



中文基本功

## 程頤弟子有楊時無朱熹 朱熹是楊時的再傳弟子

一月十六日香港電台《解構經典》主持人有「朱熹老師程頤」之說，大錯特錯，因為朱熹的老師，絕對不是程頤，連其老師的老師，也未到程頤這麼老資格。

真相是：程頤的弟子，最知名的是楊時。楊時字中立，北宋大儒，南劍州將樂（今福建建寧）人，晚年隱居龜山，學者稱龜山先生；同呂大臨、謝良佐、游酢合稱「程門四大弟子」。南歸時，程頤目送之曰：「吾道南矣！」後來，楊時果然把程頤的儒學傳到南方，學者奉為「程氏正宗」。到了南宋，楊時的弟子，才是朱熹的老師。朱熹所著《資治通鑑綱目》（通稱「紫陽綱目」），內有「楊龜山曰」的史評，就是楊時的史評了。

講起楊時，有個「程門立雪」故事。據《宋史》記載，楊時初見程頤，適值程老師坐着閉目養神，楊時與游酢侍之不去，等到程老師張開眼睛，門外已積雪盈

尺。後來有個叫謝應芳的寫了《楊龜山祠》詩，有「卓彼文靖公，早立程門雪」之句。文靖是楊時的諡號。

這時想起香港特區政府有位官員叫楊立門，其取名當與楊時「程門立雪」有關。如有懷疑，不妨問之。

這時，又想起上世紀七十年代，大陸有所謂「評法批儒」，批評最大目標，除了孔子，就是朱子（朱熹）了。殊不知毛澤東把孔子與孫中山並重，有「從孔夫子到孫中山，我們都應該加以總結」的話；而毛氏對朱夫子之崇敬，表現在他經常以「一分為二」作為哲學分析的原則，而這個原則是朱熹所創。毛氏也常用「以其人之道還治其人之身」一語，這也是朱夫子語錄。當時「批儒」，也為法國人所嘲笑。因為孔子名言「己所不欲勿施於人」早已譯為法文，收入《人權宣言》和第一部《法蘭西共和國憲法》。

容若



## Middle East Turmoil causes more economic damages

Hong Kong shares followed the world downtrend with the Hang Seng Index dropping nearly 500 points yesterday. This shows that the recent international market turbulence has begun to affect Hong Kong. In fact, the recent turbulence in international markets for foreign exchange, gold, commodities, stocks and bonds remind people of the turbulence during the financial tsunami. But this is merely a superficial impression. The trouble this time does not have its origins in the financial and economic systems but, instead, has been caused by a major geopolitical change. This change came **out of the blue**, and its evolvement is even more difficult to grasp. Thus the unpredictability and suddenness of the change are higher than those of the financial tsunami. The risks are also much higher. So investors must heighten alertness. However, "no egg remains intact under an overturned nest." If the Middle East Turmoil continues to worsen it is feared that even citizens not involved in investments will also **fall victim** to it.

This Middle East Turmoil has multiple potential **ramifications**. The Middle East is an important centre for oil and energy production and export, as well as a shipping hub linking Asia, Africa and Europe. **In addition**, there are other ways through which the Middle East can affect the global market and economy. The first is foreign trade. Besides the immediate effect on direct trade between the Middle East and other countries, the global trading climate is also likely to be affected if a confidence crisis is sparked off. The second is investment. Quite a number of countries have made considerable securities and other direct investments in the Middle East. For instance, Italy and Britain have invested in oil and gas projects there. [Petrodollar] from Middle East is also an important source of international capital. Hence, the Middle East Turmoil will disrupt global capital flow and disturb the global capital market.

Also deserving of attention is that the current turmoil happens at a time when advanced countries are still hurting badly from the international financial crisis. The US Congress is deadlocked in a debate on how to attain fiscal balance, while economic recovery in the country hovers between reality and the ephemeral despite remarkable gains in the bond and stock markets. For example, although the Dow Jones Industrial Average has doubled after bottoming out from the financial crisis, it does not really accord with the performance of the real economy with its high unemployment and sluggish property market. The economic situations of Japan and Britain are even worse. In Japan, deflation **lingers on**. Britain may fall into stagflation. The EU is under fiscal tightening pressure. The five PIIGS countries (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain) are still enmeshed in their debt crises. In such circumstances the frail financial and economic situations in developed countries can hardly stand up to more international turmoil. Emerging economies may have better growth dynamics, but they will be savaged by a reversal of capital flow due to a change in the international environment, as horribly as they were by the financial tsunami.

What is more worrying is that in grappling with the international financial crisis, European countries, the United States and Japan have almost exhausted all their resources to cope with emergencies. They cannot find new resources to deal with another disaster. In particular, if the US wants to maintain stability in the Middle East to sustain its control of the region, it will have to expend huge financial resources on fresh military and economic aid. For example, there is a suggestion for launching a [Marshall Plan] for Middle East. Needless to say, the crux of the matter is where to find the money. If the US resorts to printing money to do this,

efforts must be made to prevent a US dollar crisis.

On the other hand, it should be well anticipated that the impact of the Middle East Turmoil may be long lasting and complex. It may result in a geopolitical restructuring similar to the outcome of the collapse of the Soviet Union, but the domestic and international political and economic factors involved are much more complicated – such as religious and historical feuds that can be traced back a thousand years and the recent anti-terrorism war and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Internal contradictions of the Middles Eastern countries are also entangled, such as the conflicts between tribes, ethnics, regions and religious schools plus conflicts between governments and people due to leaders alienating themselves from the people. There is also the population factor. Sharp increases in populations in the region have resulted in unemployment of a great number of young people and other serious social problems such as poverty. For instance, the population in Egypt has doubled in the past three decades with half of its people now under the age of 25. One fifth of its population is jobless and more than 40% of the population is illiterate or semi-illiterate. With the downfall of rulers, power struggles in a power vacuum will likely result in turmoil for a long period of time. Even a civil war or a partial regional war with military intervention by some big power (s) cannot be ruled out. Because it was economically closed, the collapse of the Soviet Union had little impact on the global economy. But the Middle East has long been integrated into the global system, hence the turmoil in the region will have far reaching impact. All in all, this is an unprecedented major geopolitical and economic change. Anything can happen as a result.

23 February 2011

### WORDS AND USAGE :

① **Out of the blue** (idiom) – Suddenly and unexpectedly. (出乎意外，出其不意)

Examples : 1. Tom arrived out of the blue. 2. Then one day, completely out of the blue, I had a letter from her.

② **Fall victim** (to sth) (idiom) – Be injured, damaged or killed by something. (成為……受害者，被……所征服)

Examples : 1. He fell victim to her charms. 2. Many plants have fallen victim to the sudden frost.

③ **Ramification** (noun) – A consequence, especially when complex or unwelcome. (尤指複雜或不受歡迎的) 衍生後果，派生影響)

Examples : 1. The new tax law proved to have many ramifications unforeseen by the lawmakers. 2. What are the ramifications of our decision to join the union ?

④ **In addition** (to sth) (idiom) – Used when you want to mention another person or thing after somebody or something. (此外，還有)

Examples : 1. In addition, he is taught how to use chopsticks. 2. There is, in addition, one other point to make.

⑤ **Linger on** (phrasal verb) – To remain for a longer time. (長期留存，流連忘返，歷久猶存)

Examples : 1. The cold season still lingers on. 2. The pain lingered on for weeks.

## 中東動盪打擊經濟甚過金融海嘯

昨日港股跟隨世界主要市場大跌近五百點，反映國際市場震盪已波及本港。事實上近日國際匯市、金市、商品市場、股市、債市等都全線波動，漸覺與金融海嘯時期的動盪相似。但這只是表象；今次問題並非源自金融、經濟體系，而是來自一個地緣政治的重大變局。這個變局事出突然，今後的發展更難以掌握，故其不可知性、突變性比金融海嘯時期還高、風險也更大，投資者必須認真警惕。然而覆巢之下無完卵，恐怕如果中東局勢持續惡化，則非投資者的一般市民也會受累。

這次中東變局帶來的衝擊，潛在的牽連作用不少 **ramification**。除了中東一帶乃石油等能源生產、出口重地，和亞非歐三洲航運樞紐外，還有其他的影響全球市場及經濟的渠道。第一是外貿，除了中東與其他國家的直接貿易會受壓外，若引發信心危機還可影響到全球的貿易景氣。第二是投資，各國在中東的直接及證券投資不少，如意大利及英國有油氣項目、中東石油錢財也是國際資金來源之一；故中東動盪會擾亂全球的資金流向及資本市場。

還要注意者是，這次變局是在金融海嘯衝擊下發達國元氣大傷之時發生的。例如美國國會正為財政平衡爭拗難止，經濟復蘇似有似無，債市及股市都已累積不少泡沫。如道指已自海嘯低位回升約一倍，與當前美國的高失業、樓市呆滯的實體經濟狀況並不吻合。日本及英國經濟的情況更差，日本通縮難消，英國則可能陷入滯脹。歐盟則要面對財政緊縮的壓力，歐豬國家的債務危機永揮之不去。故國際間一有較大風浪，發達國的脆弱金融經濟狀況將難以承受。至於新興經濟群體的增長動力雖較好，但若國際環境逆轉游資轉向，也將如金融海嘯般帶來重大衝擊。

更值得擔心者是，歐美日等在應付金融海嘯時，已基本上耗盡了國家扶危救急的能力，再擠不出資源來應付另一場巨災。特別是美國，若要維持中東穩定及繼續美國在區內的控制權，則必須花大錢在軍事上及經濟援助上重新部署，例如已有評論指要推出中東的馬歇爾計劃。當然，關鍵問題是錢從何來？如美國以印鈔來勉強支撐，則須防觸發美元危機。

同時，還要充分估計到中東變局的長期性及複雜性。這可能是一場與蘇聯解體相若的地緣政治格局重組，但所涉及的國內及國際政經



中東政局持續動盪，令港股以至全球金融市場大幅波動

因素卻更為複雜，包括可回溯以千年計的宗教及歷史紛爭，而近期誘因則有反恐戰爭及以巴摩擦等。中東地區國家的內部矛盾同樣糾纏不清，包括部族、民族、區域及教派矛盾，再加上許多執政者在位多年脫離民眾而引發官民衝突，還有入口因素：區內人口暴增引致了大量年輕人失業、貧困的嚴峻社會問題。例如埃及三十年來人口倍增，約一半人口在二十五歲之下，其中約五分之一失業，全國文盲及半文盲人數佔四成多。當執政者倒台後，權力真空的爭奪很可能會導致較長時期的動盪不安，更不能排除會引致內戰、局部地區戰爭，和某些大國的軍事干預。當年蘇聯由於經濟封閉，解體對全球經濟影響不大，但中東早已融合在全球化體系中，其衝擊將大得多。總之，這是一場前所未見的地緣政經巨變，什麼事都有可能發生。

2011/02/23 大公報社評

## 中東石油豐富 左右世界經濟

近來，用「刻變時翻」來形容中東各國局勢也不足為過。美國與歐洲各國對於該地區部分國家發生政變時朝陽夕雨的表態，令人錯愕。中東在國際地緣政治、經濟格局中扮演怎樣的角色？為何會吸引如此多關注？難道如表面上看到的，西方國家宣傳的所謂人權與自由嗎？

中東 (Middle East)，是指從地中海東部到波斯灣的大片地區。在地理上，中東範圍幾乎包括了現今的西亞、近東，是連接非洲與歐亞大陸的重要地區。該地區地形錯綜複雜，有遼闊沙漠、帶狀高原、大面積草原以及廣闊的沖積平原，氣候以乾燥大陸氣候

### 通識記憶體

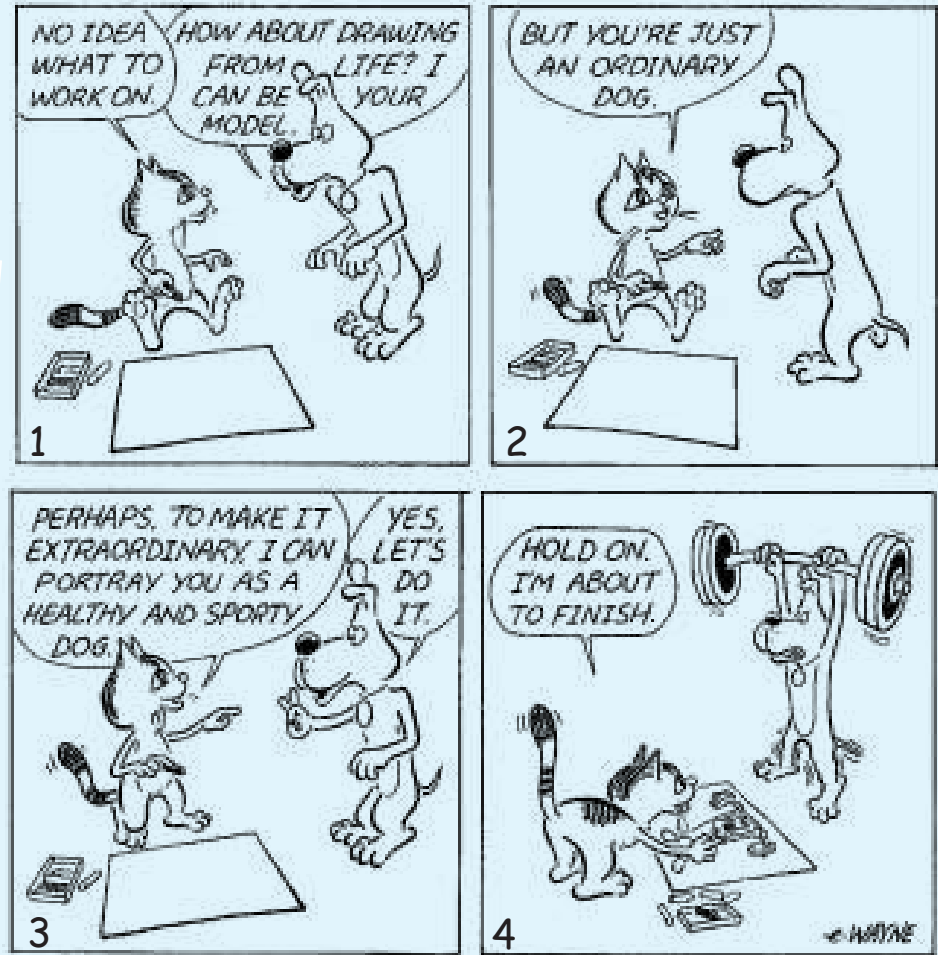
為主。

作為阿拉伯世界的重要匯聚地，中東地區國家眾多。我們經常在報刊雜誌以及電視新聞中聽到的國家名字數不勝數，例如伊朗、埃及、以色列、巴勒斯坦、科威特、黎巴嫩、沙特阿拉伯、敘利亞、利比亞、突尼斯、索馬里以及蘇丹等在內的23個國家。

從前，中東地區各國主要依賴傳統畜牧業與農業發展該地區經濟；石油的發現，使中東地區經濟發生了巨大變化。21世紀是全球各國爭奪能源的時代，因此中東這隻會生金蛋的鵝自然成了美、歐等國覬覦的焦點。



### Soho Diary



## Nourishing Seafood (1)

Hark Yeung (yeung@harkyeung.com)

Many westerners only know that Chinese eat shark fin (魚翅) as a healthy food, but in fact shark fin is just number three on the list of nourishing seafood.

Top on the list is abalone (鮑魚), an oval-shaped (橢圓形) shellfish that is in some ways similar to whelks. Its meat is somewhat rubbery. It is said that eating abalones can make people walk better and move better. If the elderlies eat them regularly, their physical movements would be easier and they could recover quicker after having injuries. With this positive effect, the aging process would be altered.

Second on the list is sea cucumber (海參), a

creature that looks so funny that even people in Africa don't eat them. Europeans and Americans leave them alone as well. For a time, the New Yorkers got sea cucumbers from their harbour and sent them to China to trade for tea. Sea cucumbers are usually black in colour and they are as fluid as a tube of semi-consolidated jelly.

A Hong Kong businessman told me how he got his first million dollars. He was in North Africa, where he found sea cucumbers littering the beaches, probably washed up by the tides. Local people simply let them die and decompose naturally. He said: "to me, it was like seeing pieces of gold covering the ground."