

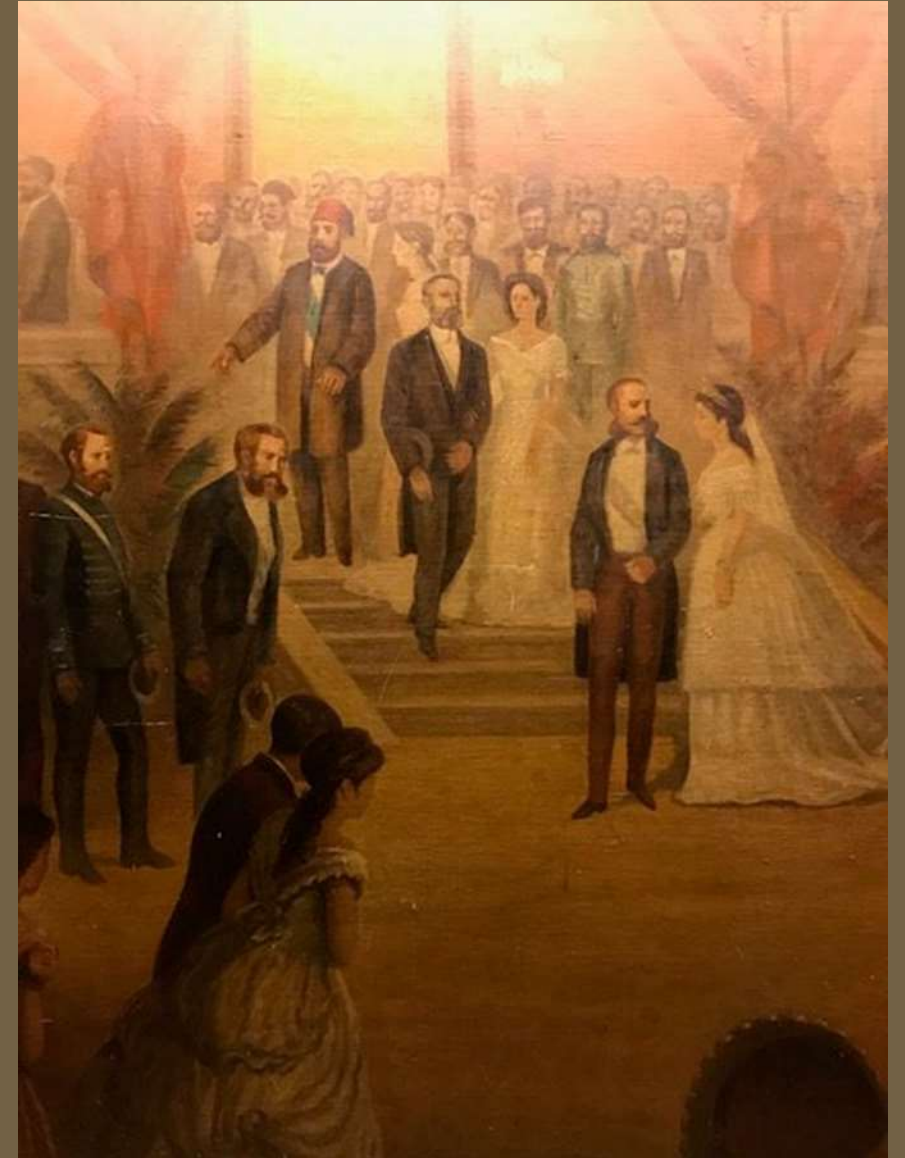


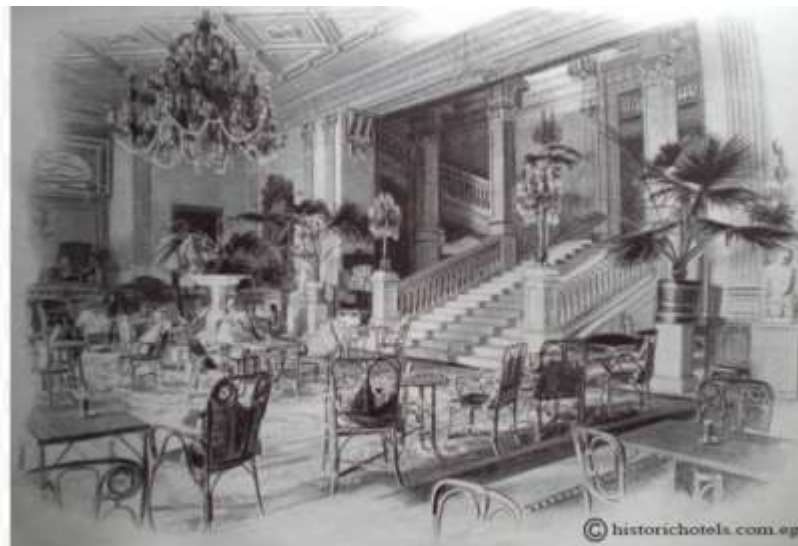
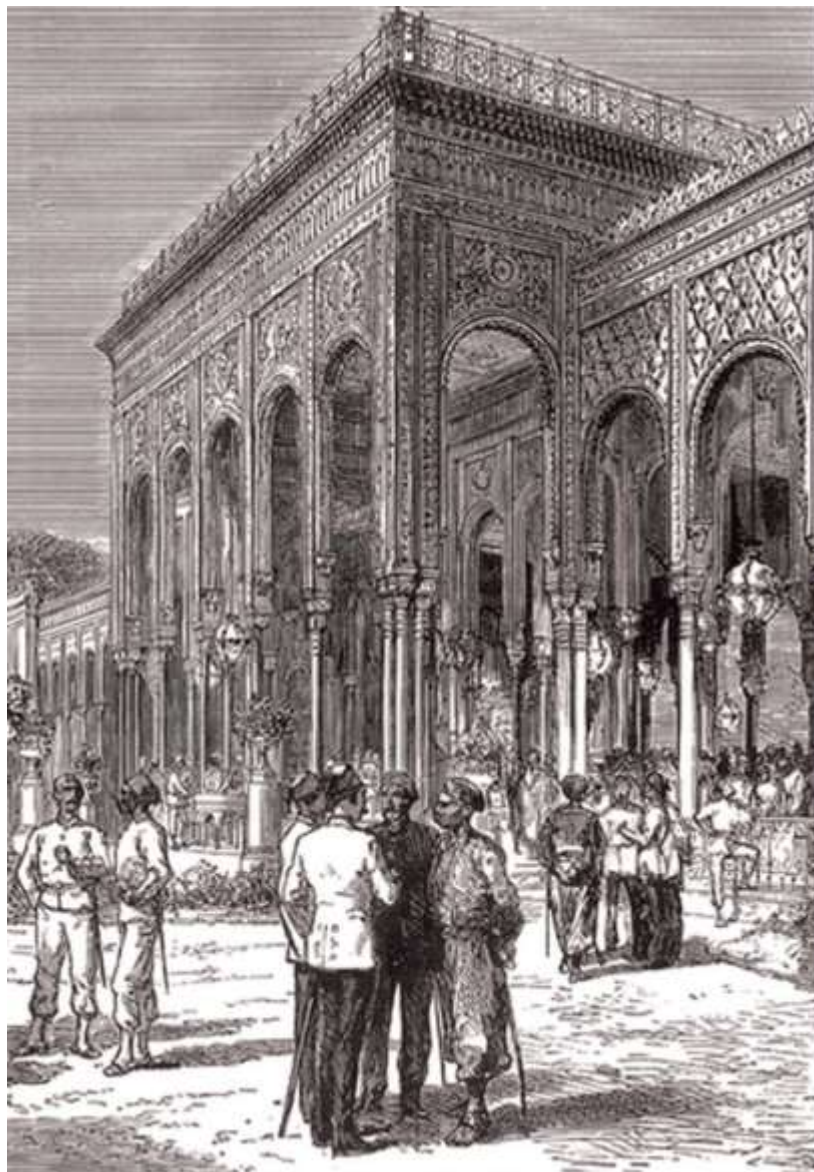
From triumph to defeat (1869-1870)

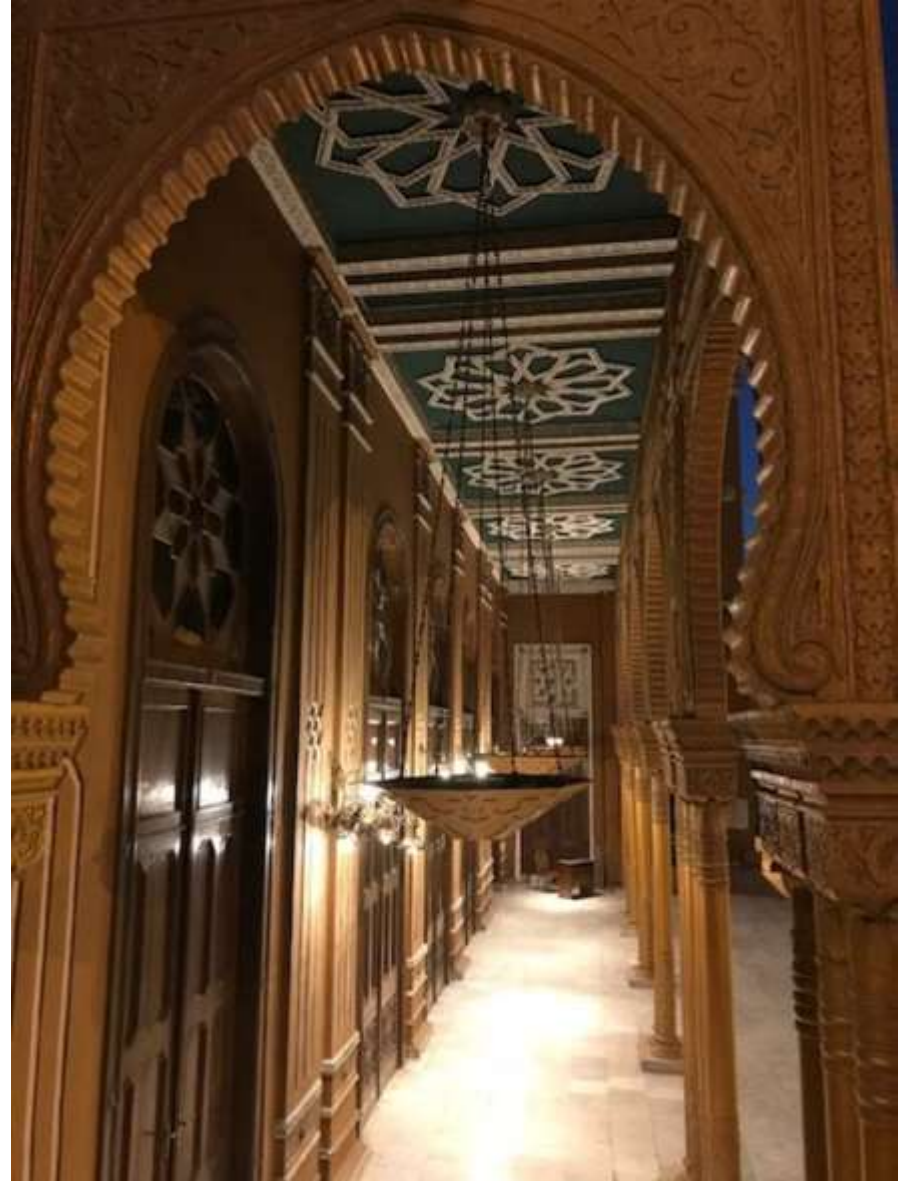
The Franco-Prussian War and the collapse of the Second Empire

October - November 1869: Empress Eugenie's official visit to the Orient

Venice – Athens – Constantinople – Egypt: a triumph











17 November 1869: the inauguration of the Suez Canal





12 January 1870: 100 000 people attend the funeral of journalist Victor Noir – The spectre of revolution



Funérailles de Victor Noir. — La foule coupe les traits des chevaux et traîne le corbillard.

10 January 1870: Victor Noir shot by
Pierre-Napoléon Bonaparte

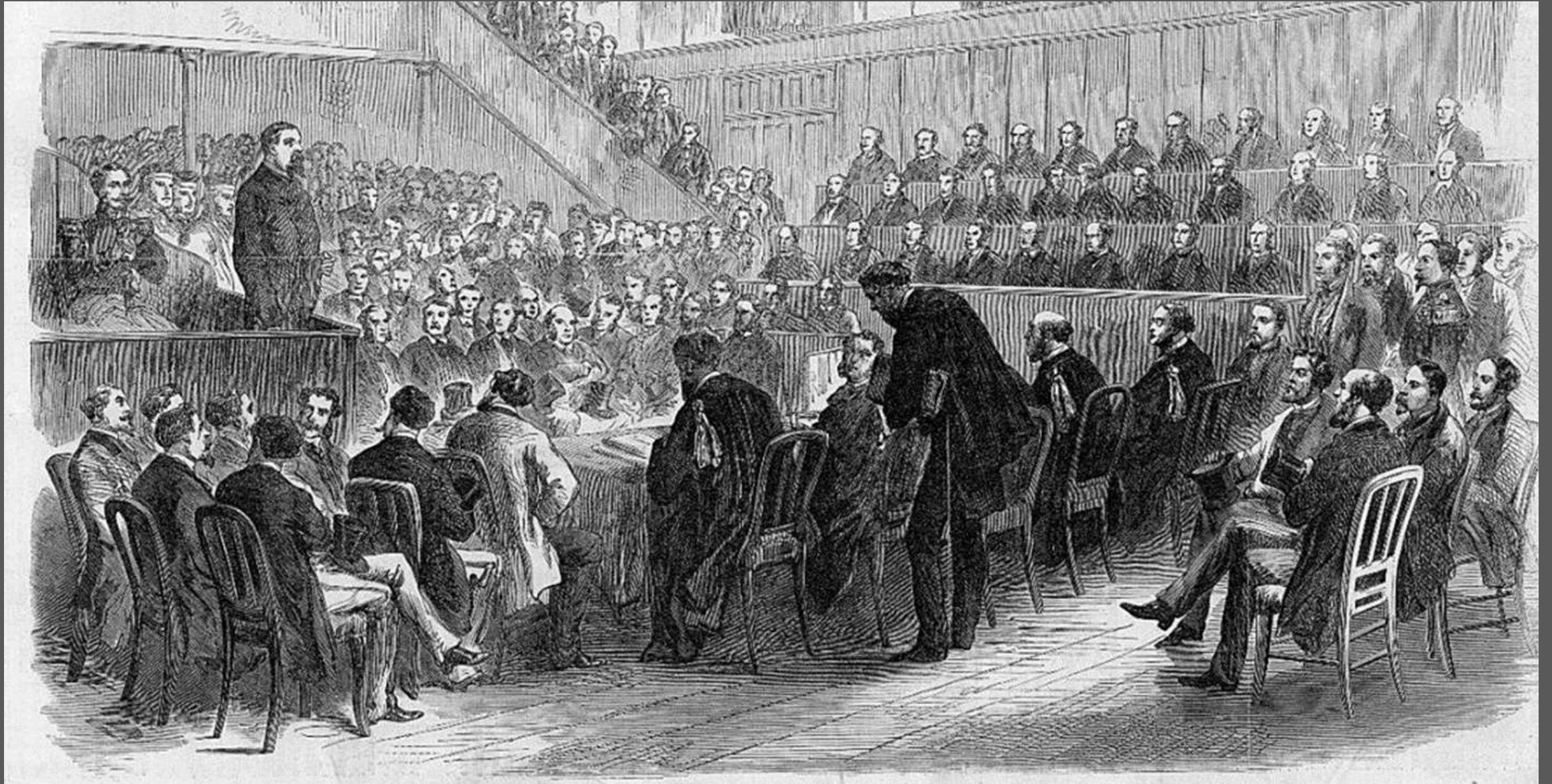


*"I was weak-minded enough to
believe that a Bonaparte could
be something other than a
murderer"*

Henri Rochefort (*La Marseillaise*)



27 March 1870: the High Court acquits Pierre Bonaparte



Growing opposition to Napoleon III since the early 1860s

The **Catholics** opposed to Napoleon III's support to the unification of Italy (**self-determination**) against the Pope

1863: the appointment of **Victor Duruy** (minister of Education) – The influence of the Church curtailed

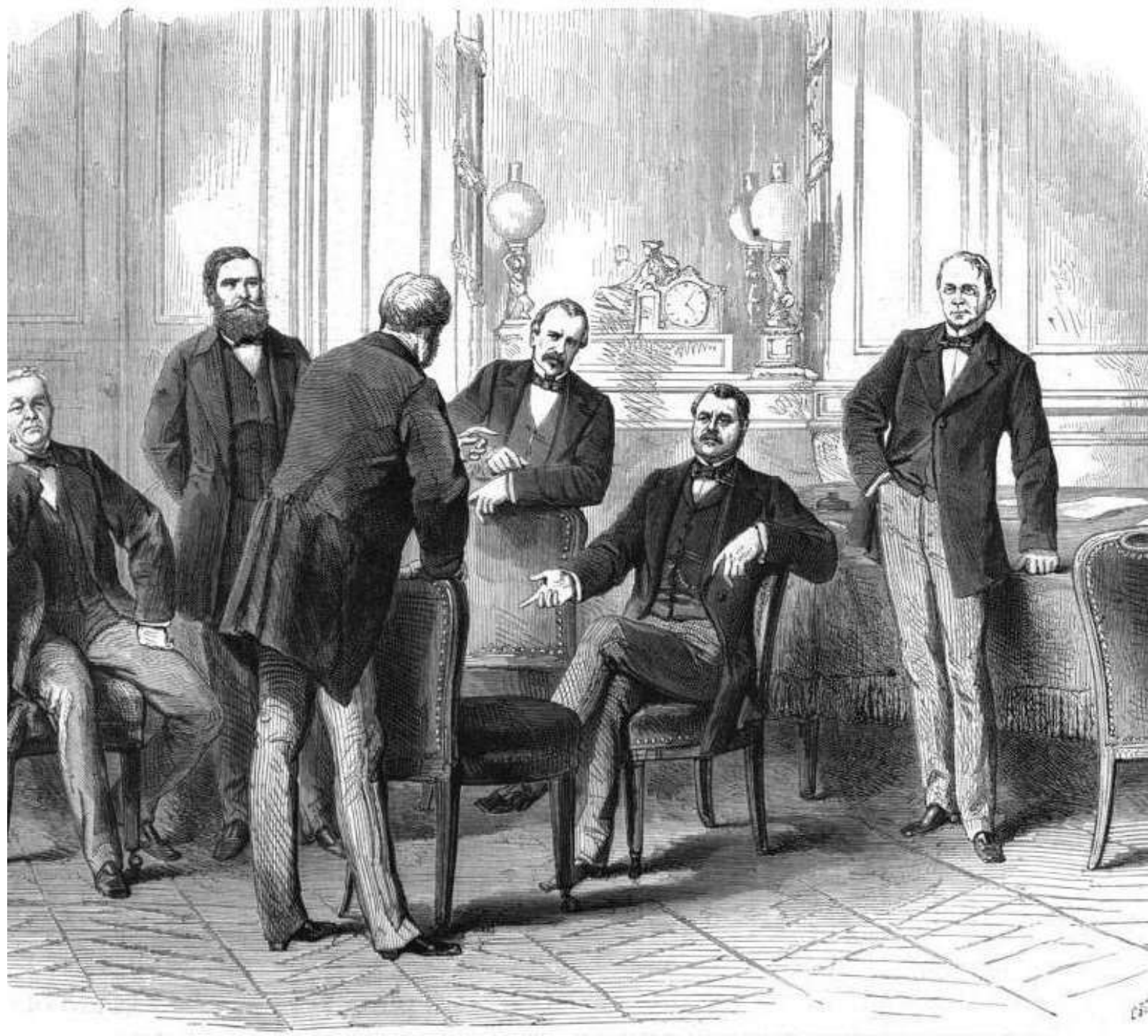
Business leaders hostile to **free trade**

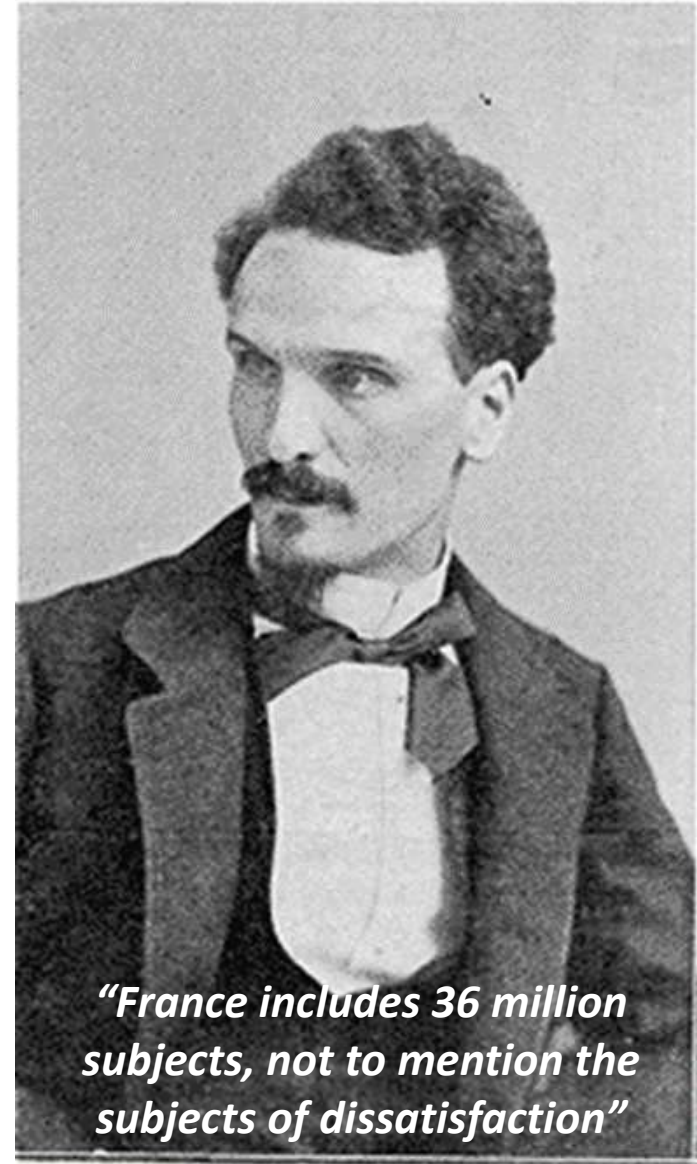
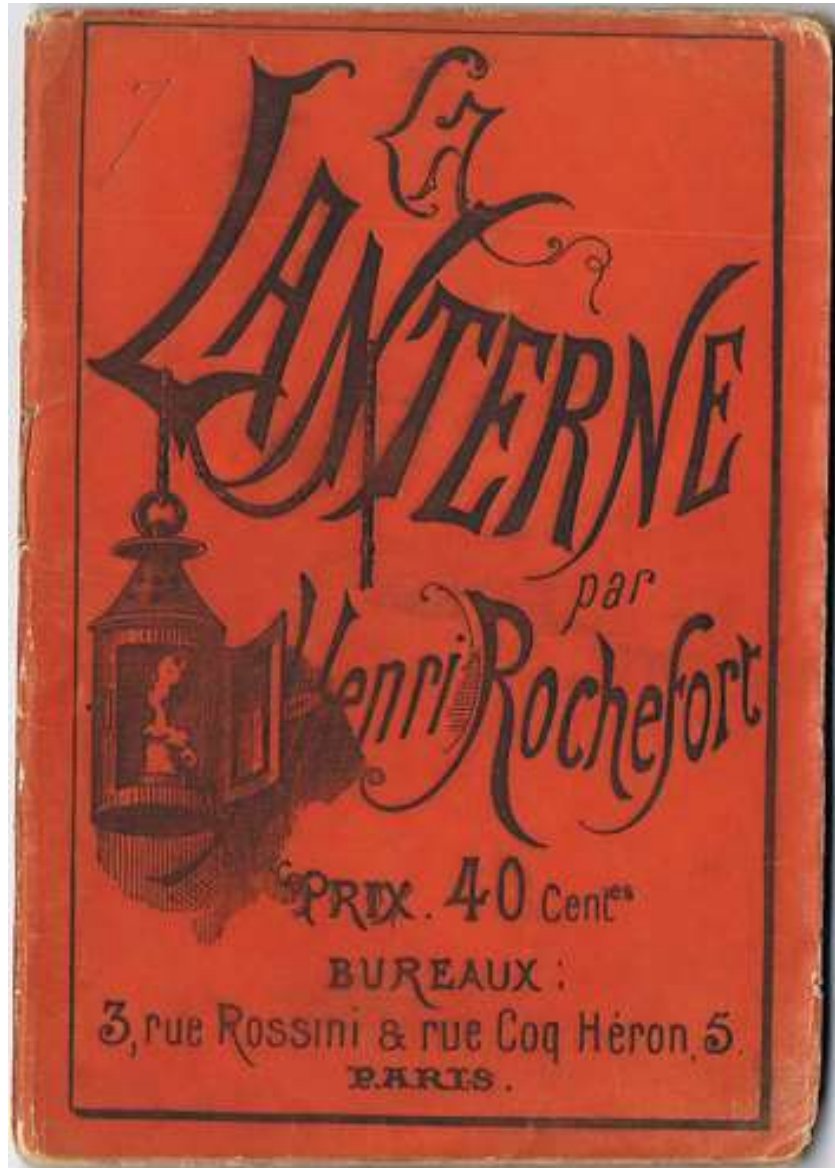
Calls for freedom of the press/increased powers to parliament and a republic



1867-1869: reforms

1. The right to criticize the government and its policies
2. Partial freedom of the press (140 newspapers launched)





"France includes 36 million subjects, not to mention the subjects of dissatisfaction"

LA MÉNAGERIE IMPÉRIALE.

NAPOLÉON III

N°1



20, Boulevard des Capucines, 20, rue de la Paix

Jug. Goussier Paris

LE VAUTOUR (Lâcheté - Férocity)

LA MÉNAGERIE IMPÉRIALE.

EUGÉNIE

N°2

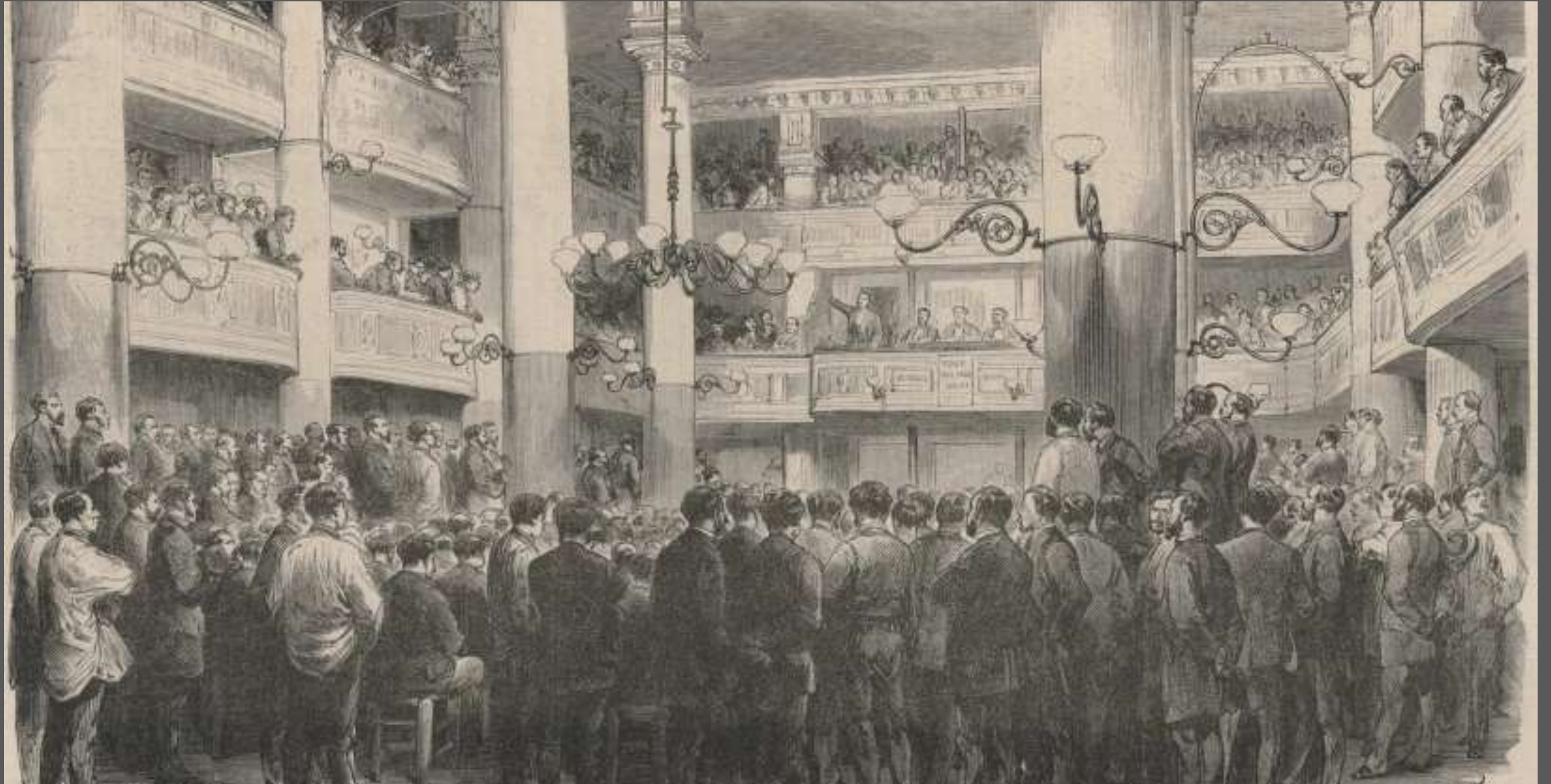


20

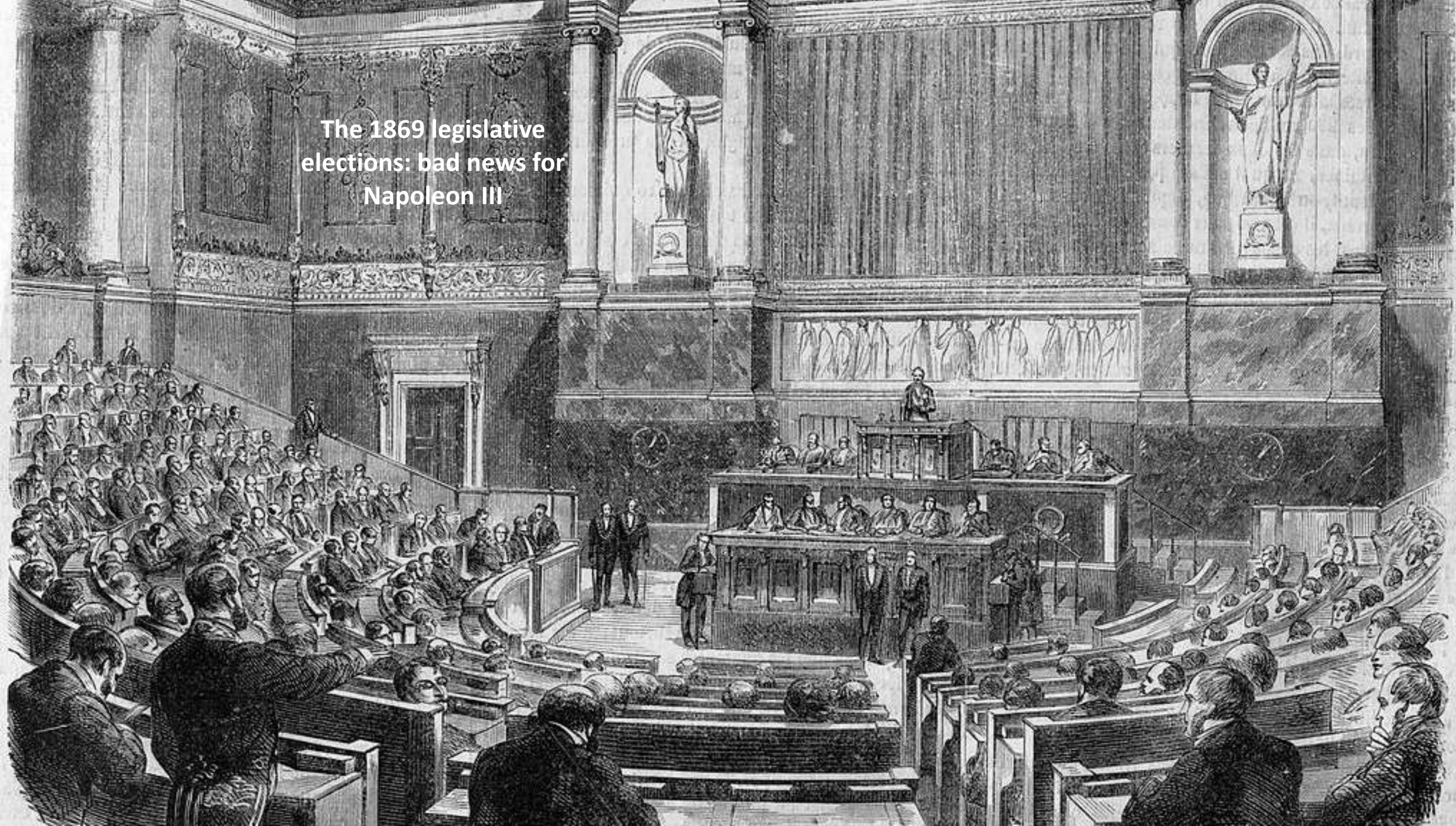
20, Boulevard des Capucines, 20, rue de la Paix

LA GRUE (Pose Bérise)

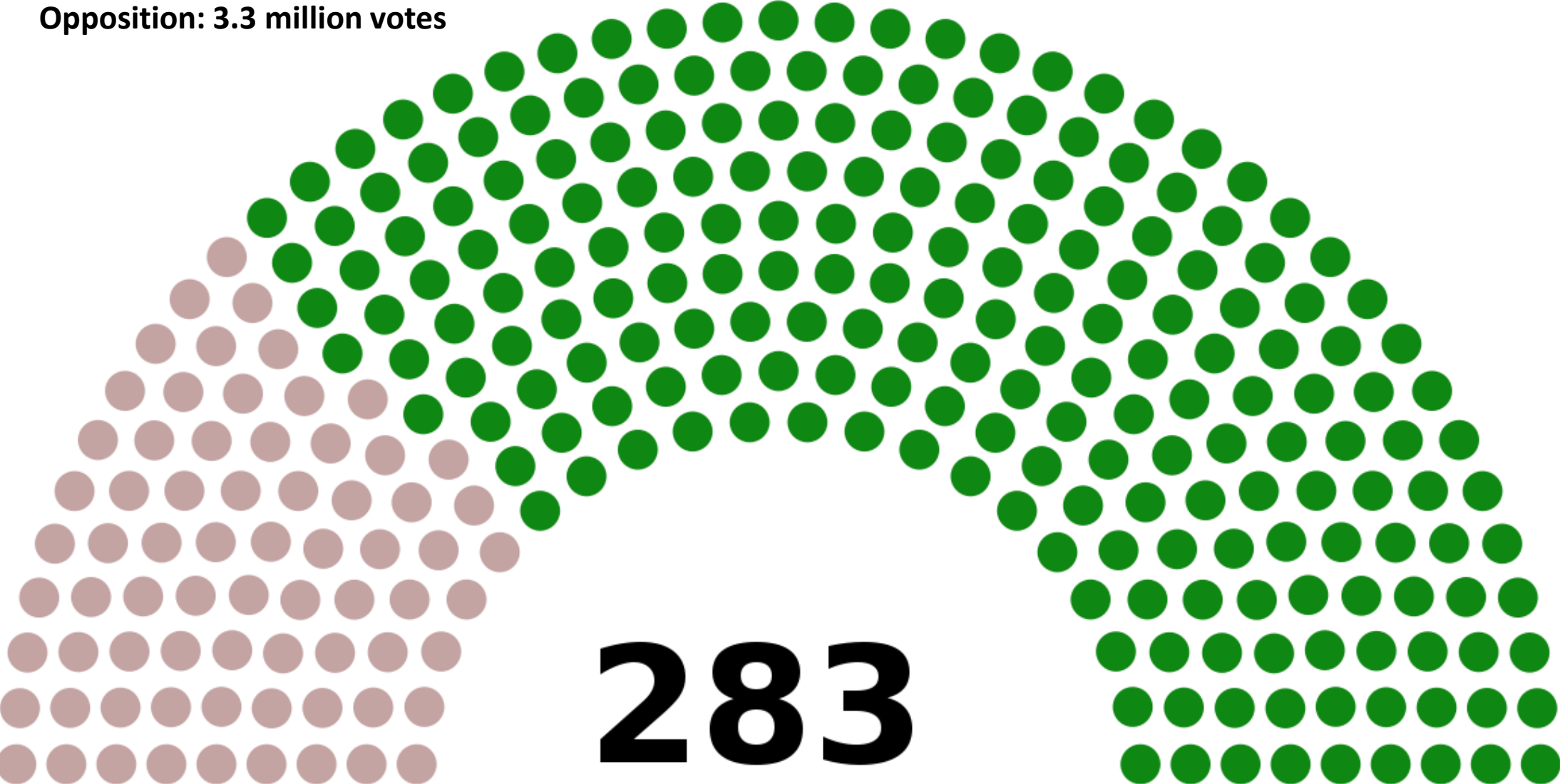
Public political gathering on the rise despite government ban



The 1869 legislative
elections: bad news for
Napoleon III



Pro-government: 4.4 million votes
Opposition: 3.3 million votes



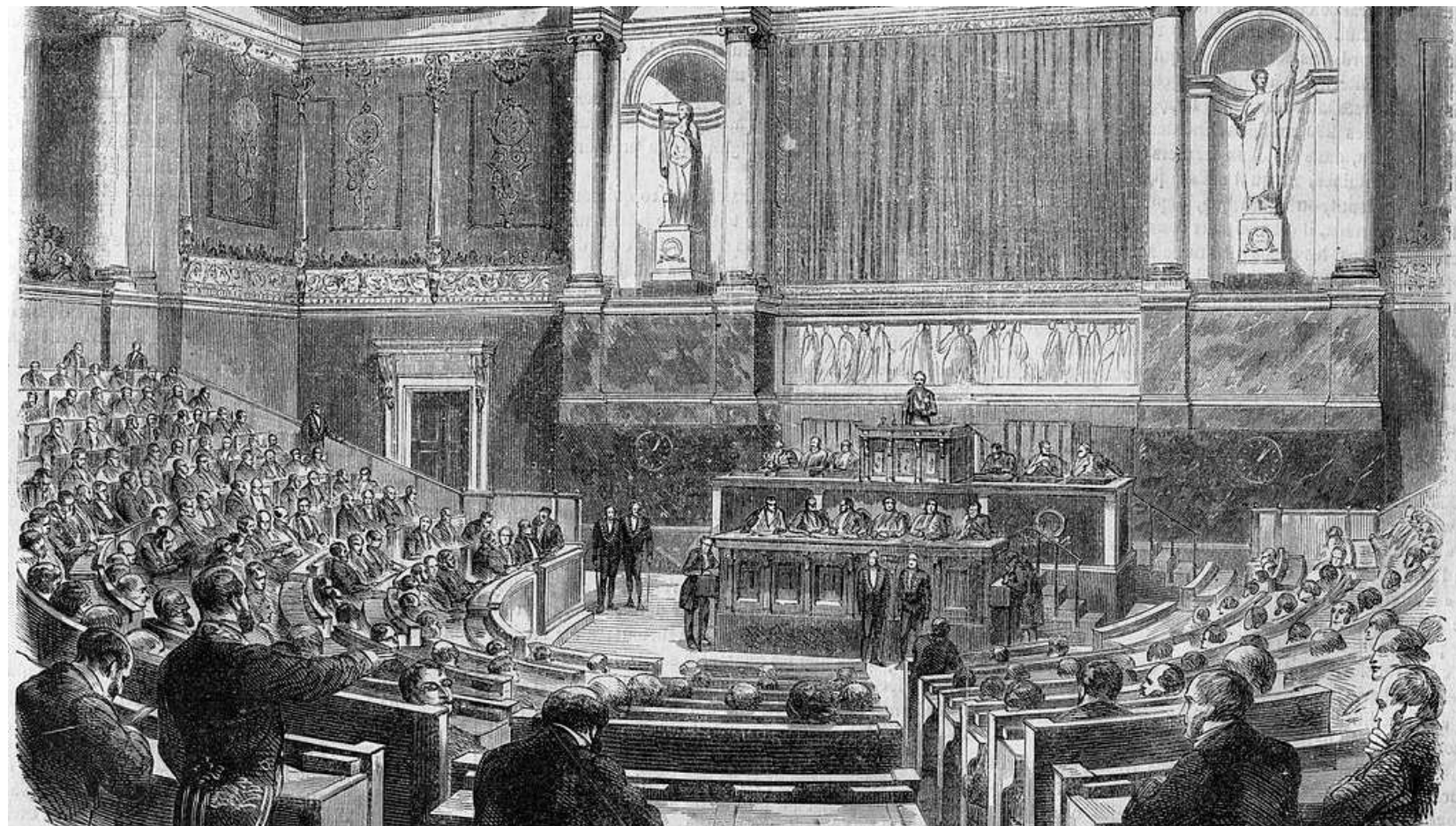
Triumph of
the
Republican
opposition in
Paris



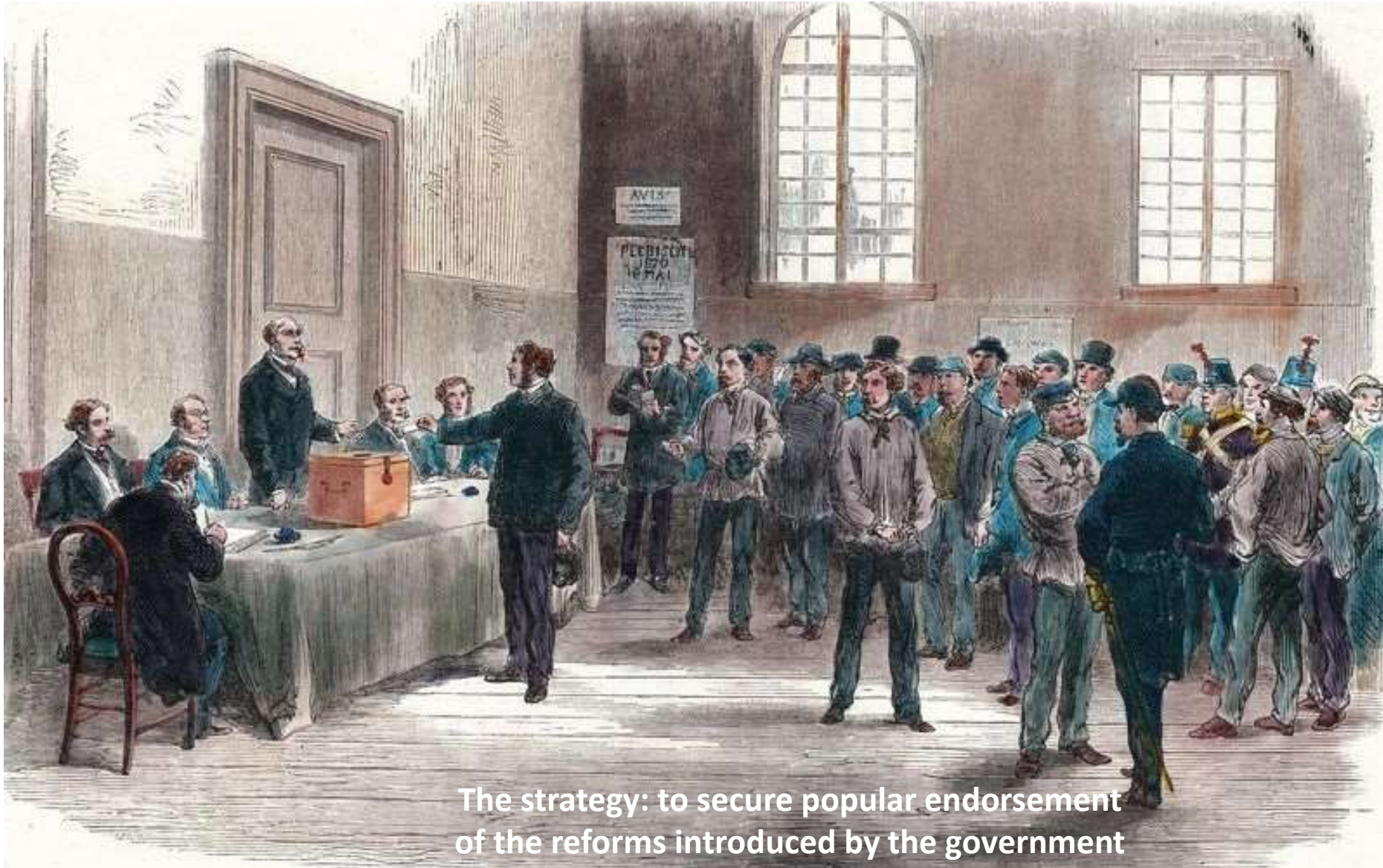
Les élections de Paris du 22 novembre. — Les cafés. — Addition des votes des scrutins.

The majority still
supports Napoleon III's
reforms

*"Progress without
violence and freedom
without revolution"*



Napoleon III's reaction to growing discontent: another **national referendum**



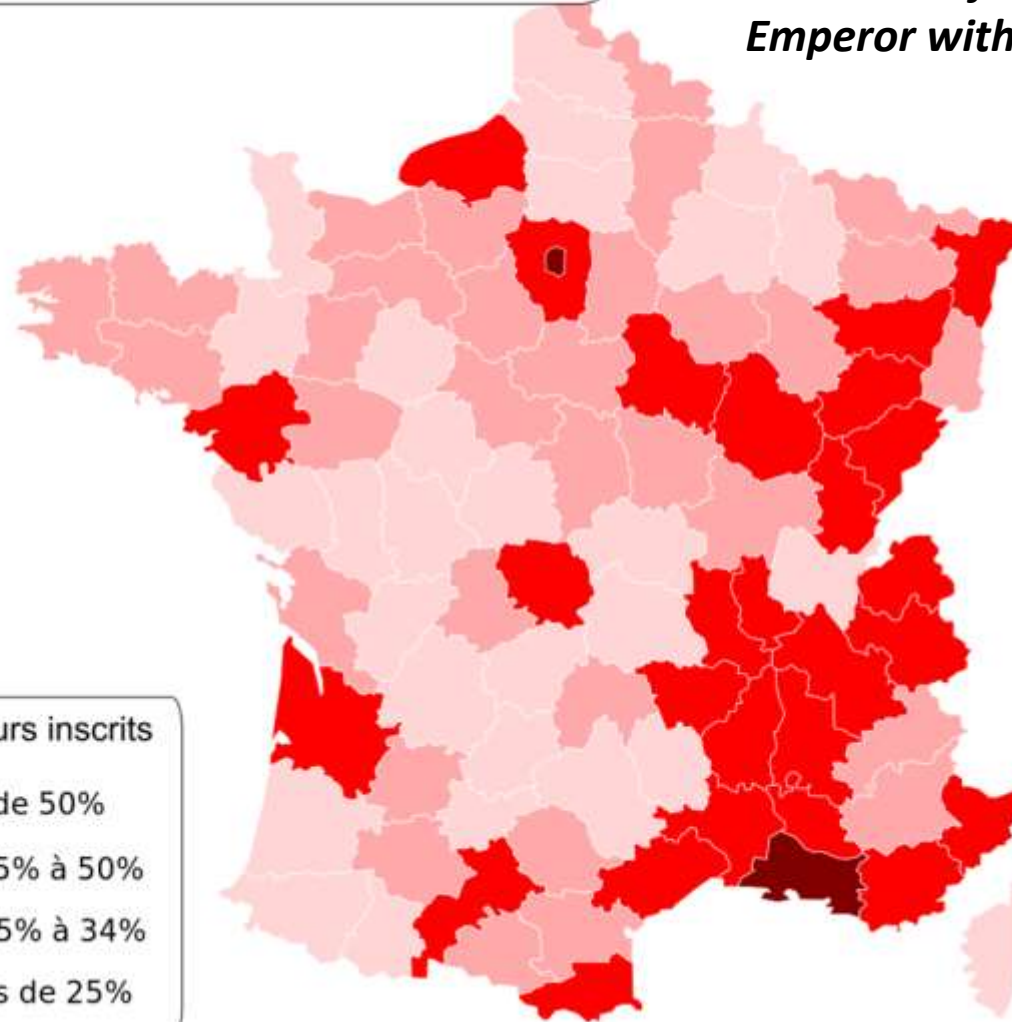
The strategy: to secure popular endorsement of the reforms introduced by the government

Le vote non au plébiscite du 8 mai 1870

The question: *“the people approves the liberal reforms introduced by the Emperor with the help of government bodies...”*

7.4 million YES
1.5 million NO

“The Empire is stronger than ever”
(A Republican opponent)



*"More than ever, the
Empire must look at the
future without fear"*
Napoleon III





***“The government has no uneasiness
whatever; at no epoch was the peace of
Europe more assured”***

Émile Ollivier (Prime Minister)

30 June 1870

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870: the war that should never have happened



Bismarck and the unification of Germany: the growing influence of Prussia in Europe

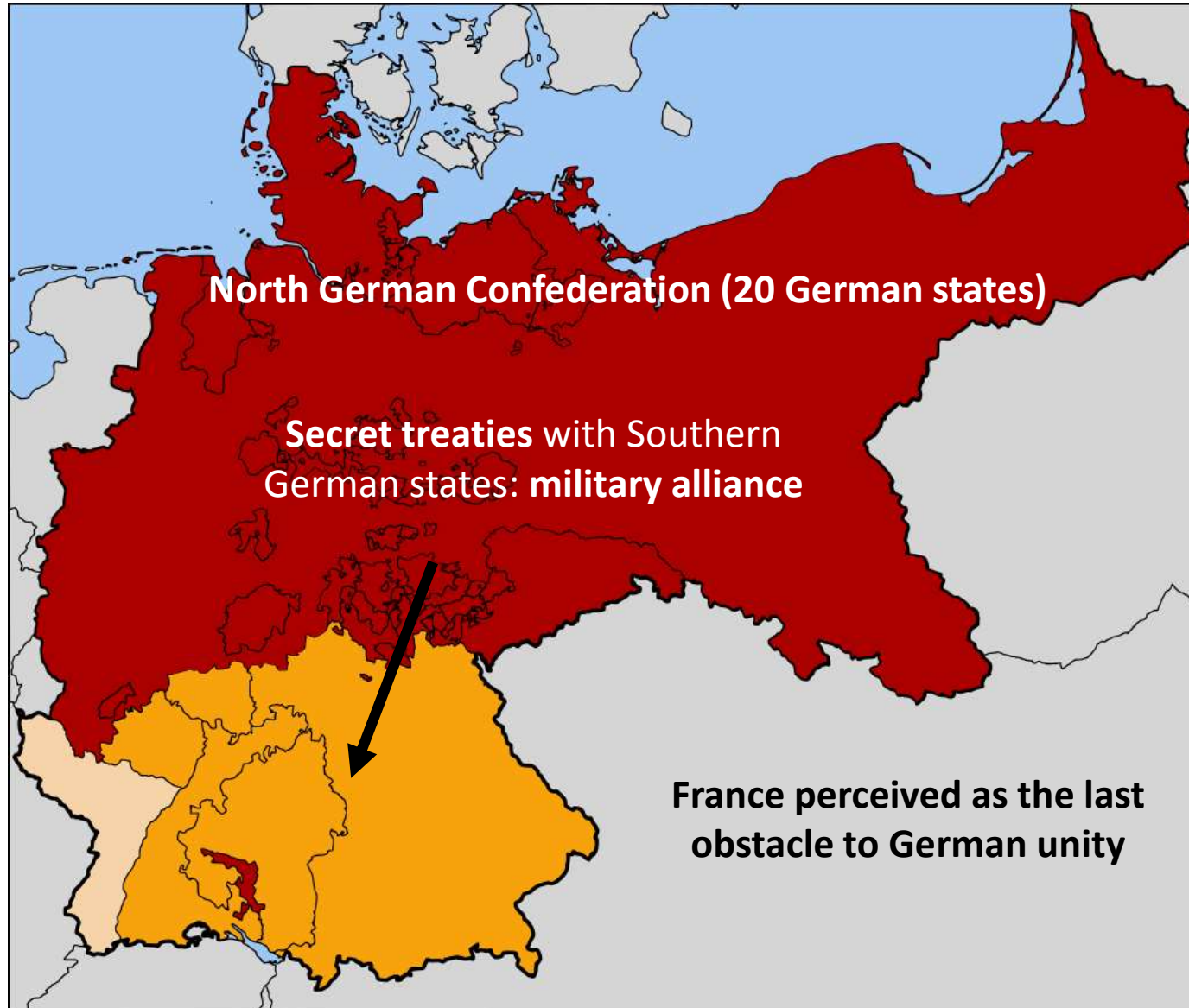


First priority: to eliminate Austria as a serious competitor in the German world



July 1866: the battle of Sadowa – The end of Austria's influence among German states





1868: the abdication of Queen Isabella II of Spain

France: NO German prince king of Spain



The **candidacy** of Leopold of Hohenzollern (cousin of King of Prussia) to the throne of Spain – 2 July 1870



Napoleon III and William I eager to avoid war



12 July: Leopold's candidacy
withdrawn

A French **diplomatic victory**



King William I of Prussia



French government to ambassador in Prussia: King William **never in the future** to allow another German prince to accept the crown of Spain

William I refuses to promise anything: he *"has nothing more to say"*



The Ems telegram

[illegible]

King William's account to Bismarck **re-written** to
provoke the French

*“[The King] decided, in view of the above-mentioned demands, not to receive Count Benedetti (the French ambassador) any more, but to have him informed, **by an adjutant**, that His Majesty had now received [from Leopold] confirmation of the news and had nothing further to say to the ambassador.”*



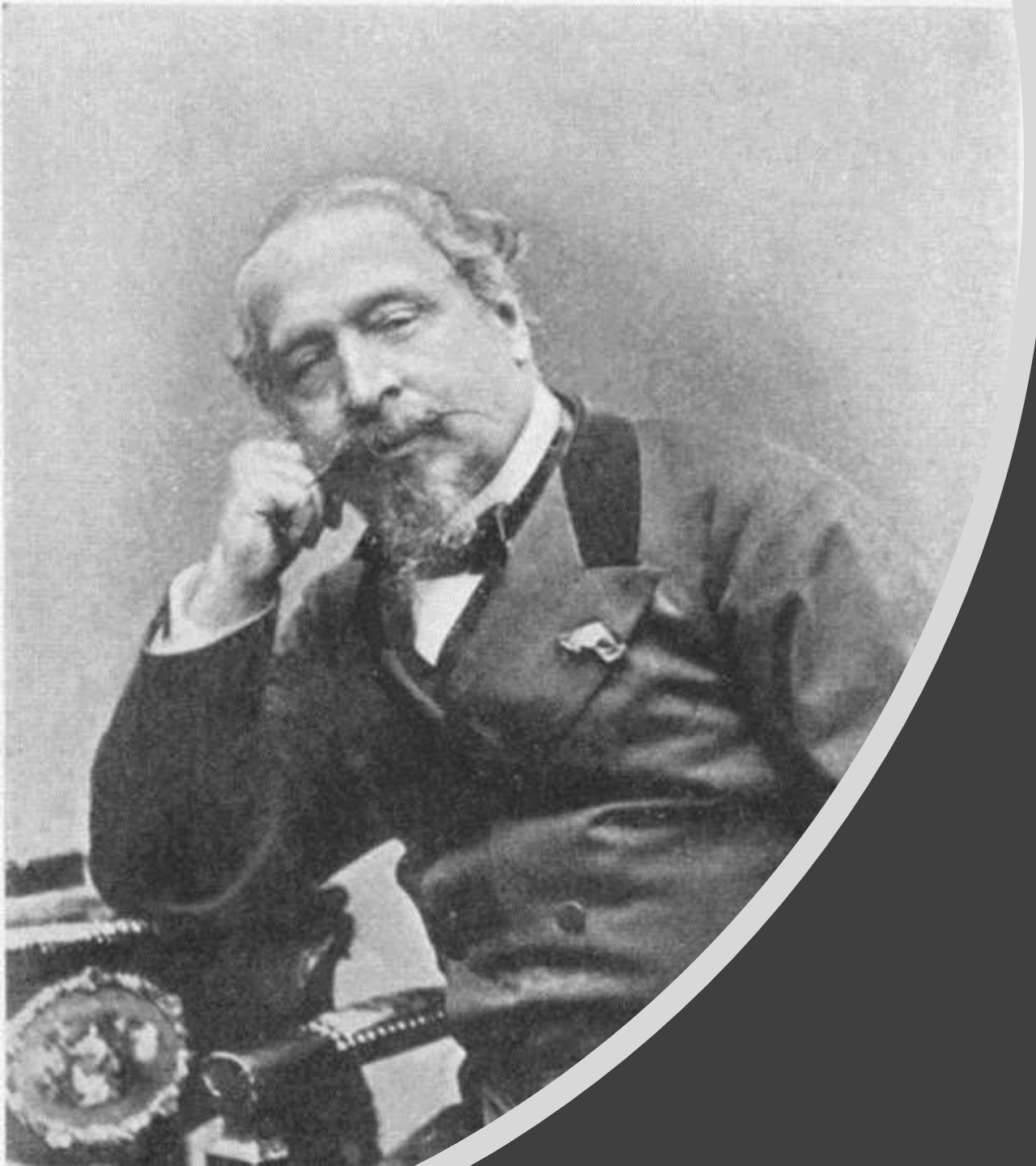
Empress Eugénie: war with Prussia
inevitable sooner or later

France's honor and influence in
Europe at stake

19 July 1870: France declares war on Prussia







Napoleon III in July 1870: a very sick man (5cm stone in the bladder)

The Emperor as Commander-in-Chief

"I am quite old for such a military campaign and I am not in a good health at all"

A useless commander-in-chief: too ill to give orders



The French army **perceived** as the best in Europe (victories in Crimea, Italy and Algeria)



900 000 French vs. 1.2 million Germans

Deficient armament

Widespread disorganization

Poor communications

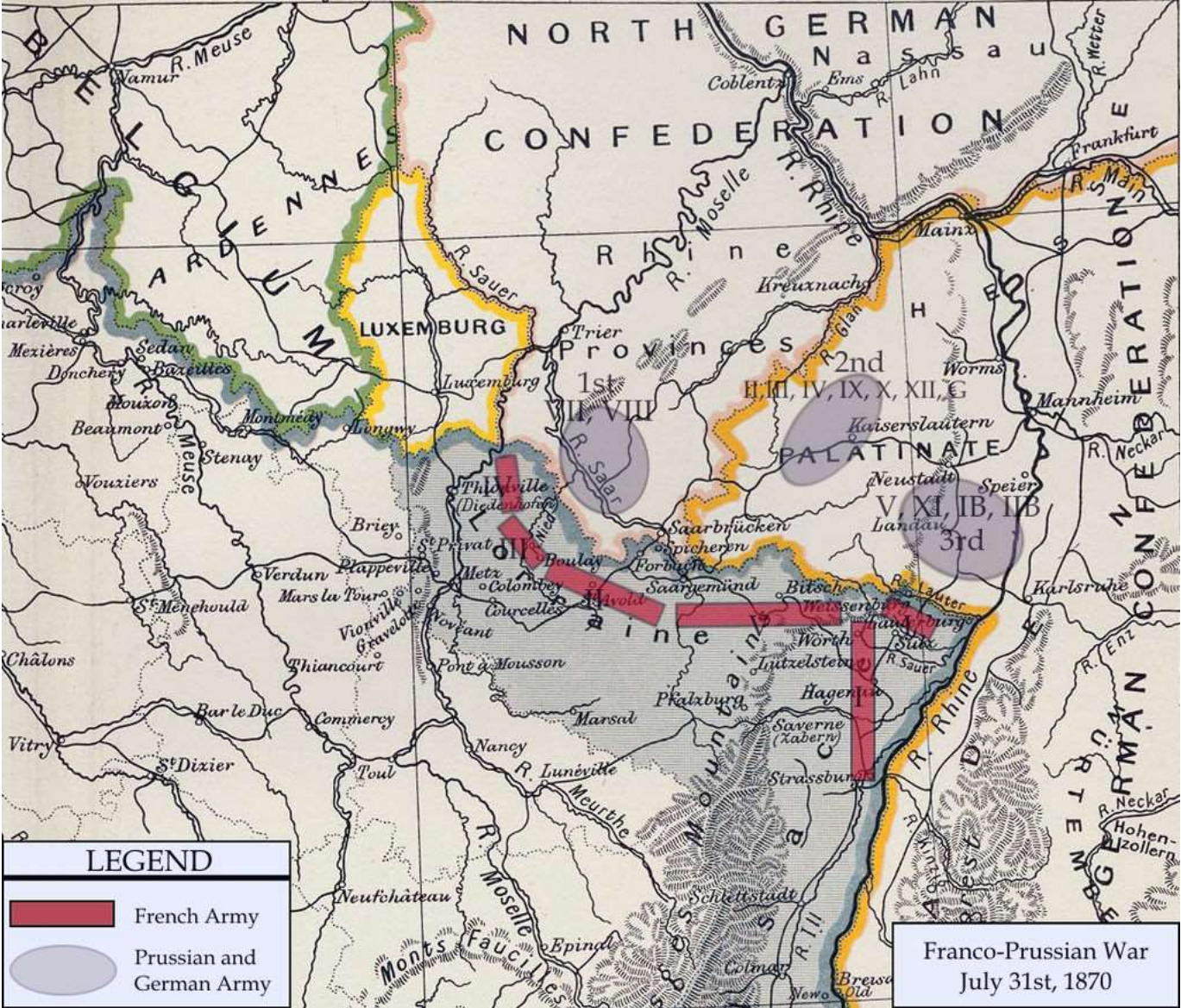
Lack of flexibility

Rivalries among high-ranking officers

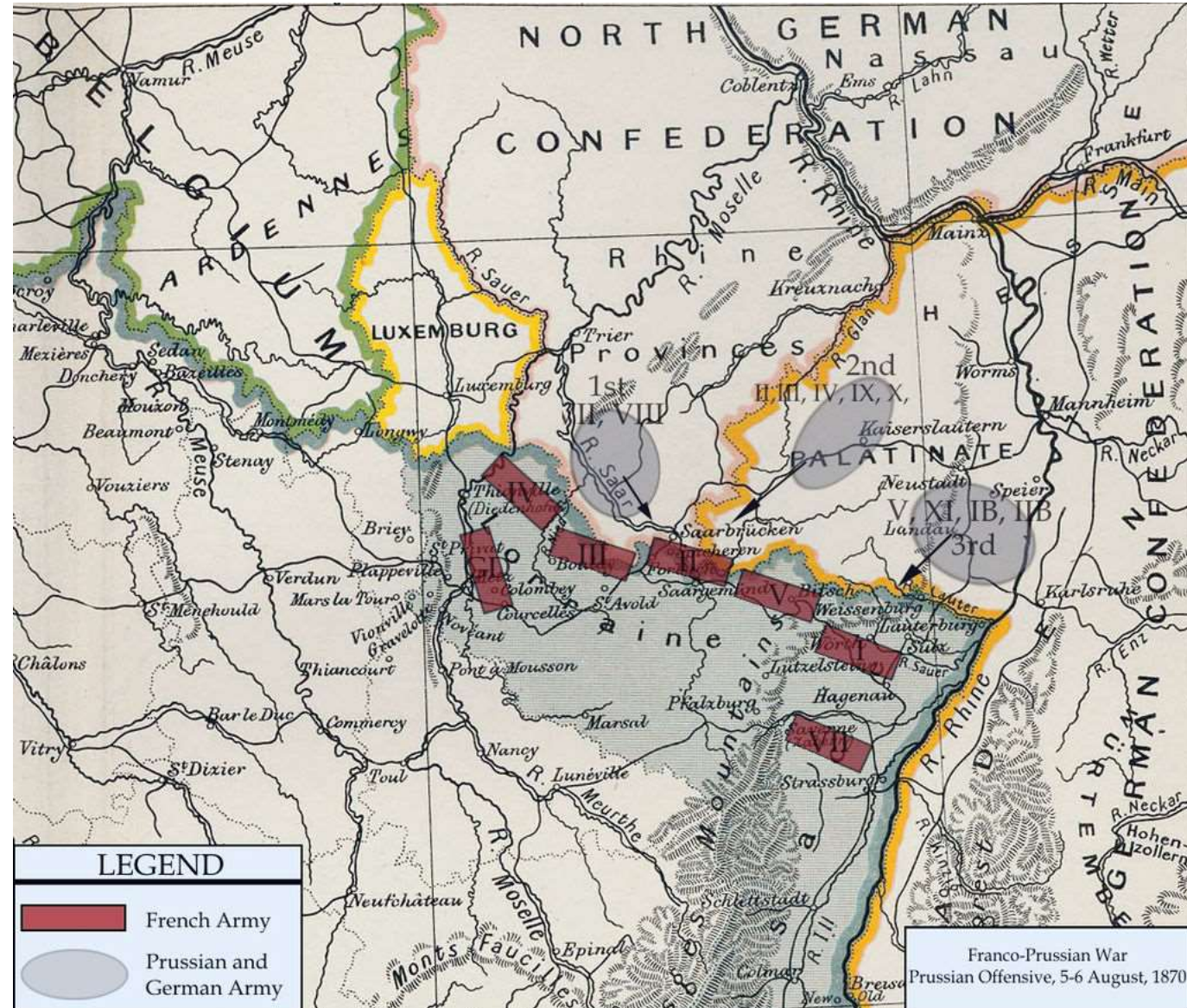
Napoleon III less than optimistic



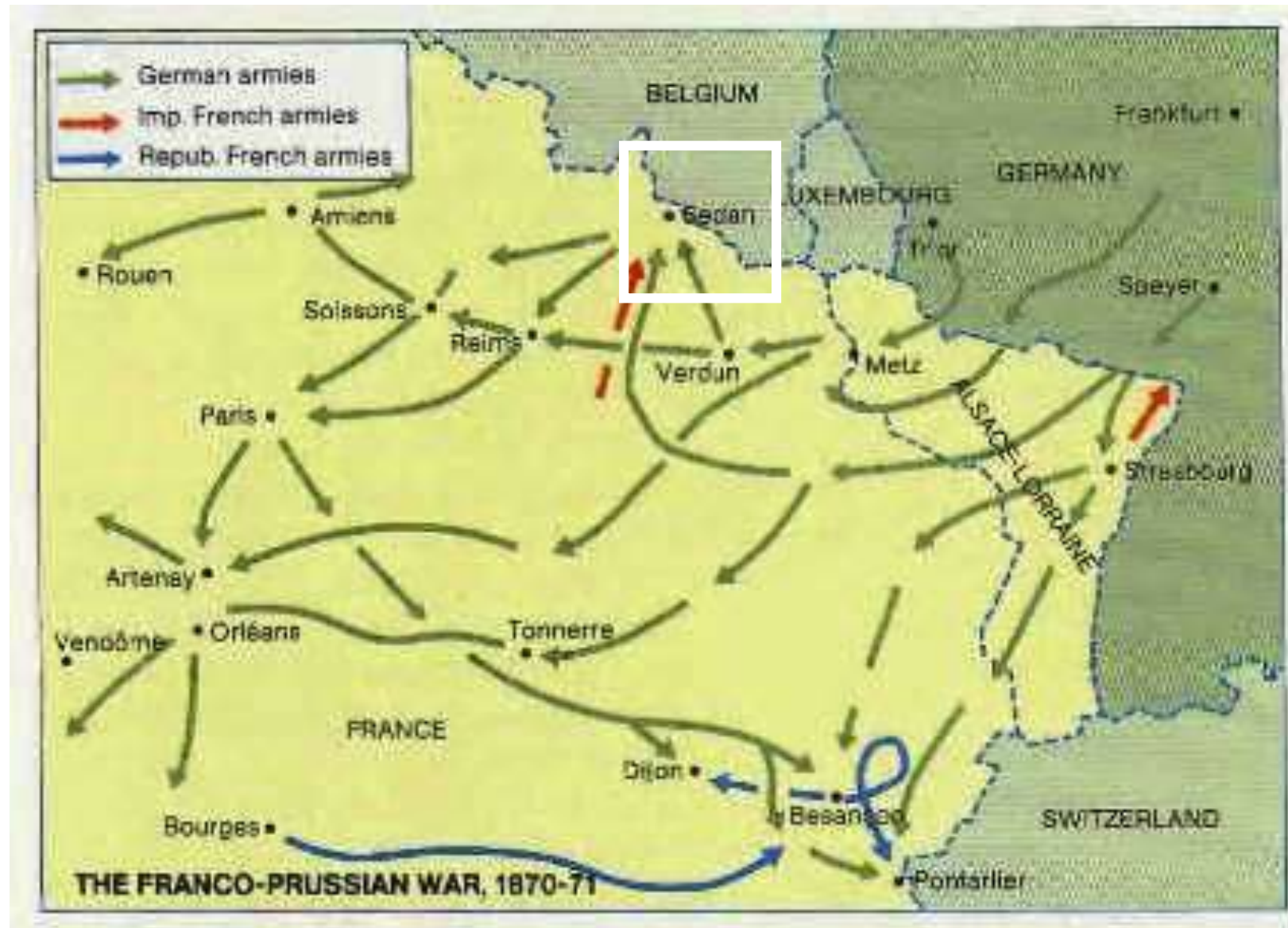
French strategy: wait-and-see



German offensive – A string of French defeats



2 September 1870: Napoleon III capitulates

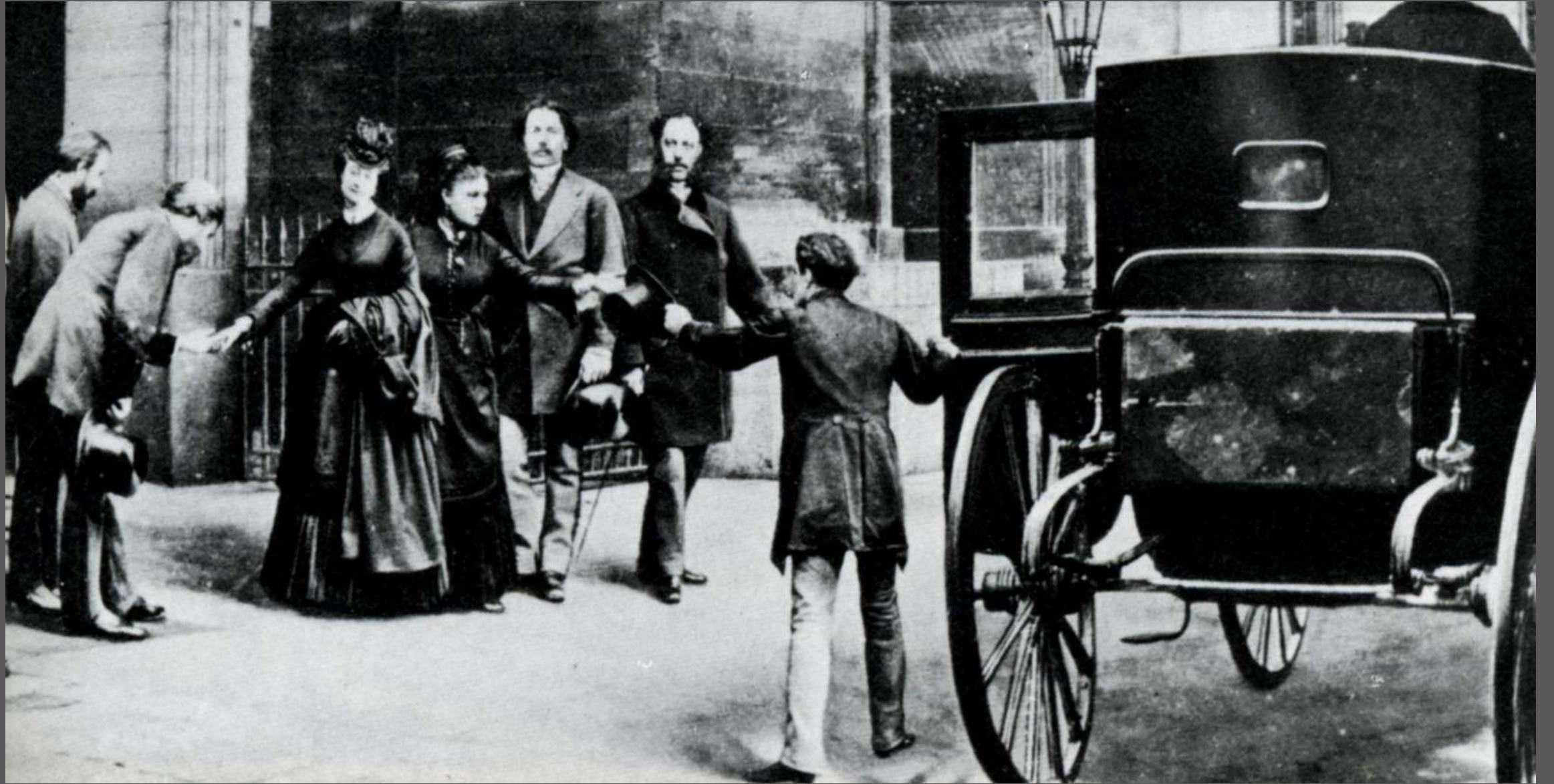




NAPOLÉON VOR KÖNIG WILHELM BEI SEDAN AM 2. SEPTEMBER 1870.

4 September 1870: proclamation of the republic





A military education

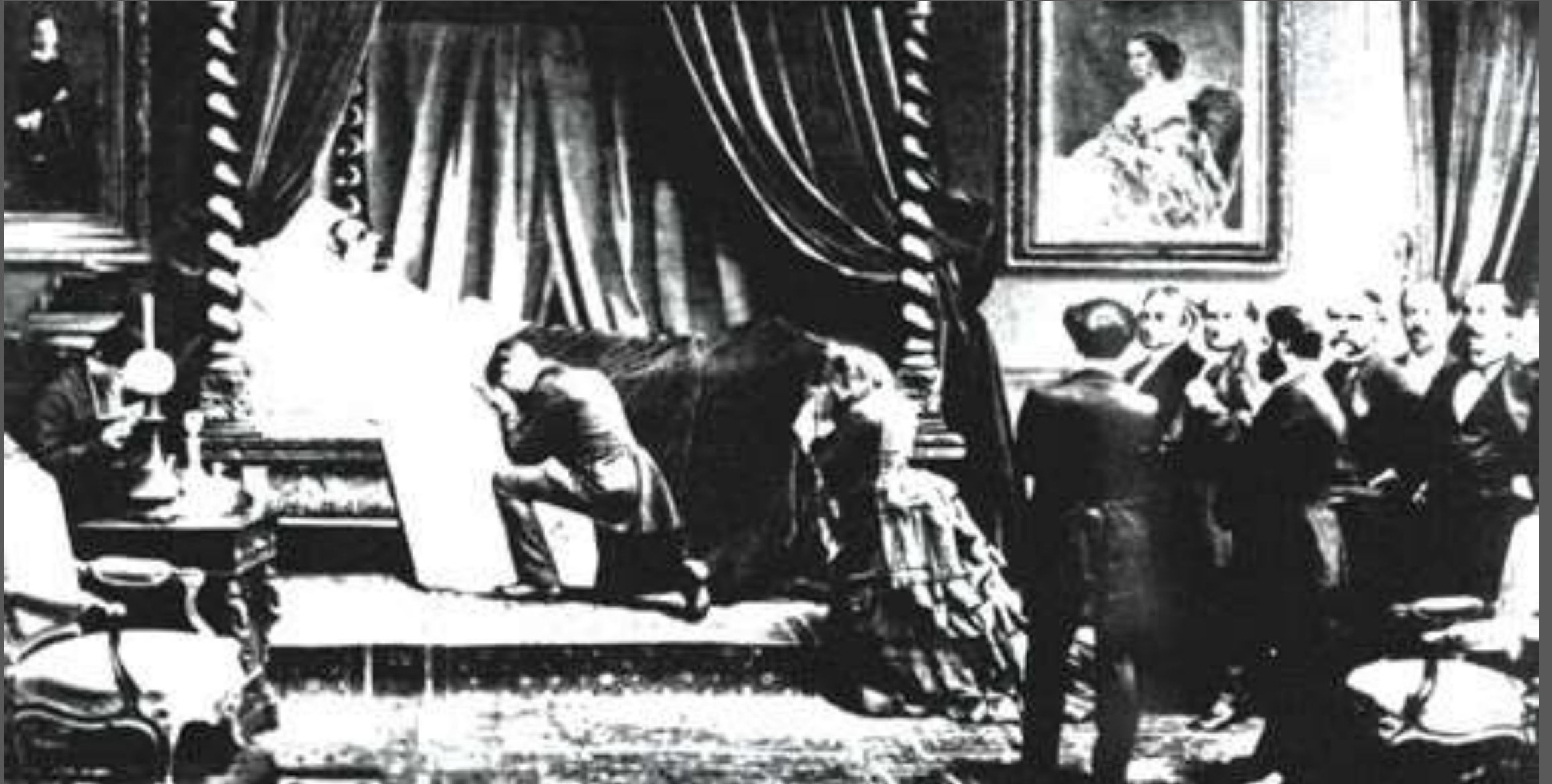






The Bonaparte dynasty declared
*“responsible for the ruin, the invasion
and dismemberment of France”*

9 January 1873: the death of Napoleon III – Eugène Louis Napoleon: the head of the Bonaparte family



Military education at the prestigious Academy of Woolwich







Villa Cynos





Why such hatred towards Napoleon III?



Victor Hugo: *Napoleon the Little*



The *coup d'état* (1851): Louis-Napoleon violated the Constitution he had pledged to defend



A lavish Court life

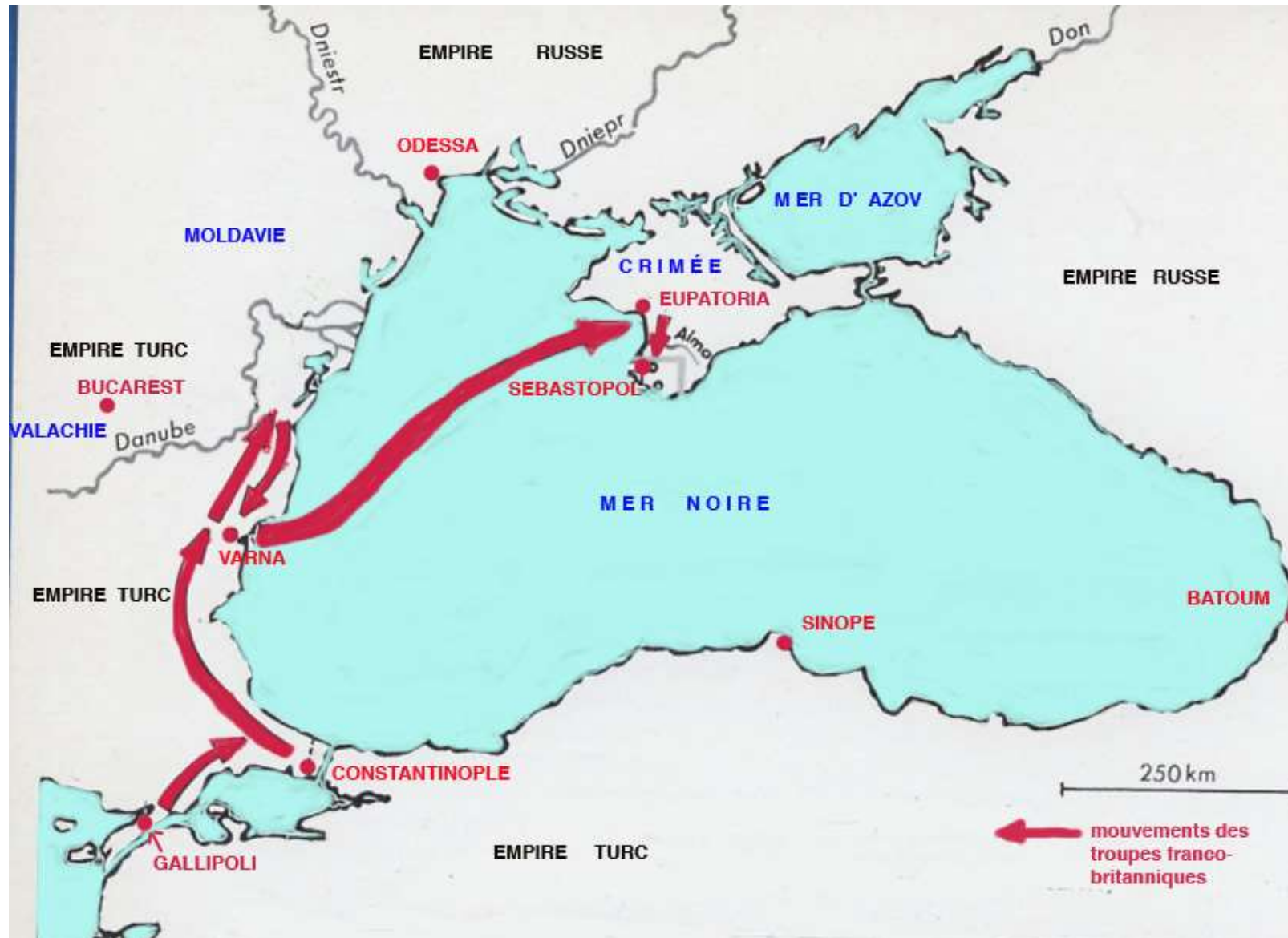


An **ambitious foreign policy**: to make France the dominant power in Europe once again

Major mistakes



The Crimean War (1853-1856): 100 000 killed in 3 years



The unification of Italy against the Pope's will – Catholic opposition to Napoleon III



The Mexican expedition (1863-1867): a disaster



2 September 1870: “*So disastrous a capitulation*” (Napoleon III to Empress Eugénie)



The loss of Alsace-Lorraine – War indemnity/Occupation of Northern France



18 January 1871: the proclamation of the German Empire at Versailles – A major humiliation





1860: **free trade**
agreement with Great
Britain

Business world against
free trade

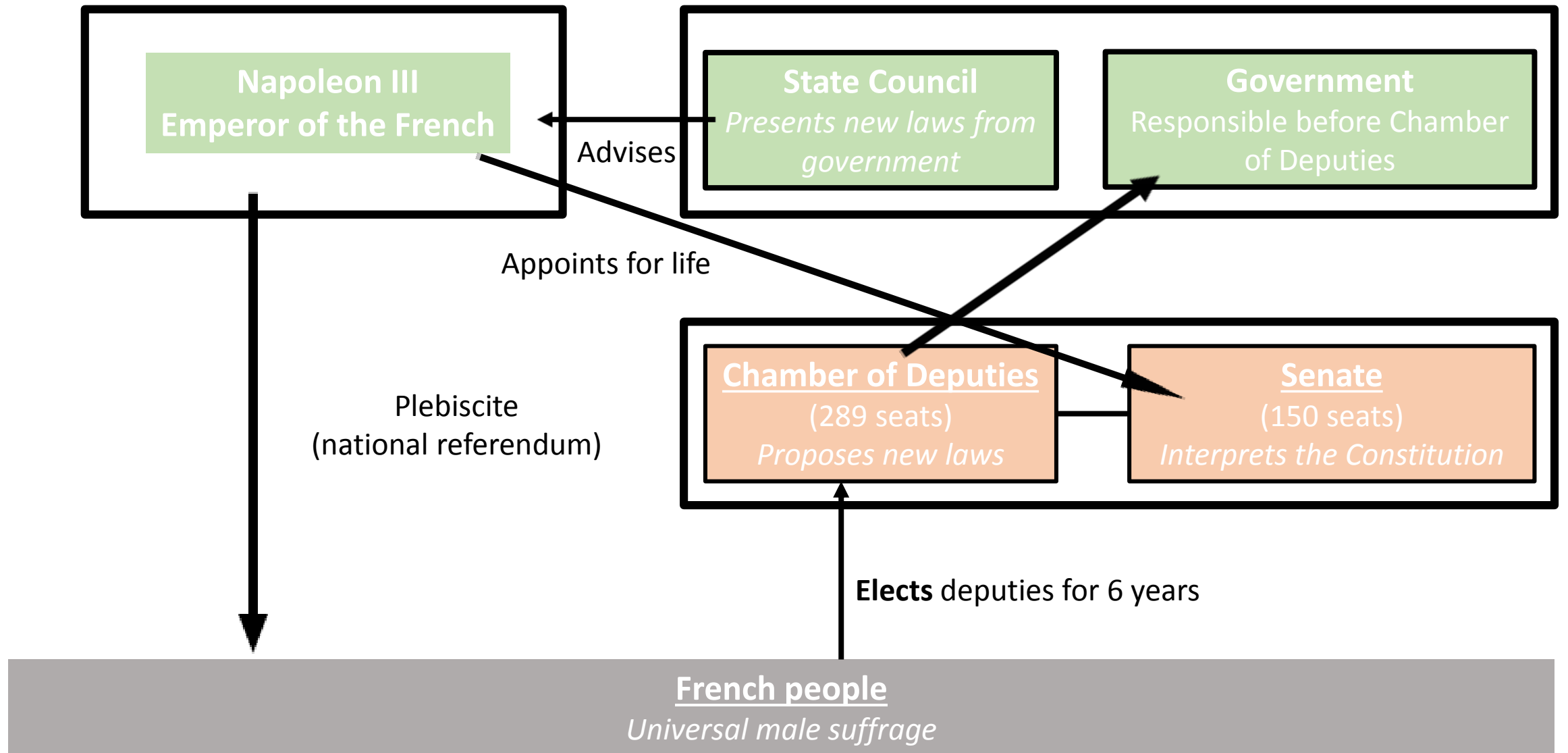
More powers to
parliament

Freedom of the press

The Second Empire: **training in democracy** – Repeated elections and national plebiscites



Les élections de Paris du 22 novembre. — Les cafés. — Addition des votes des scrutins.



The Constitutions of 1870 & 1958: striking similarities





1. A Europe of nations
2. Free trade
3. National referendum
4. Colonial policies: association vs. assimilation



Should Napoleon III's remains be brought back to France?

