

Holy Roman Empire

Chapter 26: To Save Weak Teammates

The hard days did not last long. After more than half a month of training, the noble officers finally seemed to have some military temperament.

But by now, the content of training had also changed: in addition to simple physical exercise, there was also a military command course.

This course was very targeted and all the cases explained in it were street battles, which Franz carefully selected for the reason that he was personally interested in them.

Everyone had basic knowledge about the military, so it was not difficult for them to understand this course. Unlike the previous physical training, many people were highly interested in this course.

'This is what we are good at! What a shame to train us as if we are civilian soldiers!' these noble officers thought.

Albrecht sneered and said, "Well, I'm done! Assuming that the enemy is attacking Vienna, you people, every team as a unit, will make a defense plan, correspondingly;

or assuming that the enemy has occupied Vienna, and we are carrying out a counterattack, every unit will formulate an operational plan, correspondingly.

The time limit is three days, and then I will give you a score. If you fail, it will prove that your military command ability is not adequate, and you are ignoramuses who will go back to the physical training!"

Feeling a chill from Albrecht's words, many people had a bitter expression and looked around to their teammates.

"Your military command ability is not adequate, and you are ignoramuses." With this comment, if you ended your military career, what could you do with your fame as a noble officer?

Everyone was young and full of spirit. Who was willing to admit that he was an ignoramus?

No one doubted that Albrecht would do what he said because he had a family tradition.

When Archduke Carr had carried out his military reform, he did the same thing: he turned a group of nobles who he thought were not suitable to serve as officers into soldiers and forced them to retire.

The rest of those retired noble officers' lives were really dull!

In the circle of nobles, their experience was still circulating, known as the shame of the Austrian nobles.

The nobles in the German region had retained the tradition of joining the army. Everyone was trained as an officer from an early age. After more than ten years of hearing and seeing, even if he was a pig, he was also a cultured pig with military knowledge!

In a word, the Austrian nobles in this period had not completely fallen, and everyone still had a sense of honor.

Even during the Austro-Prussian War, the combat effectiveness of the Austrian army was among the best in Europe. f reewe bnovel

Of course, the City Defense Army might be an exception, and it might represent the lowest level of the Austrian army because the prosperity of Vienna had eroded the willpower of the officers.

Who could explain all these complexities clearly? The most important thing then was to save these eight hundred young men and pull them back from the edge of corruption. Then, the coming Vienna March Revolution would no longer be a problem.

"What do you think, Albrecht? Are there any good ones among these men?" Franz asked.

"I'm afraid that my answer will disappoint you. The level of these men can only be said to be far too low. They still have too much to learn. Let's wait until they finish the training," Albrecht said, shaking his head.

"What about them being a platoon officer? Right now, if we send them down to the combat troops and have them command a company or a platoon, how much combat power can they inspire?" Franz asked with concern.

"Your expectation for them should be really low. Though now most of them are not suitable to be frontline commanders, if you had to use them, they could probably inspire sixty or seventy percent of the combat power of a troop," Albrecht said after a moment's thought.

Franz sighed with relief after hearing his comment: with this fighting capacity, he could almost cope with what was to come.

"Then give them another try. Regardless of their capacity, at least these people are loyal and enthusiastic, and you don't have to worry about them becoming deserters!" Franz said with a smile.

At that moment, Franz felt it had been totally worth his coming personally. With the City Defense Army and the Royal Guard under his control, basically the overall situation could be managed.

"That's true, and they are better than the old cunning ones in the City Defense Army. Franz, what's the purpose of this, now that you do not have the fight to fight? Do you want to use them to replace the old cunning ones?" Albrecht asked in doubt.

"The influence caused by the removal of so many officers at one time is too great. We can arrange for them to serve as deputies in the Army in the name of training.

Then we will organize an armed training, which will let them command, and we will watch the result!" Franz lied without showing any emotion on his face.

Even he himself didn't believe that he would spend so much effort just to let these people replace the guys in the City Defense Army.

Fortunately, he was in Europe. If Franz dared to do something like this in the East as a Prince, everyone's first guess would be that he was planning a rebellion!

Albrecht did not ask again since Franz had not answered his question. Anyway, he had received the order from Ferdinand I personally that Franz was supervising the City Defense Army.

The possibility of rebellion did not need to be considered at all: it was just too stupid to do in Europe. Moreover, Franz did not have to do anything, and he would be Regent in two or three years.

The situation of Ferdinand I was clear to all: he couldn't possibly have an heir. When Franz was old enough, he would exercise the power of the Emperor as the crown prince, which was a little more powerful than that of the Regent committee.

If Franz really wanted to be an emperor, he could wait for his uncle to die! So, after all, Franz had no reason to take risks to rebel.

Otherwise, it would be impossible for Albrecht to accompany him. This group of noble officers would neither respect nor follow him like they would a powerful prince!

"OK, whatever you want; anyway, as long as there's no messing around, I will cooperate with you!" Albrecht said helplessly.

In Albrecht's view, Franz was a teenager who was too anxious to make his name.

Albrecht had also experienced that feeling when he was young, and he knew that opposition was useless against it. The more you tried to stop him, the more he wanted to do it.

But at that point, what Franz had done was still within the scope of the rules, and he was not messing around.

On the surface, Franz was preparing to replace the rotten noble officers with young noble officers, which would not cause a strong objection from the nobility.

This was not out of line in everyone's eyes. The positions were still within their class, and these nobles did not rely on their military positions to survive.

Maybe the one who replaced an old cunning noble officer was his own son or brother, or even a distant relative.

If Franz wanted to promote civilian officers, Albrecht would not be so nice to talk with. It was not possible for him to abandon his class stand.

If Franz wanted to know what Albrecht thought, Albrecht would definitely tell him that he was thinking too much. It was inconceivable to promote civilian officers in that era.

Regardless of other external factors, for military literacy alone, the two types were not at the same level.

Unless the person was very talented, it would take years to turn an illiterate into a qualified officer.

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Chapter 27: February Revolution

This issue, that noble officers were dominant in the army, existed not only in Austria, but also in Prussia, France, Britain, Russia, and other European countries.

This situation continued until after World War I. After World War I, the noble officers suffered heavy losses and did not have enough reserve forces to supplement them. Finally, they lost their dominance in the Army.

In contrast, the dominant German nobles in Austria were lucky. Because of tradition, most of them had good military qualities.

The noble officers in that era were all rare high-level intellectuals, who could perform well as basic military officers if someone whipped them into shape.

For the future of Austria, for the happiness of the European people, and for the development of all mankind, Franz felt the call of his destiny, no, the will of God.

Thus, he had decided to take over the responsibility of training the next generation of Austrian nobles, and what he did then was only the beginning.

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The wheel of history rolled on and on. After the outbreak of the January revolution in Sicily, in no time, revolution spread to northern Italy. In order to protect the safety of Lombardy and Venice, the Vienna government sent additional reinforcements to that area, and the situation there was stabilized for the time being.

Before the great revolution broke out, the working class in Europe was in hot water. Take France, for example:

The wages of the workers were very low. The daily wage of male workers was about 2 francs, while that of female workers was about 1 franc. That of child workers of 13 - 16 years old was only 75 centimes, and for 8 - 12 years old child workers, only 45 centimes.

At that time, the price of the cheapest black bread was over 30 centimes per kilogram, which meant the working class could only barely make a living.

(Data from 1840)

On the surface, it seemed that the treatment of male workers was not bad, though the treatment of female workers and child laborers was very poor.

In fact, the capitalists were not fools. They always maximized their profits. The money was exchanged for workers' lives. Male workers needed to bear more heavy physical labor.

They worked as many as fifteen or sixteen hours a day. If they worked more, they would naturally consume more; thus, of course, the energy they needed to supplement was indispensable.

This fact could be seen from the life span: the hard labor made the average life span of workers less than 40 years, and in many heavy manual labor industries it was less than 35 years.

In 1846, due to the heat and drought, the wheat and bean crops failed, and France's staple food supply was seriously short, causing food prices to soar.

In 1845, the price of 100 liters of wheat was 17.15 francs, but in 1847 it rose to 43 francs, soaring to 49.5 francs in the Upper Rhine, and exceeding 50 francs in some areas.

Especially in northern and northeastern France, grain prices generally rose by 100% to 150%, and bread prices doubled.

The price of everything went up; meanwhile, wages did not rise, which made the lives of the working class into a hell.

Bad luck never came alone, and the British economic crisis in 1847 affected France.

The rise in food prices had nothing to do with the farmers. A sharp drop in income of the workers, because of the decline in food production, caused a decline in France's internal purchasing power.

Against this background, cheap British industrial products rushed in, and French industry and commerce were immediately hit hard.

In 1847, the industrial output value of Paris was 1.463 billion francs, but it dropped to 677 million francs in early 1848. (.).com

After it was cut in half, it made another 10% drop. Looking at this figure, it's clear that the French industry and commerce were suffering. In a short time, thousands of French companies closed down.

Thanks to the rush of bankruptcies, the growth of unemployment was unavoidable, and social tensions in France were increasingly acute.

Even under such circumstances, the July dynasty did not take any effective measures. Instead, corruption became commonplace, and scandals emerged one after another.

When news of the Labor Protection Act enacted by the Austrian government reached Paris, it quickly caused a sensation within the working class.

It was too late for the Paris government to block the news by the time they realized anything. Of course, even they had, they did not have the ability to do such a thing effectively.

A large-scale workers' strike began in Paris and quickly spread to the rest of France, then to other parts of Europe.

At the same time that the workers went on strike, the peasant class began the anti-hunger campaigns. Since 1847, farmers who had gone bankrupt due to poor grain harvest and the debt crisis had set off a wave of grain robbery.

They smashed the manors, seized the grain stores, and killed the food speculators. The movement also spread to cities, and the unemployed workers who were too hungry to bear it also joined in. Later, these events would be called "bread riots" in history.

The unstoppable collapse of social order had also caused the capitalists' dissatisfaction with the government.

Already, in the economic crisis, capitalists had suffered heavy losses. They were ready to make a fortune on food to make up for their injuries.

It turned out that the French peasants were too fierce, and the combat power of the working class was quite strong. If people couldn't afford it, they would just grab it, which meant the capitalists couldn't survive.

At that time, the French capitalists also split. Except for some with vested interests, most of them were opponents of the July dynasty.

The parties of opposition included the anti-dynasty party and the Republican party, which was divided into the national newspaper faction and the reformist faction.

Although the political views of each faction were different, they temporarily stood together in order to oppose the July dynasty.

The incompetence of the Guizot government was so obvious: the government failed to suppress the opposition, and the opposition launched 70 banquets, large and small, across the country. In many places, people had publicly shouted the slogans of revolution.

The incompetence of the government allowed the revolutionaries to see their actual situation and to begin to prepare for the armed uprising.

The demonstrations were like a guiding star for the people of Paris. On February 22, 1848, people in Paris took to the streets to protest against the government's ban on the banquet movement.

Franz did not know exactly what happened. In a word, history had seemingly changed slightly. The people in Paris revolted that night, and the February revolution broke out.

After the uprising, opposition to the revolution expanded sharply. Students, workers, citizens, and capitalists all participated in it. Of course, few capitalists took up arms and went into battle; they all just provided support behind the scenes.

The Guizot government, which was awakened by the revolution, quickly transferred troops to suppress the revolution. It was a pity that they underestimated the relationship between the French military and civilians.

Even in the Army, there were plenty of supporters of the revolution. Most of the national defense forces refused to carry out the government's orders, and some of the troops completely changed sides.

For the latter part of these events, Franz could only rely on his imagination. More detailed information was not so easy to obtain.

After all, on the afternoon of February 23, 1848, in order to ease the situation, the King of France, Louis Philippe, dismissed the government of Guizot. He appointed the liberal Molle to form a cabinet, in an attempt to calm the anger of the capitalists.

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Chapter 28: Preparation

In Franz's view, the biggest failure of Louis Philippe, after the outbreak of the Paris revolution, was that he had never really controlled the army in the first place.

At that time, most of the French army sympathized with the revolutionary party, but they had not actually joined it. Since they were not against the Emperor, it was highly possible to buy them over.

As long as there were soldiers on hand, everything was negotiable: whether the plan was to suppress the revolution or to sit down and discuss slowly, there was always enough room to maneuver.

Hadn't the Guizot government already been notorious? Then let them stink a little more and throw all the blame on them. Anyway, in the minds of the public, they were already a foregone conclusion.

In a word, it was they who had done all the bad things, and it was easy enough to draw a line between them and the Emperor.

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The snowflakes fluttered down, and the cold wind was still sweeping across Vienna.

The news of the Paris revolution was no longer a secret in the upper classes of Vienna. Within a few days, it would spread throughout Austria.

"Albrecht, begin our most intense training, and let our people start to take control of the troops as soon as possible!" Franz said seriously.

"What's going on, Franz? What's the urgency for? If I train them for another month or two, they will become qualified officers; at this time, most of them are not really ready!" Albrecht questioned with a puzzled expression.

Since the news of the Paris revolution had arrived, Franz had kept urging him to speed up, as if something bad was going to happen, and this made Albrecht very confused.

"The Paris Revolution broke out, and the great revolution is about to break out again on the European continent. In the case of Austria, the possibility of a revolution in Vienna is very high!" Franz said with a solemn look.

Albrecht was astonished by Franz's words, and his mouth opened wide enough to swallow an egg. There would be a revolution in Vienna? Most people, presumably, would treat this idea that a revolution was coming to Vienna as a joke.

Although the Austrian government was decadent, it was not yet to the point of earning the wrath of God and the resentment of men. The Army was still loyal to the royal family, and the capitalists were being ravaged by the nobles on the ground.

The working class, who were originally dissatisfied with the government, had turned their resentment to the capitalists with the promulgation of the Labor Protection Act.

In this context, who would lead the revolution, the capitalists? Or the democracy of their society?

Franz responded with a wry smile, "Don't feel strange. The working class doesn't oppose the government, and even the capitalists have no strong desire to rebel. But the reality is not under their control!

Albrecht, you should know the impact of this economic crisis on this country.

The number of unemployed people in Vienna has exceeded fifty thousand. Capitalists have suffered heavy losses, and many people have hoarded large amounts of goods.

When the European revolution breaks out, the economic situation in Austria may deteriorate further. The workers have to live, and the capitalists want to survive, but the Austrian government did nothing.

There is also a group of idiots among the nobility who helped the capitalists to drive up the price of goods some time ago. In order to make up for the loss, they unexpectedly increased the pressure on serfs.

Austria has become a powder keg, and now all it will take is a spark!"

Albrecht nodded with a pale face. As the crown prince of the Empire, Franz could say that out loud; as the commander of the City Defense Army in Vienna, Albrecht could agree with it, but he could not say so directly.

As the greatest noble in Austria, Albrecht was undoubtedly very hostile to the revolution. Regardless of other factors, he could not tolerate anyone breaking the order of things, if only because he owned more than 500 thousand acres of real estate.

And that was just his fief. Albrecht also had a large amount of property in Vienna. Of his properties, Franz knew the Summer Palace (the Wilborg Palace) and the Winter Palace (now the Albertina museum area) in Vienna.

With such a rich family, Albrecht naturally despised capitalists, because no Austrian capitalist was as rich as him.

If Albrecht were not on his own side, even Franz would want to rob him. There was more than one such rich lord in Austria, such as the Kohali family, a branch of the Goda dynasty.

Of course, the most affluent family was the royal family. The Hapsburg family's hundreds of years of accumulation was still very massive.

In the Eastern world, those who owned thousands of acres of land were big landlords and the super-rich; when it came to the European continent, they would be upstarts at the most. Any big noble family owned more than a million acres.

"Franz, didn't you warn Prime Minister Metternich of these concerns?" As soon as he spoke, Albrecht regretted it, since this was a very obvious problem. Metternich's stay in the position of prime minister had been long, but he hadn't met anyone's expectations.

People are forgetful. At that time, the public was already ignoring Metternich's achievements, especially after the outbreak of the Paris revolution and breakdown of the Vienna system.

Prime Minister Metternich's greatest diplomatic achievements had been in vain, and the opposition who wanted to get rid of him had no scruples.

Franz was not among the opposition to Prime Minister Metternich, but Metternich was a natural enemy of the crown prince.

"As for these problems, I am afraid that our Prime Minister has already heard of them, but it is hard to say if he has paid attention or not! Albrecht, don't you think I can decide for him now?" Franz jokingly asked.

Albrecht smiled a little. Prime Minister Metternich was very aggressive. Even the other members of the Regent Committee were suppressed ruthlessly by him. How could it be possible for any person to tell him what to do?

"All right, I will prepare for the training! However, about the order for training...you have to collect it yourself because the Regent Committee will not believe me!" Albrecht said.

Albrecht already knew what Franz was going to do. If the Vienna Revolution broke out, Prime Minister Metternich would have to leave.

As a result, the government would have a void of power, and the Regent Committee would have a sharp drop in prestige, so Franz's early regency would become possible.

As a political ally, Albrecht naturally hoped that this day would come sooner rather than later.

"Leave them alone. At this time, they're busy fighting with each other, so they don't have time to care about all this. Besides, I still have the order of the Emperor!" Franz said sneeringly.

Yes, Franz was trying to fool everyone with an order. The Regent Committee was not likely to accuse Ferdinand I. It was only a field practice, and Franz could take full responsibility for it.

When the Vienna revolution broke out, those who had soldiers in their hands would be the real lords. The one who held the City Defense Army of fourteen thousand soldiers would have the top power of Vienna.

Chapter 29: Undercurrent

Winter gave way to spring, and melted snow made the roads muddy. An army was struggling to move forward. Yes, it was the Vienna City Defense Army, doing their field training.

The noble officers could not stand this kind of suffering, so Albrecht considerably approved them to make camp. Unconsciously, the command power of the army changed.

"Stop moving forward and make camp here!"

Albrecht's order sounded. As the Vienna City Defense Army, they could not stray far from the city, and the field training was only a hundred and eighty kilometers.

"Franz, we can't go any further than this. Otherwise, if there is an accident in Vienna, we can't respond in time!"

Franz nodded. Let the revolution break out in Vienna, but that didn't mean letting the Vienna revolution succeed!

The main force of the City Defense Army had been brought out. Although there were more than five thousand troops left behind, in fact, their combat effectiveness was pretty low.

If someone wanted to start a revolution, it would be impossible for him to let go of this opportunity. After all, this kind of opportunity did not present itself often.

"Well, the news should have spread by now. How is the situation of the troops?"

Albrecht shook his head and said, "Not good! We pulled them out for training in these conditions, and I believe that they are all cursing us behind our backs."

This was inevitable. Whoever encountered this kind of thing would react the same way. Franz thought of a solution, though not a good one: "Then let them take a day off and go hunting to supplement their rations."

This was a bad idea. If this was an army of nine hundred, instead of nine thousand, maybe they could really improve their food supply by hunting.

In the real situation, it was not possible that there was enough prey for so many people in the mountains. However, it was still a good way to let everyone relax, so Albrecht did not object.

Time passed quickly. The Labor Protection Act, originally scheduled to be implemented by the Vienna government on March 1, 1848, had been put on hold indefinitely. What's worse, the government hadn't even given a clear explanation.

The inaction of the Vienna government was very disappointing to the working class, which gave the capitalists an idea.

As a strategy, the cost of spreading rumors was the lowest. Under the manipulation of the revolutionaries, the working class came to think that the capitalists had already bribed the government and that their interests were betrayed.

The situation in Vienna was very unfavorable to the government. By March 4, 1848, news of the success of the French February Revolution had spread across Vienna.

Under the manipulation of the capitalists, citizens, workers, and students in Vienna took to the streets to demonstrate on March 5.

Under the banner of anti-hunger, anti-economic crisis, anti-dictatorship, and anti-corruption, the march representative submitted a petition to Ferdinand I, demanding the removal of Metternich's cabinet, the implementation of constitutionalism, and the abolition of serfdom...

What was very interesting was that the Labor Protection Act was not proposed. Obviously, the representative responsible for drafting the petition at that time had already betrayed the working class.

None of these requests were acceptable to Prime Minister Metternich, and the petition was absolutely impossible to get approved.

As for the emperor's responses to all this, of course, the Regent Committee made the decisions and dealt with all the issues on behalf of the emperor. Many of them really wanted to let Prime Minister Metternich go, but on the other hand, the rest of the conditions from the working class were not acceptable to them at all.

For their own benefit, everyone had to stand together for the time being.

Until then no one, except for the radicals, had thought of revolution.

Even the capitalists just wanted to obtain benefits from the nobles and survive the crisis; they were not ready for a revolution yet.

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A carriage passed through the narrow, streets, on both sides of which were short earthen houses. There was a pungent smell.

The carriage stopped in front of a small house. A well-dressed young man stepped down from the carriage and felt softness when he stepped on something. He looked down and found what he stepping on was animal droppings.

"Shit!"

With a curse and a disgusted expression, the young man knocked on the door. The carriage had already left after he got out.

There were not many options for him but to face a situation like this: the secret police in Vienna were not fools doing an easy job, but agents doing a highly risky one, which meant this young man had to be careful.

At that time, the slum was the safest place: it was a chaotic environment with lots of crisscrossing alleys, and most important of all, it was where the police force was weakest.

The door of the courtyard opened, and a barely-dressed man came out. He looked around and made sure that no one had followed this young man, then welcomed him in.

"Jack, you have finally arrived! Everyone has been waiting for you for a long time!"

The young man named Jack frowned, and disgust flashed in his eyes. He smiled and said, "Sorry, Cole, the enemy is too clever. To get rid of them, I have to be very careful!"

Cole was closing the door and didn't notice Jack's expression. He continued, "Never mind. We can't be too careful at a time like this. Let's get started now that you're here!"

"Gentlemen, the time for revolution has come. It is impossible for the reactionary government to agree to our request.

The Metternich government has deceived us again. At this time, there is no need to continue to endure.

The Paris revolution has won. It's our turn now. Now is our best chance.

The City Defense Army is training in the countryside. If they want to return, it will take two days at the least ..."

A man in gray clothes said with concern, "Jack, I am afraid that the time is not yet ripe to launch an uprising. Although the City Defense Army is practicing in the country, there are still five thousand troops left behind. We will never ..."

Jack frowned. He didn't like to be refuted, especially by those he despised.

If the capitalists behind the scenes hadn't needed them to launch an uprising right away to put pressure on the government, he would not have come here to meet with the workers' representatives.

In his mind, it was best that the revolution was commanded by those decent people, and what these lower folks needed to do was just to listen to their commands.

However, this was something that the working class had to be willing to die for, and they had no prestige among the working class. As a result, they had to rely on the leaders of these workers' movements.

Jack explained impatiently, "Mr. Powell, don't worry. We have secretly bought a batch of weapons. If we've got weapons in our hands, will you still be afraid of those noble soldiers?"

Besides, the army is not really our enemy. Apart from noble officers, most of them are the same toiling masses as you. We can ..."

Obviously, they were all revolutionaries nominally; however, in fact, they were not on the same side at all. The capitalists and the workers were inherently antagonistic.

It was only that, in this era, the workers' revolutionary organization had not yet been established, so they mainly depended on the existence of the capitalists' revolutionary party.

Everyone seemed to be convinced by him, or more realistically, a large number of unemployed people were waiting for food to feed their families.

Chapter 30: Restore Market Confidence?

At the Bolton Manor in Vienna, more than a dozen well-dressed big shots were gathering. Although they had tried their best to control it, they still couldn't conceal the temperament of the nouveau riche.

A well-dressed middle-aged man hesitated and asked, "Mr. Owen, will these bumpkins work? Even if we get them weapons, surely such a mob can't come to anything?"

The atmosphere in the room was a little dull. The graceful and luxurious man sitting right in the middle stood up, smiled, and said slowly, "Mr. Lof, of course we can't rely on them alone! However, we are not the only ones in Austria that want revolution at this time!

I believe everyone has already felt how much damage the economic crisis has done to Austria.

It can be said that in Austria eighty percent of capitalists suffered great losses, and hundreds of thousands of people were unemployed.

Since the Vienna government is not doing anything about this situation, there is no other choice besides revolution if we want to survive."

That was the key to the problem; however, until now, when most of the capitalists had been cornered, they had not realized it.

Nowadays, many capitalists in Austria had hoarded a large number of goods. If they could not sell them all in a short time, their capital chain would break up.

The question now was, who would buy the goods?

Civilians certainly could not afford them, and at this time in Austria, there were too few people with purchasing power.

Bankers were never easy to deal with; like vampires in the senior stage of the capitalist class, they were always ruthless and greedy.

If the capitalists did not want to be finished, upturning the present order and seizing the strength of the nobles was the only choice to survive the crisis.

There was also a large number of unemployed workers who were facing the same problem; maybe they did not want to rebel, but they needed food.

If they were hungry, they would lose their senses; in that condition, as long as they were encouraged by the capitalists, a revolution could break out in minutes.

Compared with history, the social contradictions in Austria had changed during this period: it was not the revolution initiated by people who had failed to reform the government, but the revolution forced by reality.

An old man, about 50 or 60 years old, shook his head and said, "Mr. Owen, assuming we use these bumpkins to revolt, what if they want to establish a proletarian government and revolutionize us together with the government?"

This was also a problem that all capitalists were worried about: in this era, the idea of the proletariat had begun to sprout, and once the proletariat established a government, they'd all be finished.

Owen smiled and said, "This problem is very simple, and our French counterparts have helped us solve it: after the success of the revolution, as long as we seize power right away, there will be nothing to worry about.

At present, there are nearly 120 thousand workers in Vienna, who are under our careful control, and the guild organization has been divided into hundreds of parts, large or small, according to industries and factories.

As long as they cannot be unified, then the new government must be led by us. None of us believe anyone among the workers can organize them together."

Even if they wanted to unite, in an era of underdeveloped communications, it would be difficult to so much as get to know members of a different labor union organization.

Most of these labor union organizations were spontaneous and did not have a mandatory binding on their members. Also, it was unknown how many capitalist informers were in them.

Before the October Revolution in Russia, the combat effectiveness of labor union organizations was very limited, and a large segment was secretly controlled by capitalists.

If anyone wanted to organize all the workers, they wouldn't be able to do it overnight. As long as the capitalists established the government and controlled the power of the country, forestalling the working class, the result would be certain.

This point of view could be proven by the French February revolution: after the victory, the capitalists seized power, and instead of making trouble for the former government right away, they suppressed the workers who participated in the revolution.

In the eyes of capitalists, moral integrity was nothing.

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Late at night, the Vienna government was brightly lit, and Prime Minister Metternich was worrying about the current situation. At least one interest group would have to make sacrifices.

Whether to put the capitalists under his knife, or the nobles, or the civilians, it was a difficult choice.

Prime Minister Metternich had dominated the Austrian political scene for more than 20 years, so he was inevitably bound by the rules. If he weren't, he wouldn't have this headache.

When the Paris Revolution broke out, various undercurrents waved in Austria. Unfortunately, Prime Minister Metternich's perspective was ten years out of date, and he believed that conservative Austria was different from open France.

Though he'd raised the alert in the Italian region and the Galicia region, he did not think that Vienna would be in danger. In his view, even if the revolution was to break out, it would break out in other places, such as Hungary.

"Prime Minister, based on the current situation, the opposition will not make concessions this time. I am afraid that they will plan another, even bigger strike!" Archduke Louis said with a pale face.

If the only condition was to let Prime Minister Metternich go, he would raise his hand in favor. However, it was nonsense to ask the Regent Committee to get out along with the Prime Minister and transfer power to the parliament after a constitutional reform.

No matter how uncomfortable it was, Archduke Louis had to stand with Metternich, because their political lives were bound together.

Prime Minister Metternich sighed and then said slowly, "Yes, they will not give up unless we fully accept their conditions. I'm afraid the enemies are uniting now, and tomorrow we will meet an even bigger strike! But if we move faster than them, arrest the leader of this strike, order the garrison to enter the city, block all intersections, and prevent them from getting together, we might be able to stop the strike."

He was already old, without the courage of youth; otherwise, he would not be hesitating and would have already ordered the arrest of protesters.

"Then let's capture protesters first! If we allow them to get away with this, I am afraid that we will not be able to control the situation afterward!" Archduke Louis said without hesitation.

The order would have to be given by the Prime Minister, who would bear the risk, and he did not need to be responsible for it.

Metternich said with a wry smile, "This is just a temporary solution, and if the domestic economy cannot improve, this kind of thing will continue to happen.

Let's abolish serfdom. Right now, we need to create a market; even if it is only on paper. We must also restore confidence in the market!"

Indeed, the announcement of the abolition of serfdom at this time could restore the confidence of many people. After all, it could increase purchasing power by more than 20 million people all at once, even though their purchasing power was very weak.