

Dear Prof. Gordon,

Hamerow describes the Frankfurt Parliament as being in a never-never land. To the gentlemen in the Parliament, the peasants and workers rioting in the streets and countryside were the rabble, not realizing that in that rabble was their source of power. The peasants and workers looked to the Parliament for leadership and got nothing, and when that happened it was only a matter of time before the reaction set in. My point is: whether we like it or not, today's students are tomorrow's leaders, and the best that our educational system can do is prepare them as best it can. Many of these students have issues which affect their academic performance. It's up to the teachers, more than anyone else, to work with these students to instill those values that promote good leadership based on the principle of the public good. Social promotions notwithstanding, each teacher has to decide whether he or she wants to make that commitment to their students. If the liberals in the Frankfurt Parliament had been willing to make a similar commitment to the peasants and workers, there would have been a United States of Germany and not a German Empire, and maybe some of the international problems that subsequently led to war may have been avoided.

Phil

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