From the steps of the Palace of Westminster, Mr Davis accused the government of presiding over the “slow strangulation” of freedoms and the “ceaseless encroachment of the state” into daily life. [...]

The charge sheet against the government is long and damning. Besides its 42-day detention proposals, it is accused of colluding with America to transport terrorist suspects to secret prisons abroad. It has created new crimes, such as glorifying terrorism or inciting religious hatred, that, say critics, dampen freedom of speech. Those who breach one of its Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, introduced in 1998, can be jailed for things that are not illegal in themselves (such as visiting a forbidden part of town or talking to certain people). [...]

Along with the new crimes have come new ways of detecting them. Millions of publicly and privately owned closed-circuit television cameras (no one is sure precisely how many) monitor town centres. The latest innovation is unmanned, miniature aircraft (adapted from army models) that can loiter over trouble spots, feeding images to police on the ground.

Vast computerised collections of information have become popular too. Britain possesses one of the largest police DNA databases in the world, containing the records of over 4m of 60m citizens (including a third of the black men in the country). Records are kept for everyone who is arrested, meaning that many on the system have never actually been charged with any crime. The government's identity-card scheme, the first phase of which is due to start later this year, aims to record the fingerprints and biographical details of everyone in the land. [...]

Mr Brown argues that frightening new threats—terrorism, drug trafficking and (rather incongruously) benefit fraud—require new powers. In his speech he turned criticisms about authoritarianism on their head, saying that new state powers were guarantors of liberty, not threats to it. He expanded on the risks—the 2,000 terrorist suspects whom the security services are apparently tracking—and the benefits—the 8,000 suspects who have been matched with crime scenes since 2001 thanks to DNA evidence retained when they were released, uncharged, after a previous arrest. He repeated his promise that Parliament would prevent abuse of the 42-day detention law. Labour has passed a raft of other measures too: the Human Rights Act in 1998, freedom of information legislation in 2000 and changes to ensure the rights of gays and other groups.

Government reassurances do not impress civil libertarians, who argue that, once restrictive new laws are in place, uses for them tend to multiply. In March it emerged that local councils had been using surveillance powers intended for deployment against serious criminals to check up on footling infringements: people who flouted smoking bans, for instance, or tried to game the school-admissions system.

And promises that sensitive personal data will be carefully stewarded look rather limp next to an official proclivity for leaving confidential material in public places. Mr Brown was badly embarrassed in November, when CDs containing 25m child-benefit records were reported lost by the Inland Revenue. More recently, on June 12th a civil servant was suspended after top-secret papers about terrorism were found on a train; on the same day another set of documents—this time on financial fraud—turned up on a different train. [...]

But Britain's small band of civil libertarians has bigger problems than a recalcitrant prime minister and careless civil servants. Despite Benjamin Franklin's famous advice, the public seems happy to trade a little liberty for a little security. Surveys before the 42-days vote consistently showed public opinion in favour. More recent polling for *The Economist* shows broad public support for many liberal bugbears. Women tend to be more authoritarian than men, Labour supporters more relaxed about infringing civil liberties than Tories and Liberal Democrats, and richer folk more worried than the poor. [...]

The poll suggests that people are vehement in defence of civil liberty and privacy when considered in the abstract. Confronted with specific situations, their resolve wilts, especially when specific security gains are promised (although administrative benefits can overcome libertarian instincts too). Trust in private firms is much less than in the government—odd, since more than half of all consumers are voluntarily enrolled in data-tracking supermarket loyalty schemes.

Mr Davis's supporters point to a poll in the *Daily Mail* in which 57% of respondents said they supported his crusade. That is hard to reconcile with the findings of our survey. The alternative explanation—that any politician seen to thumb his nose at the establishment delights disenchanted voters—seems rather plausible.

*On October 13 2008, The House of Lords rejected proposals that would allow the period of pre-charge detention in terrorism cases to be extended up to 42 days.

The Economist, June 19, 2008

Répondre en ANGLAIS aux questions suivantes :
(environ 250 mots pour chaque réponse)

1. What arguments does the author put forward to show that civil liberties have been eroded in the United Kingdom?

Answer the question in your own words.

2. In your opinion, does the quest for greater security endanger civil liberties in the UK and other English-speaking countries? Give examples to illustrate your arguments.