

胜负未定

A half-victory

The Economist

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法国

胜局未定

埃马纽埃尔·马克龙为明智的养老金改革付出了沉重的政治代价

France

A half-victory

Emmanuel Macron's sensible pension reform came at a heavy political cost

Rain

bilibili 狂奔的外刊

1. ANY FRENCH president who asks his fellow citizens to retire later does so at his peril.



fellow /'feləʊ/ **noun** [usually pl.] a person that you work with or that is like you; a thing that is similar to the one mentioned 同事; 同辈; 同类; 配对物

retire /rɪ'taɪə/ **verb** [I, T] to stop doing your job, especially because you have reached a particular age or because you are ill/sick; to tell sb they must stop doing their job (令) 退職; (使) 退休

peril /'perɪl/ **noun** (formal or literary) [U] serious danger 严重危险

When **Jacques Chirac** tried in 1995, **crippling strikes** made him **shelve** the project; 18 months later voters **sacked** his government. Piles of rubbish were left to rot on the streets, as they are today on the **boulevards** of Paris.



Jacques Chirac *noun* 雅克·希拉克, 法国右翼政治家, 法国前总统、总理。1995年10月, 希拉克宣布将实行两年“紧缩政策”, 而“紧缩”首先体现在社会保险制度的改革上。

cripple /'krip(ə)l/ *verb* [usually passive] ~ sb/sth to seriously damage or harm sb/sth 严重毁坏 (或损害)

strike /straɪk/ *noun* a period of time when an organized group of employees of a company stops working because of a disagreement over pay or conditions 罢工; 罢课; 罢市

shelve /ʃelv/ *verb* [T] ~ sth to decide not to continue with a plan, either for a short time or permanently 搁置, 停止 (计划)

sack /sæk/ *verb* ~ sb (informal) (especially BrE) to dismiss sb from a job 解雇; 炒鱿鱼

boulevard /'bu:ləvɑ:d/ *noun* (abbr. **Blvd.**) (NAme) a wide main road (often used in the name of streets) (常用作街道名称) 要道, 大街

Bin collectors have joined strikes against the decision by the current president, Emmanuel Macron, to raise the **minimum pension** age from 62 to 64. So it was with some relief that on March 20th his **minority government** narrowly survived two **no-confidence votes**, opening the way for his reform to enter the **statute books**.



minimum /'miniməm/ **adjective** [usually before **noun**] (*abbr. min.*) the smallest that is possible or allowed; extremely small 最低的; 最小的; 最低限度的

pension /'penʃ(ə)n/ **noun** an amount of money paid regularly by a government or company to sb who is considered to be too old or too ill/sick to work 养老金; 退休金; 抚恤金

minority government **noun** [C, U] a government that has fewer seats in parliament than the total number held by all the other parties 少数党政府 (组成政府的政党在议会中占的席位少于其他政党所占席位的总和)

no-confidence vote **noun** 不信任投票, 议会制国家的议会为表决对政府的不信任案而进行的投票

statute book **noun** a collection of all the laws made by a government 法典; 法令全书; 法规汇编

2. The French president is not yet **in the clear**. The law must be approved by the constitutional council. And the French still know better than most how to **deploy** the force of the **mob** when all else fails.



in the clear (*informal*) no longer in danger or thought to be guilty of sth 不再有危险；不再被认为有罪

deploy /di'plɔɪ/ *verb* ~ sth (*formal*) to use sth effectively 有效地利用；调动

mob /mɒb/ *noun* [C, *sing.* + *sing./pl. v.*] a large crowd of people, especially one that may become violent or cause trouble 人群；（尤指）暴民

In 2006 countrywide protests forced **Dominique de Villepin**, **then** **prime minister**, to **revoke** new labour rules for young people even after they had been written into law.



Dominique de Villepin *noun* 多米尼克·加卢佐·德维尔潘, 法国原总理

2006年法国工人罢工

3月28日, 法国国内针对“首次雇佣合同”法令的抗议活动达到高潮。反对这项法令的学生再次发动全国性大游行, 将法国130多个城市淹没在抗议声中。

then /ðen/ *adverb* used to refer to a particular time in the past or future (指过去) 当时, 那时; (指将来) 到那时, 届时

prime minister *noun* (*abbr. PM*) the main minister and leader of the government in some countries 首相; 总理

revoke /rɪ'veʊk/ *verb* ~ sth (*formal*) to officially cancel sth so that it is no longer valid 取消; 废除; 使无效

Now, once again, **opposition** leaders are **agitating** in the streets to **overturn** a reform that they could not **get rid of** in **parliament**.



opposition /bɒpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ **noun** [U] strong disagreement (强烈的) 反对, 反抗, 对抗

agitate /'ædʒɪteɪt/ **verb** [I, T] to argue strongly for sth you want, especially for changes in a law, in social conditions, etc. (尤指为法律、社会状况的改变而) 激烈争论, 鼓动, 煽动

overturn /əʊvə'tɜːn/ **verb** [T] ~ sth to officially decide that a legal decision, etc. is not correct, and to make it no longer valid 推翻, 撤销 (判决等)

get rid of sb/sth to make yourself free of sb/sth that is annoying you or that you do not want; to throw sth away 摆脱; 丢弃; 扔掉

parliament /'pɑːləm(ə)nt/ **noun** [C, sing. + sing./pl. v.] the group of people who are elected to make and change the laws of a country 议会; 国会

Do not **rule out** the risk of an **uprising**, like the one France **witnessed** during the **gilets jaunes** **movement**.



rule sb/sth ↔ **out** ~ (as sth) to state that sth is not possible or that sb/sth is not suitable 把 ... 排除在外；认为 ... 不适合

uprising /'ʌpraɪzɪŋ/ **noun** ~ (against sth) a situation in which a group of people join together in order to fight against the people who are in power 起义；暴动；造反

witness /'wɪtnɪs/ **verb** [T] ~ sth to be the place, period, organization, etc. in which particular events take place 是发生 ... 的地点（或时间、组织等）；见证

gilets jaunes movement **noun** 法国巴黎“黄背心”运动

法国总统马克龙为履行《巴黎气候协议》，2018年柴油税每公升上调了6.2%。燃油税的上调导致了油价暴涨，法国民众负担的燃油成本随之增加，引发了民众的不满和抗议。

3. Mr Macron seems determined not to be **pushed around** by the protesters—and rightly so. His pension reform is imperfect, but **essential**. France spends 14% of its GDP on public pensions, nearly double the **OECD** average. This burden is rising as the population **ages**. France is home to 17m pensioners, 4m more than in 2004. Raising the retirement age is the **soundest** way to close the financing gap, as other European countries have proved.

push sb about/around to give orders to sb in a rude or unpleasant way 粗暴命令；任意摆布

essential /ɪ'senʃ(ə)l/ **adjective** completely necessary; extremely important in a particular situation or for a particular activity 完全必要的；必不可少的；极其重要的

OECD /ˌəʊ iː siː 'diː/ **abbr.** **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development** (an organization of industrial countries that encourages trade and economic growth) 经合组织，经济合作与发展组织（工业化国家鼓励贸易和经济发展的组织）

age /eɪdʒ/ **verb** [I] to become older 变老

sound /saʊnd/ **adjective** sensible; that you can rely on and that will probably give good results 明智的；合理的；正确的；可靠的



4. Yet the president's **narrow escape** has come at a high political cost. After failing to **persuade** the public, **trade unions** or the opposition of the need for his reform, Mr Macron judged that he could not risk a normal **parliamentary** vote. Instead he **resorted to** a **constitutional provision** that **put his government's survival on the line**.



narrow escape *noun* 九死一生，幸免于难；千钧一发

persuade /pə'sweɪd/ *verb* to make sb do sth by giving them good reasons for doing it 劝说；说服

trade union *noun* (NAmE also 'labor union) [C] an organization of workers, usually in a particular industry, that exists to protect their interests, improve conditions of work, etc. 工会

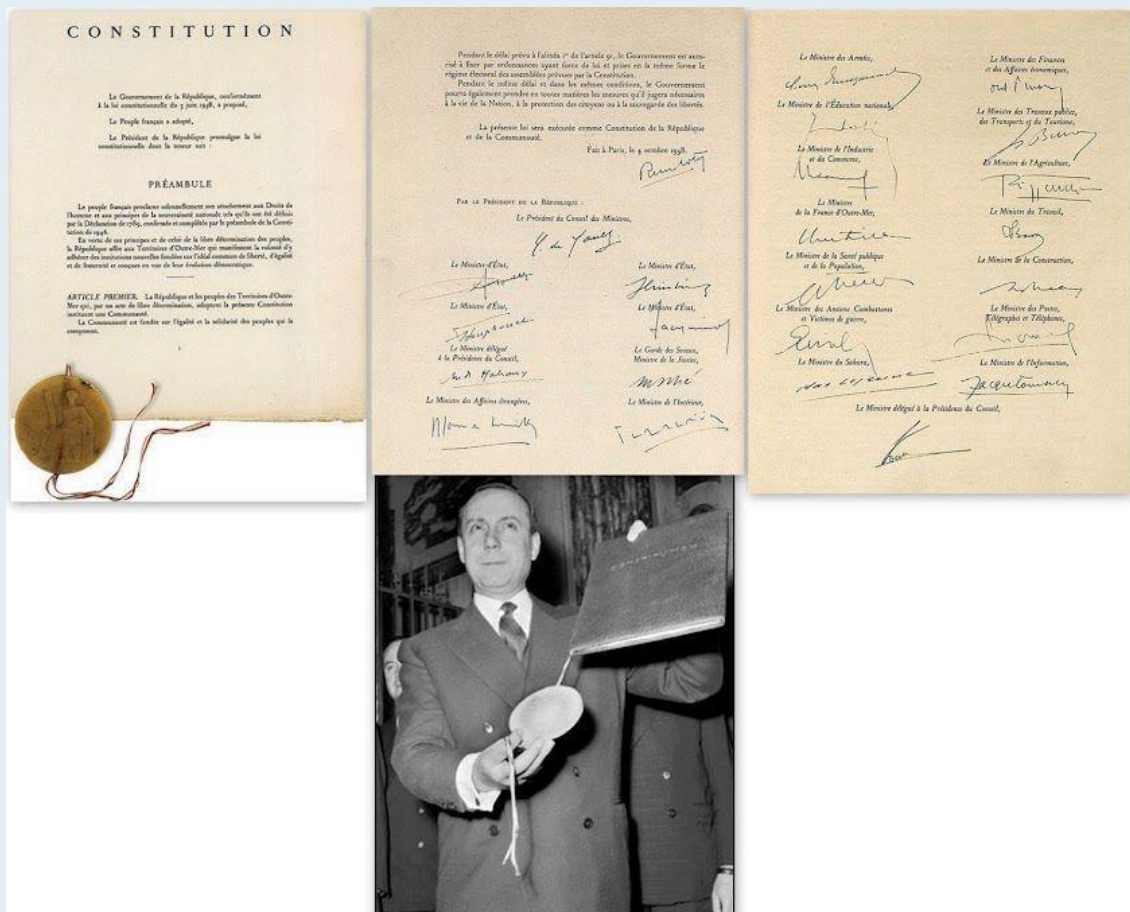
parliamentary /ˌpɑːlə'ment(ə)rɪ/ *adjective* [usually before noun] connected with a parliament; having a parliament 议会的；国会的；设有议会的

resort to sth to make use of sth, especially sth bad, as a means of achieving sth, often because there is no other possible solution 诉诸；求助于；依靠

constitutional provision 宪法条款

(put sth) on the line (informal) at risk 冒风险

This is **perfectly** legal: it has been used 100 times since **Charles de Gaulle** introduced it, including to build France's **nuclear deterrent**.



perfectly /'pɜːfɪk(t)li/ **adverb** completely 完全地; 非常; 十分

Charles de Gaulle **noun** 夏尔·戴高乐, 法兰西第五共和国首任总统
1958年法国宪法
1958年法国宪法, 史称“法兰西第五共和国宪法”、“戴高乐宪法”。1958年10月5日公布生效实施。由序言及15章92条组成。

introduce /'intrə'djuːs/ **verb** to make sth available for use, discussion, etc. for the first time 推行; 实施; 采用

nuclear /'njuːklɪə/ **adjective** connected with weapons that use **NUCLEAR ENERGY** 核武器的

deterrent /dɪ'ter(ə)nt/ **noun** ~ (to sb/sth) a thing that makes sb less likely to do sth (= that **DETERS** them) 威慑因素; 遏制力

But it is **increasingly** seen as a way to **impose** a decision against the will of the people. For Mr Macron, whose **haughty top-down** governing style **irks** many, its use **reinforces** the impression that he will not listen.



increasingly /ɪnˈkriːsɪŋli/ **adverb** more and more all the time 越来越多地; 不断增加地

impose /ɪmˈpəʊz/ **verb** [T] ~ sth (on/upon sth/sb) to introduce a new law, rule, tax, etc; to order that a rule, punishment, etc. be used 推行, 采用 (规章制度); 强制实行

haughty /ˈhɔːti/ **adjective** behaving in an unfriendly way towards other people because you think that you are better than them 傲慢的; 高傲自大的

top-down /ˈtɒpdaʊn/ **adjective** starting from or involving the people who have higher positions in an organization (组织或机构中) 自上而下的, 与高层有关的

irk /ɜːk/ **verb** ~ sb (to do sth) | it irks sb that ... (*formal or literary*) to annoy or irritate sb 使烦恼; 激怒

reinforce /riːnˈfɔːs/ **verb** ~ sth to make a feeling, an idea, etc. stronger 加强; 充实; 使更强烈

5. This is dangerous, because Mr Macron's narrow escape should not be the end of his ambitions to reform France. Much is still to be done, from the pursuit of **net-zero emissions** and full employment, to better **schooling** in **tough** and **remote** areas. The 45-year-old president is still in the first year of his second term, **fizzing** with energy and ideas.



net-zero emission *noun* 净零排放 (net-zero emission) 的定义当一个组织的一年内所有温室气体 (CO₂-e, 以二氧化碳当量衡量) 排放量与温室气体清除量达到平衡时, 就是净零温室气体排放。

schooling /'sku:lɪŋ/ *noun* [U] (*formal*) the education you receive at school 学校教育

tough *adjective* having or causing problems or difficulties 艰苦的; 艰难的; 棘手的

remote /rɪ'məʊt/ *adjective* far away from places where other people live 偏远的; 偏僻的

fizz /fɪz/ *verb* [I] when a liquid **fizzes**, it produces a lot of bubbles and makes a long sound like an 's' 起泡发嘶嘶声

(*figurative*) He started to fizz with enthusiasm. 他开始热情奔放起来。

But minds are already **wandering** to 2027, and the dark threat that he may have to hand over the keys to the **Elysée Palace** to someone from the **extremes**, such as **Marine Le Pen**. Unless Mr Macron can improve the lives of his fellow citizens, he will not contain the **morosité** that **turbocharges** **populism**.



wander /'wɒndə/ **verb** [I] (of a person's mind or thoughts 人的思想或想法) to stop being directed on sth and to move without much control to other ideas, subjects, etc. 走神；神志恍惚；（思想）开小差

Elysée Palace **noun** 爱丽舍宫(élysée Palace)是法国巴黎古建筑，也是法国总统官邸，其名称“élysée”源于希腊语，意为“乐土、福地”。

extreme /ɪk'stri:m/ **adjective** (of people, political organizations, opinions, etc. 人、政治组织、意见等) far from what most people consider to be normal, reasonable or acceptable 极端的；偏激的；过分的

Marine Le Pen **noun** 玛丽娜·勒庞，法国极右翼政党“国民阵线”领导人。

morosité **noun** 萧条，缺乏活力

turbocharge /'tɜ:bə(ʊ)tʃɑ:dʒ/ **verb** 涡轮增压

populism /'pɒpjulizəm/ **noun** [U] a type of politics that claims to represent the opinions and wishes of ordinary people 平民政治；民粹主义；民意论

6. Even then, a record of reform may not be enough. **Democratic** leadership requires the constant and careful **forging** of **consent**. Now, more than ever, Mr Macron needs to correct his **solitary** manner, and show the French that he **disrespects** neither parliament nor the people.



democratic /demə'krætɪk/ **adjective** (of a country, state, system, etc. 国家、政府、制度等) controlled by representatives who are elected by the people of a country; connected with this system 民主的; 民主政体的; 民主制度的

forge /fɔ:dʒ/ **verb** [T] ~ sth to put a lot of effort into making sth successful or strong so that it will last 艰苦干成; 努力加强

consent /kən'sent/ **noun** [U] ~ (to sth) permission to do sth, especially given by sb in authority 同意; 准许; 允许

solitary /'sɒlɪt(ə)rɪ/ **adjective** (of a person or an animal 人或动物) enjoying being alone; frequently spending time alone 喜欢 (或惯于) 独处的

disrespect /dɪsɪ'spekt/ **verb** ~ sb/sth (*informal*) to speak about or treat sb/sth without respect 不尊敬; 对 ... 无礼

7. With war **raging** in Ukraine, Europe benefits from a strong, stable France, the EU's second-biggest economy and only **military heavyweight**. For France, imposing the pension reform was always going to be the **second-best outcome**. For Mr Macron, it is a **reminder** that in politics it is not always enough to be right.



rage /reɪdʒ/ **verb** [I] ~ (on) (of a storm, a battle, an argument, etc. 暴风雨、战斗、争论等) to continue in a violent way 猛烈地继续; 激烈进行

military /ˈmɪlɪt(ə)ri/ **adjective** [usually before **noun**] connected with soldiers or the armed forces 军事的; 军队的; 武装的

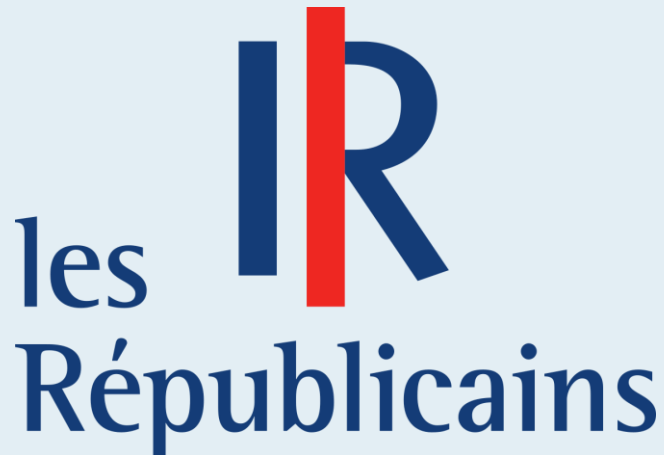
heavyweight /ˈheviweɪt/ **noun** a very important person, organization or thing that influences others 有影响力的人 (或组织、事物)

second best **adjective** not exactly what you want; not perfect 退而求其次的; 将就的

outcome /ˈaʊtkʌm/ **noun** the result or effect of an action or event 结果; 效果

reminder /rɪˈmaɪndə/ **noun** ~ (of sb/sth) | ~ (that ...) something that makes you think about or remember sb/sth, that you have forgotten or would like to forget 引起回忆的事物; 提醒人的事物

8. The lesson goes wider than this. Those in France who want their next president to come from the democratic centre, not the far right, cannot afford to stay silent. Mr Macron alone is not to blame for this mess. A **chunk** of **legislators** from the **centre-right Republicans**, many of whom support reform, **withheld** their **backing**.



chunk /tʃʌŋk/ **noun** (*informal*) a fairly large amount of sth 相当大的量

legislator /'ledʒɪsleɪtə/ **noun** (*formal*) a member of a group of people that has the power to make laws 立法委员

centre-right **adjective**

(*politics* 政) supporting **CAPITALISM** and accepting some social change 中右的 (指支持资本主义并接受某些社会改革的)

Republican /rɪ'pʌblɪk(ə)n/ **noun** 法国共和党, 法国右翼政党。前身为法国前总统希拉克于2002年创立的人民运动联盟, 2015年5月由原党主席尼古拉·萨科齐改为现名。

withhold /wɪð'həʊld/ **verb** ~ sth (from sb/sth) (*formal*) to refuse to give sth to sb 拒绝给; 不给

back /bæk/ **verb** [T] ~ sb/sth to give help or support to sb/sth 帮助; 支持

The silence of those in politics, business and beyond, who know well that France needed change, was **short-sighted** and **craven**. They could **end up** paying a **steep** price.



short-sighted /'ʃɔː'saɪtɪd/ **adjective** not thinking carefully about the possible effects of sth or what might happen in the future 目光短浅的；无远见的

craven /'kreɪv(ə)n/ **adjective** (*formal, disapproving*) lacking courage 胆小的；胆怯的；怯懦的

end up to find yourself in a place or situation that you did not intend or expect to be in 最终成为；最后处于

steep /stiːp/ **adjective** (*informal*) (of a price or demand 价格或要求) too much; unreasonable 过高的；过分的；不合理的