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Theresa May loses big over her Brexit deal

特蕾莎·梅在脱欧协议上输大了

lose big over：在某件事上输大了

- think big：考虑大局

Brexit deal：英国脱欧协议

- Brexit /'breksɪt/：= British + exit, n. 英国脱欧

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。

prime minister: n. 首相，总理

- prime: adj. 首要的

- minister: n. 部长

parliamentary /ˌpɑːrlə'mentri/: adj. 议会的，国会的

- parliament: n. 英国议会

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. 拉拉以微小的领先赢得比赛

the largest-ever defeat: 世上最大的失败

- 形容词最高级+ever: 有史以来最...的

ruling party: 执政党

- opposition party: 反对党，在野党

Coming after five days of debate: 随着五天的辩论而来的是

- come after: 跟着...来，跟在...后面

Tory backbenchers: 保守党的后座议员

- Tory /'tɔːri/: adj. 保守党成员的，托利党人的 (Tory n.)

- backbencher /ˌbæk'bentʃər/: 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

leaves sb. with: 使某人陷入某种处境

precious little time: 很有限的时间

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。

consult /kən'sʌlt/: n. 咨询，商量

- consult sb about sth: 就某事物请教某人

MP: Member of parliament, 议会议员

palatable/'pælətəbl/: 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. 一些菜肴已被改变, 使其更适合中国消费者。

Brussels: 比利时 🇧🇪 首都, 也是欧盟 🇪🇺 的主要行政机构与北约总部所在地

ratify treaty: 批准协议

- ratify/'ræɪfaɪ/: v. 批准, 正式签署

- **treaty**/'tri:ti/: n. 条约, 协定

- a peace treaty 和平协定

- draw up a treaty 起草协定

tweak /twi:k/: n. 扭, 拧; 轻微的调整, 小小的改进

- I gave her ear a tweak. 我拧她耳朵。

- Maybe you should tweak a few sentences before you send in the essay. (v.) 你在交稿之前也许应该修改几个句子。

declaration /ˌdeklə'reɪʃn/: n. 公告, 宣言

- the Declaration of Independence 独立宣言

concession /kən'seʃn/: n. 让步, 妥协

- make some concessions 做出让步

country concerned: 相关的国家

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”。

本段的背景:

硬边境问题 (**hard border**): 爱尔兰共和国与北爱尔兰 (属于英国) 存在贸易等边境问题, 如果英国脱欧, 边境问题将更加严峻。

后背协议(**Backstop**): 根据脱欧协议 (Brexit deal), 如果英国与欧盟没有在过渡期内谈妥贸易安排, 过渡期结束后为了保证边境的贸易畅通, 英国需留在欧盟关税同盟, 这可能会让英国永远脱不了欧。

such a course is far harder this time round: 这一次的过程要更加艰难。

- course: n. 进程

this time round: 这一次


adamant /'ædəmənt/: adj. 坚决的，坚定不移的

- She's adamant that she's coming. 她坚持上班。

substantive /səb'stæntɪv/: adj. 重要的；实质性的

much-disliked: 备受反感的

Irish: 爱尔兰的

- Ireland: 爱尔兰共和国 

backstop /'bækstɒp/: n. 支撑物；后备方案

guarantees: 保证

customs union with the EU: 欧盟关税同盟

- customs /'kʌstəmz/: n. 海关；关税；习俗

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。

push for: 奋力争取

- push for equality 争取平等

referendum /ˌrefə'rendəm/: n. 全民公决，全民公投

take charge of: 负责

leave the EU with no deal: 无协议脱欧

wreak /rɪk/: v. 造成，引起（灾祸等），常与havoc连用

- The recent storms have **wreaked havoc** on crops.

- havoc /'hævək/: 大破坏，大浩劫

原文：

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