

Holy Roman Empire

Chapter 16: The Brewing Revolution

After establishing the Vienna system, keeping the European continent stable for over 30 years, holding the position of the Austrian prime minister for more than 20 years, and firmly pinning down political enemies, how was it possible for the one and only Prime Minister Metternich to be a nobody?

Count Koloft was obviously trying to goad him today. People were fallible under external stimulation. How could he not know that?

It was a conspiracy. But though he surely recognized it, Prime Minister Metternich felt the pressure nonetheless. It was coming in from all directions, exerted on him not only by Count Koloft, but also by Austrian conservatives, as well as the Vienna Court.

Prime Minister Metternich already knew that Franz had played an important role in this conspiracy based solely on his rich experience with political struggle; he didn't need any evidence of it to be sure.

As much as a year earlier, Franz had discussed this issue with him, but Metternich had wanted to maintain the balance of powers inside the country then, choosing not to suppress the capitalist class.

The fact that Franz teamed up with conservatives showed, without a doubt, that the Vienna Court's tolerance for the reformists had reached its limit.

Not to mention the fact that the royal family, and even Prime Minister Metternich himself, were disappointed with the reformists. The reform proposals they put forward were too idealistic, ignoring the facts.

The capitalist class wanted to seize power so badly that they didn't even bother to cover up their ambitions. The requests they made were simply not possible for the Government to accept.

Metternich was sure that if the capitalist class's conditions were accepted in full, the Austrian Empire would come to an immediate end.

In order to be strong enough to seize power, the capitalist class had been united with the separatist group, yet their so-called American-style autonomy had not taken into account the realities of the situation.

Once decentralization appeared in Austria, social disruption would follow rapidly due to their many enemies, which meant the countries of Europe could not possibly let go of this opportunity.

A group of idealists, encouraged by the capitalist class, became the forerunners of the reform. They put forward any proposals they wanted and never considered consequences. Who could stand a group of reformists like that?

"Someone go inform the relevant people of tomorrow's cabinet meeting. Especially the Regent council, make sure they appear in the meeting tomorrow!"

Obviously, Metternich had made up his mind: Since the reformists were out of his control, they could certainly be sacrificed for political necessity.

No, it was not a "sacrifice" per se; rather, it was bad luck for the capitalist class. A class division had split these idealistic intellectuals, and some of those who were less involved with the capitalist class were also in support of the Labor Protection Act.

In addition, some even felt like going further with the terms of the Act. The workers' wages should be paid according to the profit of their factories, and everyone would share profit, including the working class.

Well, when it came to such idealists, Metternich had nothing to say. He would bet that the one who brought up this idea to the public wouldn't have the balls to go outside their room.

The Labor Protection Act was driving the capitalist class crazy already. If anyone dared to deprive the capitalists of most of their profits, they would surely tear him apart!

"Yes, Prime Minister!" the attendant replied instantly.

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After the triumph of the July Revolution, the progress of capitalism in France made most of the workers, farmers, and low-level capitalists more impoverished.

On the other end of the spectrum, the development of the industrial revolution had given the capitalists tons of wealth, and with the growth of their wealth, thousands of handicraftsmen and small farmers went bankrupt from the competition.

The social crisis in France was deepening, while the cries for the transformation of society were growing louder and louder; however, none of this had attracted the attention of the July Monarchy.

(July Monarchy: After the July Revolution in France in 1830, the Orléans dynasty was founded, representing the French financial group, and the usurer empire started then.)

By 1847, Franz had been keeping an eye on France closely, because, as the weather vane of the European revolutions, almost every revolution had its outbreak in Paris.

Based on the news from France, Franz knew that a revolution was brewing, because the prelude to the revolution, the "banquet campaign," had begun to flourish.

(French Banquet Campaign: a political struggle by the French reformists and various social forces against the rule of the July Monarchy, who gathered under the guise of a banquet to give speeches and preach political opinions.)

Without a doubt, the upcoming revolution was still under the leadership of the capitalist class, which, in Franz's view, was due to the uneven distribution of interests among French capitalists.

The capitalists who failed in the competition were unwilling to be robbed of benefits, so they united all the anti-government forces and took advantage of the public's dissatisfaction with the Government. They launched the February Revolution.

Franz knew the climax of a new wave of revolutions was about to come, and historically, in 1848, all European cities with a population of more than 100,000 would break out in revolution.

The spark of this wave of revolutions was the February Revolution in France. The success of revolutionaries in France gave everyone a model. As a result, everyone followed suit, and then the whole of Europe fell into chaos. The only exception was Russia, which was still an agricultural country.

"Taylor, we have to get inside the social groups in Vienna to keep up with their movements at all times, including the low-level laborers' groups!" Franz said, with caution. f(r)eeweb(n)ovel

"Yes, your excellency!" replied Taylor, the head of intelligence.

This intelligence organization was the secret army of the royal family, and after working with them several times, Franz incorporated them into his own forces.

Of course, the appointment letter that Franz gained from his uncle Ferdinand I played a crucial role in the incorporation.

It had come at a cost: Franz had to pay 800 Austro-Hungarian guildens a month to get the intelligence, not a small amount to him.

Even though most of the agents were doing their work compulsorily, the intelligence needed money to operate.

But it was all worth it: because of them, Franz finally grasped enough information about Austria's domestic situation to find that the capitalist class in Vienna, surprisingly, had not yet planned a revolution.

This meant that the March Revolution in Vienna had not been planned long in advance, but was instead a group of people acting on impulse because of the influence of the outbreak of the February Revolution in France.

Many of these people were not even members of revolutionary parties, being steadfast capitalists, students, and workers. This could be proved from the terms put forward by revolutionary groups after the March Revolution.

The majority of the population still had expectations of the Vienna Government, because of the Labor Protection Act that government had introduced.

They were still waiting for the law that would improve their difficult living conditions to be enacted.

Franz saw a new possibility in the fact that the impending March revolution might die for lack of supporters once the Government published the Labor Protection Act.

The workers might even stand by the Government and help to suppress the capitalist class rebellion, because of the conflict of interests between the working class and the capitalist class.

Chapter 17: Labor Protection Act

The nobles were on the move, while the capitalists were certainly not standing idle. Many of the capitalists struggled to adapt to their changing roles because for too long, they had claimed to be reformists.

A banquet was being held in a manor in Vienna. Most of the guests were Austrian capitalists, as well as a number of experts and scholars.

"Mr. Veris, public opinion is against us. Many are criticizing us for putting profit first. If we do not take action, the conspiracy of our enemies, who are behind the campaign against us, will succeed!"

"Yes! Their reforms are much easier said than done. They just do not take the current situation into consideration. For the time being, because of the fierce competition, our profit margins are just so slim!"

"That is the truth. We make money today and lose money tomorrow because the profit is so low, and the market is ever-changing. It is already difficult for us to feed the workers, not to mention that we have to constantly work to increase production.

How can we arrange, on such a slender profit margin, to raise their pay? If this Labor Protection Act makes us give up all our benefits to the workers, we will just be working for nothing.

Who would be foolish enough to invest in the industry then? These nobles, making money by doing nothing every day, came up with the stupidest ideas!"

The highly respected Veris said, "Well, gentlemen, since we are all in agreement about this situation, it's time for us to unite and show the enemies our real power!

The Labor Protection Act cannot possibly be passed. If they succeed once, they'll try again, and if we make heavy concessions on this matter, the enemy will press on little by little.

The nobles want to wipe us out. They do not have the courage to do it directly, so they came up with this lousy idea.

It is true that the Labor Protection Act now requires us to take a small step back. However, even once their ambition is satisfied, they will keep encouraging workers to rise up against us.

To make their status unshakable, they will finally use the high cost of labor to push us into decline!"

"Mr. Veris, what do we do now? You know the government is under control of the nobility. Even many of us here have probably used our influence to lobby the government. The situation is not optimistic for us."

Veris said with a cold smile, "Mr. Trios, you are right. Since the nobles have control of the government, how can our complaint make a difference?

Why did the nobles propose the Labor Protection Act? Is it really because of the overwhelming mercy in their hearts? If that's the case, why don't they liberate the serfs?"

It was a good question. Why did the nobles suddenly care about others?

They quickly came up with a number of possible answers to that question, for it was simple to all these cunning old foxes.

For example: to divert the public's attention from government reform to the welfare of workers, or to get back at the capitalists because they were against the abolition of serfdom...

"So, what Mr. Veris means is that we should continue to do what we are doing?" Trios asked uncertainly.

Veris was aflame with indignation. "Yes, we cannot be played by opponents. The primary purpose of the Labor Protection Act is to make us make concessions.

But can we make concessions?

Behind us is the abyss!

Now, the most important thing for us is to expose the enemy's dangerous ambitions and draw more people over to our side, so we can win the ultimate triumph!"

"However, Mr. Veris, the enemy suddenly hit us unprepared, and now public opinion is very unfavorable to us, so many who were neutral have chosen to take their side!" complained Ham, frowning.

Veris's face dropped, for he knew that his leadership was not convincing to his followers, including Ham. His words looked straightforward, but danger lurked beneath the surface. fr(e)webnov(e)l.com

"Mr. Ham, I don't think this is really a problem for any of us. Is it too difficult to convince them?

To buy off some of them, and let them speak for us, to kill some of them, and blame it on the secret police? And it is not our first time doing that."

When it came to manipulating public opinion, it did not matter if they used dirty tricks or above-board methods. Even if the government made some concessions, the capitalists could not possibly give up the interests they already had in hand, for which they had struggled so long.

They just wanted to gain without pain, which was the nature of capitalists. Maybe, in some ways, they were weak, but when it came to their own interests, they could show their full fighting weight.

Since Veris laid things out straightforwardly, there was no need for anyone to remain a gentleman, and the whole of Austria would see who the capitalists really were.

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The capitalists were powerful. At least, they were much more powerful than the nobles in the court of public opinion. If it had not been for the censors, they would have already turned the tide in their favor.

After reading the intelligence documents in his hands, Franz did not even bother to comment. The performance of the conservative nobles, in this wave of battles, was really pathetic.

The first group that was fooled by capitalists was students, and the University of Vienna was the first to be captured. Many people there thought the Labor Protection Act was a scheme invented by the government.

Franz did not really know what this group really thought, but he knew for sure that many of them had been bought off by capitalists.

"Taylor, give Archduke Louis a message letting him know the plot of the capitalists, so he can pass the Labor Protection Act as soon as possible!" said Franz.

The best way for them to achieve their goal was to create a *fait accompli* before the capitalists could fight back.

Franz did not trouble himself by participating in the enactment of the Labor Protection Act. The nobles would definitely want revenge, so the items of this Act would be very unfavorable to the capitalists.

Regarding the relations between the intelligence organization and the nobles, Franz could not care less. He had to admit that he had overrated the rotten nobility.

The nobility, even though they had control of the government, could not enact a law after months of work--work that was for naught because of the influence of the capitalist class.

Time flew by. After months of controversy and rivalry, on November 21, 1847, history finally turned a new page, and the first Labor Protection Act of the Austrian Empire was published.

The Labor Protection Act read:

1. From March 1, 1848, Austria will implement an eight-hour working day. Workers can choose to work overtime or not, at will (employers must not cut wages because of this, and must pay overtime wages);
2. Local governments must set minimum wage standards in the near future. Any factory operating in Austria must implement those standards in accordance with regulations;
3. Austria will implement regulations on industrial injury protection, with specific details to be introduced by the government in the near future;
4. It will be prohibited to deduct or default wages without reason. Any offender will pay compensation more than ten times the amount withheld, along with a fine, decided according to the severity of the circumstances by the industrial and commercial authorities.

Chapter 18: Better Together

Looking at the newly published Labor Protection Act, Franz smiled with satisfaction. The conflict between the nobility and the capitalist class could no longer possibly be alleviated.

The eight-hour workday was enacted. This was enough to show that the nobles were so enraged by the capitalists that they had taken a drastic measure to deal with the situation.

From then on, the Austrian working class parted ways with the capitalist class. The government had given them what they wanted by enacting a labor law, so the only obstacle for them was the capitalists.

In this case, the question was, did the capitalists dare use the workers' movement to seize power?

Obviously, this was impossible, for the enemy of the workers' movement was no longer the government, but the capitalist class.

For a long time to come, capitalists would have to fight against the working class until one side was forced to make a concession.

"Taylor, you go spread the news of our Labor Protection Act, and do not forget to send a copy to all the labor unions in Paris!" Franz commanded.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times: in 1847, there was only one country in the world that was industrialized, and that was Great Britain.

The rest of the major European powers were catching up, but the industrial revolution in France would not be finished until the 1860s.

The industrial revolution in Germany had just begun, and the same was true of Prussia and Austria.

The competitiveness of their products declined because of the increasing labor costs.

But that was not their main problem. The biggest challenge in Austria was the lack of a consumer market. Who could buy products in the market when everyone, worker and farmer alike, was living in poverty?

No one was going to buy anything before the market was cultivated, even in this country that had the ability to produce so much.

What about exports?

Without looking down on the Austrian industry, Franz thought the best industrial products of the age came from the British, while the most competitive products Austria could offer were simple grains.

Thus, it was more practical to cultivate the market first, then develop the industry step by step.

However, sharing your happiness was much better than enjoying something all on your own. A selfless person like Franz would certainly take into account people all over the world, for everyone was living a hard life and anxious to improve it.

In this case, he believed that the revolutionary stand of the French people was firm and that they would certainly do their job well. Only by improving the living conditions for the working class could the world become a better place.

What Franz did not know was that, in the history that was to come, the eight-hour working day proposed by the Austrian government would become the spark of the European Revolution.

The March Revolution in Vienna, which was highly regarded by historians, became a conspiratorial rebellion launched by the capitalist class, who were dissatisfied with the Labor Protection Act.

That was the final judgment that Franz himself made. He never had mercy on his enemies.

Regardless of the future, for the moment, Vienna was already boiling over. The newspaper published the Labor Protection Act in its original form as quickly as possible. freew ebnove l.com

All the literati were writing swiftly on this Act, whether in praise or criticism. Either way, everyone had very strong opinions.

The reformists began to split into two parties. One of them was self-congratulatory about the fact that the Austrian reforms had finally made some progress. Many were even optimistic that the government would continue to develop the reforms shortly after publishing the Labor Protection Act.

The other party was the capitalist interest group. In no uncertain terms, they criticized the government for destroying their freedoms; they believed that in a world of freedom, all problems should be left to the market to solve.

On this issue, the two parties were in a terrible quarrel. The capitalists, who would never accept harm to their interests, had begun to plot, and this undercurrent spread from Vienna to the whole of Austria.

The workers in Vienna could not believe it had come true at first. Then they were shocked. After confirming the news, they finally began to celebrate, as though they were saying goodbye to all their days of suffering.

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Paris

Paris was famous for being the cradle of the European revolutionary movement, and the people there had always been the most revolutionary. The Austrian Government's Labor Protection Act caused a sensation among them.

The Austrian government, known for its conservatism, already legislated to protect the interests of the working class, while the July Dynasty had not yet done so. Such an evil government must be overthrown.

Of course, the rebellion could never be accomplished overnight, so the Paris labor union organizations, who were experienced in such struggles, met at once for a lively discussion.

Because of the Austrian government's move to legislate for the protection of workers and their introduction of an eight-hour working day, many people in Paris expected the same from their government.

What if the top people in the Paris government suddenly changed their minds and followed Austria's example? Their requirements were not unreasonable; they just wanted the government to copy the Austrian Labor Protection Act.

At the end of 1847, the historically significant strike movement began in Paris. Hundreds of thousands of Parisian workers took to the streets to protest for their rights.

Soon, this campaign spread from Paris to the whole of France, finally spreading throughout the European continent like a virus. By the end, strikes broke out in almost every European city.

The "eight-hour workday" had become a motto for the workers' movements of the era. The public image of the Austrian government had improved markedly thanks to the fact that it made the first labor law in the world.

This was the very first time such a system had been legislated since 1817, when the British reformer Robert Owen proposed the "eight-hour work system," and the impact was far beyond anything the Austrian government could have imagined.

Prime Minister Metternich, who had long been criticized for being too conservative, became once again the leader of the reformists, and the Austrian public praised his achievement highly.

However, none of this was what Prime Minister Metternich wanted. On the surface, he became the winner of the government struggle. Not only had he thwarted the rival's plot, but he had also taken the reform even further, gaining significant public support.

Under the surface, however, Prime Minister Metternich was in unspeakable trouble. He had gotten himself into a blood feud with the capitalist class when he'd passed the Labor Protection Act under pressure from the nobles.

Could any good come from setting himself against the capitalists?

The answer was undoubtedly known to all.

Even so, their revenge came much faster than anyone expected.

On November 24, 1847, the third day after the publishing of the Labor Protection Act, the capitalists organized a strike. Ninety percent of Vienna's factories and shops were closed that day.

The capitalists also submitted a petition to the Emperor for the repeal of the Labor Protection Act and the dismissal of Metternich's Cabinet.

The Austrian government was in serious trouble. The capitalist class was much stronger than everyone thought. To make it worse, some nobles with no firm position of their own had been fooled by capitalists into participating in the strike.

Prime Minister Metternich's time to shine--or fail--had come. If he could not solve this problem quickly, Vienna would collapse.

Chapter 19: The Storm

It had to be said that Prime Minister Metternich had some ability. The Austrian government at the time was so aggressive that the capitalist class's strikes could not frighten them.

After all, the great nobles supported the government, and their power was no less than the capitalists. However, they did not have many resources, save for food.

All of them were major landowners with large numbers of serfs. In that case, who could possibly have no food in stock? If the government needed a large emergency delivery of food, they could provide it.

It was not possible for the capitalists to keep their plan a secret because of the way they cooperated, so the Vienna government knew to finance a batch of grain from the nobles long before the crisis broke out.

At the beginning of the strike, the government had already been selling grain in the market to maintain the food supply in Vienna. But the prosperity of the old days was no more, and many in the government were upset.

Interior Minister Fisher said perplexedly, "Your excellency! If this situation persists, other resources will be still in short supply, even though the problem of food has been solved.

Moreover, now the capitalists have closed their factories, so the workers have lost their income. I'm afraid their money will soon run out, and then..."

Metternich said with a cold smile, "Don't worry, this situation cannot last long. You have to know that thanks to the strike, the capitalists lose money every day, and small businessmen can not hold on much longer!

Still, we can't just stand by. There also are nobles striking, so I will ask Archduke Louis to talk with them. If they stand with the capitalists, they will be removed from the nobility."

As long as someone took the lead, everything else would follow. Even if they were very dissatisfied, he could still find a way to deal with them. At the very least, they didn't have a problem with money!

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Ultimately, the strike lasted less than a week and ended with the failure of the capitalist class.

The nobles who took part in the strike were persuaded first.

Do you care about the glory of the nobility or not?

For the sake of a little profit, you people actually sunk to the level of the capitalists, which was simply a shame to the nobility.

Either way, profit was easier said than done for most nobles, because the majority of them had not yet become capitalists. They had long felt uneasy when they saw others like themselves becoming upstart businessmen, so this was an opportunity for righteous accusation.

As a result, the strike participants were no longer invited to any banquets, and other nobles would refuse their invitation in return. Not to mention that relatives and friends continued to come to persuade them. *freewebnovel.com*

The radical nobles were clamoring to kick these rotten nobles out, which frightened a lot of people.

Austrian capitalists, though loaded with money, had no political status! It was not easy to get a hereditary title, and so it would be a serious issue for any noble to lose it.
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The striking nobles, who could not stand the pressure, had to draw a line between themselves and the capitalists, then quit the strike immediately.

Some of them even thought, "All right, then! Improving the treatment of the workers was worth it! If nothing else, I could use serfs instead of workers!"

Thankfully, only a few such idiots existed. The majority knew that if a compromise was made, labor costs in the future were bound to rise.

Planning to use serfs? What a grand delusion! The daily call for the abolition of serfdom was not just a slogan; it had already become fact.

Because of the profit-seeking nature of capitalists, it was simply impossible to sustain their alliance, especially given that some people had already taken the initiative to quit.

None of the capitalists were selfless people. When they saw someone open a business and make money, the others naturally felt an injustice had been done: "We were the ones who were fighting for our profit, risking our lives, while you people just sat idle and then enjoyed the fruits of our work!"

The first wave of the capitalists' counterattack was quickly defeated because it was not organized enough and had no binding effect on its members.

Even with all this news, Franz did not feel surprised. Unless they cut off necessary daily supplies like food and coal, it would be difficult for the Vienna Government to compromise anytime soon.

This was just what the capitalists could not do, however. At that time, Austria's nobles were just too strong. The food and coal could be all produced from their own land. If the capitalists didn't sell these supplies, the nobles would simply bring their own goods to the market.

Did you have an acquisition contract? If not, how could you expect people to abide by the rules of the game? The nobles made the rules, so they could change the rules!

Franz knew that none of this was over yet, as the capitalists would never resign themselves to defeat. If the government was not prepared, they would suffer greatly in the upcoming economic war.

When these thoughts came to him, Franz felt regret that he had kept hidden deep within his heart. He really should sell a great stock of supplies, because the prices of supplies in the market had almost doubled at the time of the strike.

"Raul, how much food left in the stock can I sell?"

"On your orders, we didn't sell any grain yet this year, but some time ago, when the strike broke out, we did sell half a million pounds of wheat to the government for its emergency, leaving enough food for consumption, and then about 3.86 million pounds extra in stock," Raul replied.

Franz knew of the grain sold to the government, and his estate was only thirty kilometers from Vienna. When the country confronted a serious situation like this crisis, Franz, as Crown Prince of the Empire, had no choice but to help.

It sounded like a big amount, 3.86 million pounds. That was more than 1,750 tons, which was something like two or three thousand gold coins.

But Franz could not collect that amount, because the cost of production was so high. All the serfs in royal estates had been released, so labor was no small expense.

"Be prepared. Once the price of wheat rises by more than 20%, sell it!" said Franz, after a moment of thought.

He knew that capitalists would not let go of the defeat, and pushing up prices was one of their most commonly used tools. Food prices in Vienna were definitely going to soar.

As industrialization had begun, wheat could only be sold to flour mills; no matter how high food prices soared in the market, the price offered by the mills could not be too high compared with the market price.

The greatest advantage of Franz's estate was its proximity to Vienna, but when a rebellion might erupt at any time, it became a disadvantage. The estate was more exposed to the rebels and could be destroyed easily.

In this case, stocking up on grain was risky. Even if he knew that next year the Hungarian revolution would break out and Austria's grain prices would skyrocket, for now, he had to silently bear the pain of selling it.

As he could see, in the game between capitalists and the government, speculation on high-priced stock could definitely collect money fast, but unfortunately, Franz's status was doomed to keep him from playing the field. Otherwise, all the nobles would follow him, and Prime Minister Metternich would not be able to contain the situation.

Chapter 20: Conspiracy

The failure of the strike had shaken the prestige of the leader, Mr. Vries, of the capitalist class, so many were skeptical about his ability to lead them to push the government to compromise.

In contrast, the reformists in the capitalist class had become active. A group of capitalists had changed their stand, and secretly colluded with the reformists in an attempt to overthrow the Vienna Government and establish a capitalists' regime.

Of course, despite that, it was never possible for them to raise the flag and rebel. Even if there would be a revolution, it would have to be led by someone other than themselves. This was because they all had a load of wealth, and surely their lives were more precious than others.

No one was too stupid to understand that they could quite possibly turn into "martyrs" if they rebelled publicly when the weakness of the Austrian Empire had not yet been exposed.

Most capitalists had little confidence in the reformists, and they still placed their hopes on fighting through non-violent means to coerce the Government to compromise.

A banquet was being held in a manor outside Vienna, and Mr. Vries was giving a passionate speech as the host.

Well, this was a banquet movement that originated from France, but when it was in Austria, which seemed somewhat unconvinced, only a few scholars who were fooled by liberalism attended, save for the capitalists.

"Gentlemen, we have to unite. The last time we failed, and it was because we did not have a united front, and we were crushed by the enemy, one by one!

As long as we unite and fight together, the enemy will surely be defeated, and we shall be the ones to claim victory.

There is no need for revolution, for bloodshed, and it's not hard to defeat the enemy in the field we dominate!

Just..."

Vries's speech was not satisfactory to everyone, and at least the revolutionary people who came to the party were very dissatisfied with it.

"Mr. Vries's, what you call a bloodless fight...Do you really think that will that really make the enemy fall back? Wake up and smell the roses! The the rotten Vienna government will not listen to the voice of the public, and true freedom can only be achieved by revolution..."

"Whoever let him in, throw this bastard out of here, since he is trying to kill everyone!" yelled Vries fiercely, before this person could finish his words.

Damn it! Why was he discussing the revolution out loud as if he thought the secret police of the Vienna Government were nothing but a joke?

Not only was Vries angry, but many capitalists who came to the banquet were angry as well. Even if they wanted a revolution, this was a matter that required discretion; the group here could support him in secret, but why on Earth would they do so publicly?

To support the revolution publicly? Everyone here would be in jail before they drew another breath. With so many people at the banquet, who knew what traitors or secret police were in their midst?

If you were saying you opposed revolution, then actually do so. When it came to their own security, the capitalists were all very cautious. One after another, they denounced the Revolutionary Party, as if they were all models of loyalty and patriotism.

Vienna was not Paris, and the revolutionary enthusiasm of the public here was not as high, and also, the Vienna government was not so unpopular as the July dynasty, so not everyone wanted to rebel.

Interrupted by the revolutionary, the speech ended hastily, and then the banquet turned into a secret meeting..

The impact of the Labor Protection Act on the public was still very strong. Even these servants who were attending the banquet were all among the beneficiaries, and it was highly possible that one of them was impulsive and sold them out. So everyone here should be cautious.

"Mr. Vries, can we really force the government make concessions by raising prices of supplies in the market? You know that the strength of the nobles is not ignorable; if they start to fight back against us, we may go for wool and come home shorn!" Hamm, a big capitalist, questioned. fr eewebn ovel.com

The two of them were business competitors, and it was all because of the common interests which brought and seated them together, but there was no way to eliminate the conflicts between them.

"It is exactly because of the nobility that we will win," explained Vries. Don't forget the fact that our Prime Minister is in favor of abolishing serfdom, and if the nobles do not overthrow him, they would be afraid that he will, like this time, enforce it through legislation?"

Field, one of the moderate capitalists said, "Mr. Vries is right; the old bastard Metternich had offended a lot of people over the years, and plenty of people want him to step down.

Once this old cunning man is gone, the new prime minister will surely not have his prestige, so, if he wants to stabilize the situation, he will have to compromise with us!"

Fields and Vries have similar political ideas, and both of them were opposed to violent revolutions and advocated fighting for rights and interests without bloodshed necessarily.

All their common ideas were determined by their interests because as one of the top capitalists in Austria, they controlled a large number of industries.

Once a revolution broke out, there must be a new shuffle of interests; if it failed, they would possibly lose everything they had in hands.

Vries said, "Mr. Ham, the nobles are not holy and pure saints. If we are trying to push up prices, and we can certainly let them in on it with us, because not only can we make money together, but they will also not fight with us in the market, by then, for their own benefit.

No need to be much, as long as one fifth of the nobles stand with us, Metternich will be too powerless to do anything. This time, our aim will be to force Metternich to step down!

As for the repeal of the Labour Protection Act, the implementation of the Constitution, and the popular elections, we can delay them and wait for the next government to deal with it."

Apparently, since he failed once, Vries became more cautious than before.

The Labour Protection Act was used by conservative nobles to fight the capitalists, and obviously they would not make concessions readily.

To say nothing after the constitutionalism and popular elections, as soon as either of them was brought up, it would be attacked comprehensively by the nobility.

Instead, Prime Minister Metternich was an easy aim, and a highly acceptable one because, after all, there were also many people among the nobles who opposed him.

Ham, on second thought, said, "I'll trust you one more time, but what do you think we should do about the revolutionary people in the banquet here? We are not stupid, so you do not have to hide any of your opinions!"

Field, with a cold smile, said, "Is there anything to be said? Of course, we have to draw distinctions between them and ourselves. Don't tell me you haven't heard of the French Revolution! Or is this something you wish to experience firsthand?"

Ham quipped, "Mr. Field, let go of this grand statement!"

Since I know most of us have to contact them privately, however, I mean...have you ever thought of increasing our support toward them?

We do not expect they can succeed. As long as they can hold back some of the attention from the government, it would be good enough.

Vries hastily said, "Mr. Ham, this joke has to stop here. I've never personally known any revolutionary members!"

Unlike the bold Ham, Vries was already old. With his successful business and large amount of wealth, he was no longer willing to take any risks. Secretly providing funding for the movements of the Revolutionary Party was where the line had to be drawn.