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DOOMED SHOP! (Part One)

A PROLETARIAN COLLAGE-ORATORIO

Libretto edited and reconstituted by THF Drenching from
“*The Class Struggles In France 1848-1850*” by Karl Marx.
Specifically from part one “*The Defeat Of June 1848*”.

Read the full original text [HERE](#):

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1850/class-struggles-france/index.htm>

DOOMED SHOP!

PART ONE:

1:

“From now on the bankers will rule”.

3:

It was not the French bourgeoisie that ruled under Louis Philippe, but one *faction* of it:

bankers

stock-exchange kings

railway kings

owners of coal

owners of iron mines

owners of forests

financial aristocracy.

4:

The *industrial bourgeoisie* proper formed part of the official opposition

a war of the pen for industry

against speculation

the whole of wine-producing France

against the ruling system.

savants

lawyers

doctors

men of talent.

petty bourgeoisie of all gradations,
and the *peasantry* also,
completely excluded

5:

Owing to its financial straits, the July Monarchy was dependent from the beginning on the big bourgeoisie, and its dependence on the big bourgeoisie was the inexhaustible source of increasing financial straits. It was impossible to subordinate the administration of the state to the interests of national production without balancing the budget, without establishing

a balance
between state
expenditures
and revenues.

And how was this balance to be established without limiting

state expenditures
without encroaching on interests
props of the ruling system
without redistributing taxes

onto the shoulders of the big bourgeoisie itself?

6:

But the *state deficit* was really the main object of the ruling faction's speculation and the chief source of its enrichment.

state expenditure

400,000,000 francs
annual French exports
750,000,000 francs

The enormous sums which in this way flowed through the hands of the state facilitated

swindling contracts for
deliveries
bribery
defalcations
all kinds of roguery.

7:

The July Monarchy was nothing other than a joint stock company for the exploitation of France's national wealth

the same
prostitution
the same
shameless cheating
the same
mania to get rich

in every sphere from the court to the Café Borgne

8:

crapuleux
money
filth
blood

The finance aristocracy, in its mode of acquisition as well as in its pleasures, is nothing but the rebirth of the lumpenproletariat on the heights of bourgeois society.

Corruption!

À bas les grands voleurs!

À bas les assassins!

“The Rothschild Dynasty,”

“Usurer Kings of the Epoch,”

Rien pour la gloire!

La paix partout et toujours!

Swiss liberals in a mimic war
the bloody uprising of Palermo

9:

potato blight

1845

crop failures

1846

famine

1847

hunger rioters

EXECUTED

(Buzançais)

oversatiated *escrocs*

SNATCHED

(Paris)

English industrial crisis

railway share speculation

REVERSED

1845

Corn Laws

ABOLISHED

1846

London wholesale grocers

BANKRUPT

1847

land banks

INSOLVENT

1847

industrial districts

CLOSED

1847

épiciers

RUINED

boutiquiers

RUINED

by a multitude of big traders thrown onto the home market.

10:

It is well known

how

Guizot and the Chambers answered the reform proposals with an unambiguous challenge,

how

Louis Philippe too

late resolved on a ministry led by Barrot,

how

things went as far
as hand-to-hand fighting between the people and the army,
how
the
army was disarmed by the passive conduct of the National Guard,
how
the July Monarchy had to give way to a provisional government.

republican petty bourgeoisie

Ledru-Rollin

Flocon

republican bourgeoisie

the *National*

dynastic opposition

Crémieux

Dupont de l'Eure

the working class

Blanc

Albert

Lamartine disputed the right
of the barricade fighters
to proclaim a republic
on the ground that
only the majority of Frenchmen
had that right

they must await their votes, the Paris proletariat must not besmirch its victory by a usurpation. The bourgeoisie allows the proletariat only *one* usurpation – that of fighting.

11:

A REPUBLIC BY FORCE OF ARMS!

(*Raspail* betook himself to the *Hôtel de Ville*.)

A REPUBLIC IN TWO HOURS!

Or *Raspail* returns

at the head

of 200,000 men.

Under these circumstances the doubts born of considerations of state policy and the juristic scruples of conscience entertained by the Provisional Government suddenly vanished. The time limit of two hours had not yet expired when all the walls of Paris were resplendent with the gigantic historical words:

République français! Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité!

12:

all classes of French society

hurled into the orbit of power

forced to leave

the boxes

the stalls

the gallery

and to act

in person upon the revolutionary stage!

the workers won

the *bourgeois monarchy*

(July)

the workers won

the *bourgeois republic*.

(February)

the July Monarchy

a monarchy surrounded

by republican institutions
the February Republic
a republic surrounded
by social institutions.

13:

Decree on the Right To Work
(25th February 1848)

Organize labor!

Form a special Ministry of labor!

But unlike any profane state power, the Labour Commission in The Luxembourg Palace had no budget, no executive authority. They were supposed to break the pillars of bourgeois society by dashing their heads against them. While the Luxembourg sought the philosopher's stone, in the *Hôtel de Ville* they minted the current coinage.

Organize labor!

But wage labor, the existing, the bourgeois organization of labor. Without it there is no capital, no bourgeoisie, no bourgeois society.

Form a special Ministry of labor!

But the ministries of finance, of trade, of public works – are not these the bourgeois ministries of labor? Alongside these a proletariat Ministry of Labor had to be a ministry of impotence, a ministry of pious wishes, a Luxembourg Commission.

14:

Only under bourgeois rule does the proletariat gain that extensive national existence which can raise its revolution to a national one, and only thus does the proletariat itself create the modern means of production, which become just so many means of its revolutionary emancipation. Only bourgeois rule tears up the material roots of feudal

for the Paris proletariat.

Its task was no longer
the revolutionary transformation of the world,
but adaptation to
the relations of bourgeois society.

16:

Public credit

SHAKEN

private credit

PARALYSED

*The more they fall,
the more the fervor
and generative power
of the revolution rises.*