

# Revolutions: Political and Social

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## Article Ten.

THE June battle in Paris had excited the fears of the middle class throughout Europe, while actually the proletariat of Paris was being crucified on such a scale as to cause apprehension in the minds of the master class for their labor supply. And with such bestiality "as may not be without much shame retold or spoken of" the European press, pulpit and platform, (Holy Trinity) carried on a campaign of lies concerning "the Paris mob." It is quite needless to particularise. We know what followed the Russian revolution.

The aim in each country was to turn the middle class against the proletariat. But this was hardly necessary. The author of "The German Parliament in 1848," written in September of that year, gives an account of the terror inspired by the June days in the minds of the amateur politicals at Frankfort. And while he himself is evidently suffering extreme nausea from the odor of sauerkraut and fat pork with which he was regaled at a reunion banquet with his professor and class mates, we can regard his estimate as substantially fair. The bewildered terror of his old teacher during the six hours' fight which followed the Frankfort Assembly's betrayal of the Holstein revolt, is an excellent example.

That they should revolt against the tyranny of Kings and Princes was not only natural, it was "their right and duty," and if a little blood was spilled it was to be deplored, though not condemned. When this zeal for freedom expressed itself in an armed revolt against the literatti, pedagogs and artists who had undertaken to lead Germany into the promised land,—that was different.

But it is not in Germany that we find the next and final defeat of the revolutionary movement. There had been some feeble attempts to establish a republic, particularly in the southern duchies. Gustav Struve lead a Republican movement in Baden after the abortive attempt on the Frankfort Assembly. An appeal was made on the grounds that "the chattering constitutional Parliament" had attacked the people with grape shot. The Provisional government with Struve as president decreed—abolition of all feudal burdens, services, tithes, rents, labor "or any other name they bear." All dues to "aristocratic land lords," church or state, were abolished, and a progressive income tax imposed. All lands of the church, state, or any one in arms against the Republic, went to the parish in which they lay. Nothing very alarming to the bourgeois in this, but June and its four days' battle in the streets of Paris was but a few months past, and Frankfort told the tale again; so Struve's proclamations had scarcely been kissed by the September sun when his provisional authority was at an end.

Thus the German bourgeoisie definitely renounced all claim to the governmental forces of that country, and in their terror of the proletariat, resigned the task of creating a nation out of the many duchies, principalities and kingdoms, into the hands of three Junkers who knew that—"not by speeches and the resolutions of majorities but by blood and iron" could it be accomplished. Bismarck, Moltke, and Roon proved an excellent substitute for "freedom, bread and justice," and singularly enough, forced upon the German middle class what they most desired, but were too bewildered and panic stricken to take. However, let us deal with the matter immediately to hand; when we take up Social Revolutions we shall have something to say of these three gentry—that is if you are not getting fed up with this drim and drull, and evidently endless narrative.

In a very interesting and instructive book, "An Englishman in Paris," written on the spot, between 1830 and 1871, (notes not intended for publication and, so far as our knowledge goes, anonymous),

there is recorded a conversation between a pick-pocket and a politician. The former declares for the monarchy because, at the street demonstrations of the Republic, he could scarcely pinch enough to provide a decent meal, while in monarchical ceremonial days, his picking would keep him for months; whatever truth might be in this particular instance, the merchants of Vienna were in full sympathy with his political philosophy.

The flight of the Court had deprived them of the best of their trade. The June days of Paris had inspired them with terror. So, in July the Emperor and his gang of chicken eaters and good spenders returned to their duties. They or rather the wise men of their staff at once commenced one of those conspiracies which we have dealt with.

The National Guard was reviewed by the Court and slobbered over with unctuous flattery. Then Schwarzer, a very popular member of the Government, was induced to sign a proclamation withdrawing the doles to idle workers. The revolutionary bodies resorted to a demonstration, peaceful and unarmed. What more was necessary? Was not the Government their friend? All they had to do was show their displeasure. But times had changed; the National Guard turned out and on the 23rd of August drove them from the streets; the shooting was conducted with such vigor that no doubt remained in the minds of the workers as to the friendliness of their friends. The breach between the various revolutionary groups in Vienna was evidently complete; the next problem for the Court to settle was the Hungarian revolt.

We have seen the Slav Ocean threaten to swamp the Magyar Island, and we have seen the Slav Ocean somewhat dried out at Prague. Let us now glance over the sequel.

Jellachich, the leader of the Slav movement, had been approached by the Court and had been appointed Bem of Croatia; this had been heralded by the Slavs as an indication that they were to be re-organised as a nation.

Jellachich lost no time therefore in forwarding his position and was on Hungarian soil when an attempt was made to reconcile the various forces. When at Buda-Pest, to which the Hungarian Parliament had moved from Presburg, a misunderstanding arose and Lamberg, the Magyar, acting for Latour, the Austrian Minister of War, was murdered. A few days later, October 3, the Hungarian Parliament was dissolved and the Slav Jellachich made dictator of Hungary. The Magyars, however, were not so easily disposed of, and Jellachich was forced from Hungarian soil. These intrigues on the part of the court did not escape the revolutionists, and activity again enlivened the Vienna streets. Charges were made, and threats against Latour. One hand-bill suggested that lamp posts were convenient and ministers handy. No idle threat either, as we shall see. A Committee of Safety was formed, which undertook to find work for all the unemployed, among other enterprises, entirely beyond its power. The court had now a return of the epidemic, the end of which it had hoped was at hand. Latour deemed it necessary to support Jellachich, and ordered the regiments in Vienna to work against the Magyar parliament.

Now, however strongly the economic requirement of their daily life influenced their conduct, there still remained, dimly indeed, but none the less definite, certain concepts of revolutionary rectitude, which brought all the revolutionary elements of the city back into one camp, notwithstanding August 23rd. Vienna considered the order as treason to the revolution.

The students undertook to induce the regiments not to leave the city; and here again we come to that impersonal act, totally unimportant in itself, and certainly unintentional, which marks the point

where systems of government are shattered or saved.

In the struggle which arose when the students invaded the soldiers' quarters, an officer was wounded; one of the soldiers who had also been hurt was confined to his barracks; the men of his regiment presumed he was under arrest, and demanded his release. Thus, through a misunderstanding in the confusion which followed, for a few hours a regiment refused to move. The National Guard feti in line and soon sufficient regiments were in revolt to cause General Aversperg to attempt to move with those who were still reliable. These were met by the National Guard and a large body of students on the Labor bridge; unwilling to put his troops to the test Aversperg returned to the city.

The revolt was successful at every turn; the troops were thoroughly demoralized, and where they did fight it was with but little heart. The mob was again in command, and it was not satisfied until Latour, the Minister of War, dangled from a lamp post, which every historian finds space to weep and wail over. For our part, when we count the victims of working class hatred after a successful revolution, and place them against the victims of master class hatred after an unsuccessful revolt, whatever emotions we experience are concerned not with the dastardly events, but with the dastardly recorder.

The Emperor and his good spenders did care greatly about viewing Vienna from a lamp post, so, without so much as "by your leave" they departed.

Strange, is it not, that when the workers were successful, the fight did not last more than a few days, and very few people died? Strange also is the fact that the army always knew which side would win, that is the armed forces, because we always find that they have lined up with the victors.

However, Vienna was again free. And now Jellachich, with his army of Slavs retreating before the Magyars, turned toward Vienna. An appeal was made to Aversperg, who was still in town with his army, the very army which had been induced to refuse to fight against the Magyars. He refused, and in spite of all that had occurred, was allowed to leave the city with his troops. When he joined forces with Jellachich, Count Windischgratz, the butcher of the Slavs at Prague, declared war against Vienna and, placing himself at the head of the various armies became the head of this entirely unofficial Pan-Slavic Congress. The Viennese appealed to the Frankfort Assembly, who with characteristic energy dispatched Robert Blum and Froebel to add to the general din. In the meantime, all Vienna was debating the advisability of inviting Kussuth and his army, the victors over the Slav army, and but a few hours distance, to assist them.

The Hungarians were equally at a loss as to what was the proper course to follow, but as our space is full, we will have to leave them "wrestling" with the rules of etiquette. To be sure, Windischgratz, Jellachich, and Aversperg had never a doubt, nor (angels and ministers of grace defend us), had their soldiers.

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