流利阅读 2019.1.22

Theresa May loses big over her Brexit deal
特蕾莎·梅在脱欧协议上输大了

On January 15th Britain's prime minister, Theresa May, lost the parliamentary vote on her Brexit deal by the huge margin of 230 votes, the largest-ever defeat for a ruling party. Coming after five days of debate during which Tory backbenchers repeatedly said they would vote down the deal, the result was not a surprise. But the margin of defeat was. It leaves Mrs May with precious little time to decide what to do next.1 月 15 日，英国首相特蕾莎·梅输掉了脱欧协议的议会投票，而这个协议是她参与制定的。票数差距高达 230 票，堪称是英国执政党有史以来输得最惨的一次。在长达五天的辩论中，保守党的后座议员曾反复提出他们会投票否决脱欧协议。所以，之后的投票败北并不让人意外。真正让人意外的，是选票差额之大。这让梅必须在很有限的时间内决定下一步的行动。

Following her defeat, Mrs May promised to consult MPs on possible changes to make her Brexit deal more palatable. She would then hope to go back to Brussels to get legal changes. The European Union is, after all, familiar with countries' difficulties in ratifying

treaties. Add a few tweaks and declarations, offer some concessions–and invite the country concerned to vote again.

在败北之后，梅承诺，将与议会议员讨论脱欧协议有可能做的修改，使之更容易被接受。接下来，她希望能够再度前往布鲁塞尔争取法律上的修改。毕竟，对各国在批准协议上遇到的困难，欧盟已经司空见惯了——调整一下，加几个声明，做出一些让步，然后邀请该国再次投票表决。

The trouble is that such a course is far harder this time round. The EU leaders are adamant that they cannot make legally substantive changes to the much-disliked Irish "backstop", which guarantees that there will be no hard border in Ireland by, if necessary, keeping the entire United Kingdom in a customs union with the EU.

但问题是，这一次批准协议的过程要更加艰难。欧盟领导人态度强硬——他们不会对备受反感的爱尔兰"后备计划"做出法律上实质性的变更。如果有必要的话，这一计划将把英国继续留在欧盟关税同盟内，以确保不建立北爱尔兰和爱尔兰之间的"硬边界"。

Some MPs will push for a second referendum. Others are hoping to take charge of the Brexit process themselves. The risk is that Britain could leave the EU with no deal at all, wreaking maximum damage on the economy. Mrs May said that she was firmly against that idea.一些议会议员将努力推进第二轮的全民公决，另一些则期望亲自负责脱欧进程。脱欧协议被投票否决的风险在于，英国可能会"无协议脱欧"，对经济造成最大程度上的损害。梅说，她坚决反对这种想法。

重点词汇

parliamentary/ˌpɑːrlə'mentri/
adj. 议会的，国会的（parliament n.）

margin/'mɑːrdʒɪn/
n.（获胜者在时间或票数上领先的）幅度，差额
• Lala won by a narrow margin.

ruling party
执政党
• opposition party

Tory/ˈtɔːri/
adj. 保守党成员的，托利党人的（Tory n.）

backbencher/ˌbækˈbentʃər/
n.（英国和其他国家议会的）后座议员，后排议员，普通议员
frontbencher

vote down
投票否决

palatable/ˈpælətəbl/
adj.（主意、建议等）合意的，可接受的
- Some of the dishes have been changed to make them more palatable to Chinese consumers.

ratify/ˈrætɪfaɪ/
v. 批准，正式签署

treaty/ˈtriːti/
n. 条约，协定
- a peace treaty
- draw up a treaty

tweak/twiːk/
n. 扭，拧；轻微的调整，小小的改进
- I gave her ear a tweak.
- Maybe you should tweak a few sentences before you send in the essay. (v.)

declaration/ˌdekləˈreɪʃn/
n. 公告，宣言
- the Declaration of Independence

concession/kənˈseʃn/
n. 让步，妥协
- make some concessions

this time round
这一次

adamant/'ædəmənt/

adj. 坚决的，坚定不移的

- Impossible to persuade, or unwilling to change a decision.
- She's adamant that she's coming.

substantive/'sʌbstəntɪv/ /səb'stæntɪv/

adj. 重要的；实质性的

backstop /'bækstɑːp/

n. 支撑物；后备方案

- Something that is prepared in advance in order to prevent worse problems if something goes wrong

customs/'kʌstəmz/

n. 海关；关税

push for

奋力争取

- push for equality

referendum/ˌrefə'rendəm/

n. 全民公决，全民公投

wreak/riːk/

v. 造成，引起（灾祸等）

- To wreak means to cause something to happen in a violent and often uncontrolled way.
- The recent storms have wreaked havoc on crops.