

THE CLASS STRUGGLE

Vol. II MAY—JUNE, 1918 No. 3

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The Divine Right of the Hohenzollern

By KARL MARX

Introduction by FRANZ MEHRING

The following article was originally published in "The People's Paper," a Chartist organ, on December 13, 1856, where it was discovered by Comrade Rjazanoff. It deals with the "Neuenburg Question," one of the serio-comic incidents by which the Prussia of Frederick William IV. and his romantic reactionaries used to amuse all Europe. To-day the matter has been forgotten, therefore a few words of explanation are necessary to understand the article of Marx:

The manner in which Neuenburg came under the sway of the Hohenzollern is pictured by Marx perfectly. As far back as the time of the Burgundian Kingdom, the little country had its own ruler, and was recognized by Switzerland, but had neither voice nor vote in the Swiss assembly. When, after many changes, its feudal dynasty died out in the year 1707, there appeared fourteen claimants, among them the King of France and the King of Prussia. The latter was supported by England and Holland in view of their intense opposition to the hegemony of Louis XIV., and he was equally supported by the Swiss Cantons as a neighbor who was not dangerous; the result was decided by the feudal ruling class of Neuenburg for