

ANGLAIS LVII

TRADUCTION DE FRANÇAIS EN ANGLAIS

Sheryll Cashin, ancienne conseillère du président Bill Clinton, montre, dans un ouvrage, comment la société américaine s'est muée en une multitude de groupes qui se côtoient dans l'espace public et refusent délibérément de se mêler. C'est ce que les Américains nomment le « *salad bowl* » : les communautés se côtoient sans jamais vivre ensemble.

La société américaine, qui apparaît ouverte au premier abord, demeure au contraire très fermée. Dès qu'ils franchissent le seuil de leur espace privé, les Américains s'empressent d'en clore la porte derrière eux, et à double tour. Ils n'acceptent de l'ouvrir qu'à ceux qui leur sont en tout point semblables ; ils vivent dans la peur de la différence. Leur espace privé englobe non seulement leur cercle relationnel, mais aussi les écoles que fréquentent leurs enfants. La société américaine est divisée horizontalement et verticalement. De nombreuses familles y vivent dans le quart-monde, et les classes moyennes éprouvent le plus grand mal à briser le « plafond de verre » qui les isole de la classe sociale située au-dessus d'elles.

Malika Sorel, *Le Puzzle de l'Intégration*,
Mille et Une Nuits, avril 2007, p. 103.

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'Nicholas wants me to marry him,' said Sally.

'What do you want to do?' asked Elena.

'Everyone asks your advice, don't they?'

'It's because they think I know what I'm doing. Actually I don't. It's just that I don't talk about myself. Which looks like self-possession.'

'So people try to tap your secret.'

'They want confirmation. Advice is the last thing they want. It might go against their interests. I let them go on and on talking until they make their minds up and then I agree with them.'

'I don't want to get married.'

'Then don't.'

'*You* did it.'

'It was a hundred years ago and you can't possibly imagine how different my life was from yours. There was nothing resembling freedom for women in Italy then. There were no trials, only errors. My father was a rich old fool so I rebelled by getting married to a rich young fool. Disaster.'

'What happened?'

'Everything. At least I didn't do so badly as my poor demented sister. *She* rebelled with a rich young communist who eventually got himself killed trying to bomb a post office. As if an Italian post office needed any more confusion.'

Clive James, *Brilliant Creatures*, Picador edition, 1984, p.179.

ANGLAIS

Expression écrite 2ème langue

Lire soigneusement le texte ci-dessous :

In traveling to the soft hills of Osawatomie, in eastern Kansas, on Tuesday, to the small town where Theodore Roosevelt laid out an agenda for advancing American civilization through the 20th century, President Obama tried on the words of a Republican president who committed Republican heresy in the same place in 1910.

And though Obama gave a good speech, one that framed the coming campaign as a “make or break moment for the middle class,” he is no Teddy Roosevelt. Nor, for that matter, is the Republican party of today anything close to the one that T.R. led through nearly two terms.

In a century’s time, the two parties have switched roles. Roosevelt, with his plea for an income tax, child labor laws, health care and conservation, his call for worker protections, control of corporate abuse, and “a square deal for the poor man,” would be booed out of the room of any Republican gathering today.

Consider just one line from the 1910 speech. “There can be no effective control of corporations while their political activity remains,” Roosevelt said. “To put an end to it will be neither a short nor an easy task, but it can be done.”

Try getting a member of *either* party to say such a thing today.

In attempting to show himself as the man who would ensure Roosevelt’s progressive legacy, Obama showed only the timidity of modern political discourse. Roosevelt’s speech was a manifesto; most of his ideas eventually became part of American life. Obama’s Osawatomie oration was a rear-guard action, defensive of a governing philosophy under fresh fire.

Still, if the president can frame the election in the people-versus-the-powerful mode articulated by Roosevelt, he will win in 2012. He will win whether he faces a candidate easily cast as a corporate tool, in Mitt Romney, or if he faces an influence peddler, a man who epitomizes what’s wrong with Washington, in Newt Gingrich.

“That’s not politics,” Obama said. “That’s just math.” He was referring to why the country could not make investments in its future without the rich paying more in taxes. But his words also apply to the electoral calculation – a play for a majority that feels it is being left behind in an insider’s game.

So while there were no policy specifics in Obama's address, what we saw in the Kansas high school gym was the clearest vision yet of the Democratic strategy for 2012. "This isn't just another political debate," Obama said, in introducing his theme of class fairness: "This is the defining issue of our time."

[...]

[The audience] at Osawatomie in 1910 heard a far-reaching vision from Roosevelt.

On the rich: "The right to regulate the use of wealth in the public interest is universally admitted."

On labor: "We need comprehensive workmen's compensation acts, both state and national laws to regulate child labor."

On the environment: "Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the nation."

On corporate power: "The Constitution guarantees protection to property and must make that promise good. But it does not give the right of suffrage to any corporation."

Today, Gingrich has called child labor laws "truly stupid," and has suggested that poor grade school students do the work of janitors at schools. The Supreme Court has elevated corporations to full citizenship, freeing them to use their power to dominate elections. Forget about conservation — virtually every major Republican presidential candidate denies the basic science of a potential global climate catastrophe. And Glenn Beck, a leading voice for the Republican crazy caucus, calls Roosevelt-style progressivism "a cancer on our Constitution."

But it's a shame that Obama, in channeling T.R. from a long ago summer's evening, could not reach for anything more stirring in his proposals than a call for the approval of his consumer protection bureau appointee, and the continuance of tax cuts for wage-earners.

So it is, a curse of the modern political age: no one from our times is even a distant candidate for Mount Rushmore.

TIMOTHY EGAN,

in The New York Times

DECEMBER 7, 2011

Répondre en **ANGLAIS** aux questions suivantes :

(environ 200 mots pour chaque réponse)

1. According to the journalist, why is Barack Obama no Teddy Roosevelt?

Answer the question in your own words.

2. In your opinion, what characterizes political discourse in the U.S. today?

Use examples to support your point of view.