

A painting of a busy European street scene from the 17th or 18th century. In the foreground, a young child with a serious expression stands with hands clasped, wearing a brown tunic and a white apron. The background is filled with a crowd of people, including women in long dresses and shawls, and men in various attire. The street is paved with cobblestones, and the buildings are made of stone and brick. The overall tone is historical and detailed.

Women In European History 1700-1815

Basic Rights of Women 1700-1815

- No woman had suffrage yet; there was no universal suffrage in any country.
- Women were still thought of as the lesser sex.
- They were the head of the home, but that is all that they were.
- They made sure that the children learned the rules and values of the household.
- The women worked in the household, mostly contributing to industry.

DÉCLARATION DES DROITS DE LA FEMME ET DE LA CITOYENNE,

*'A décréter par l'Assemblée nationale dans
ses dernières séances ou dans celle de
la prochaine législature.*

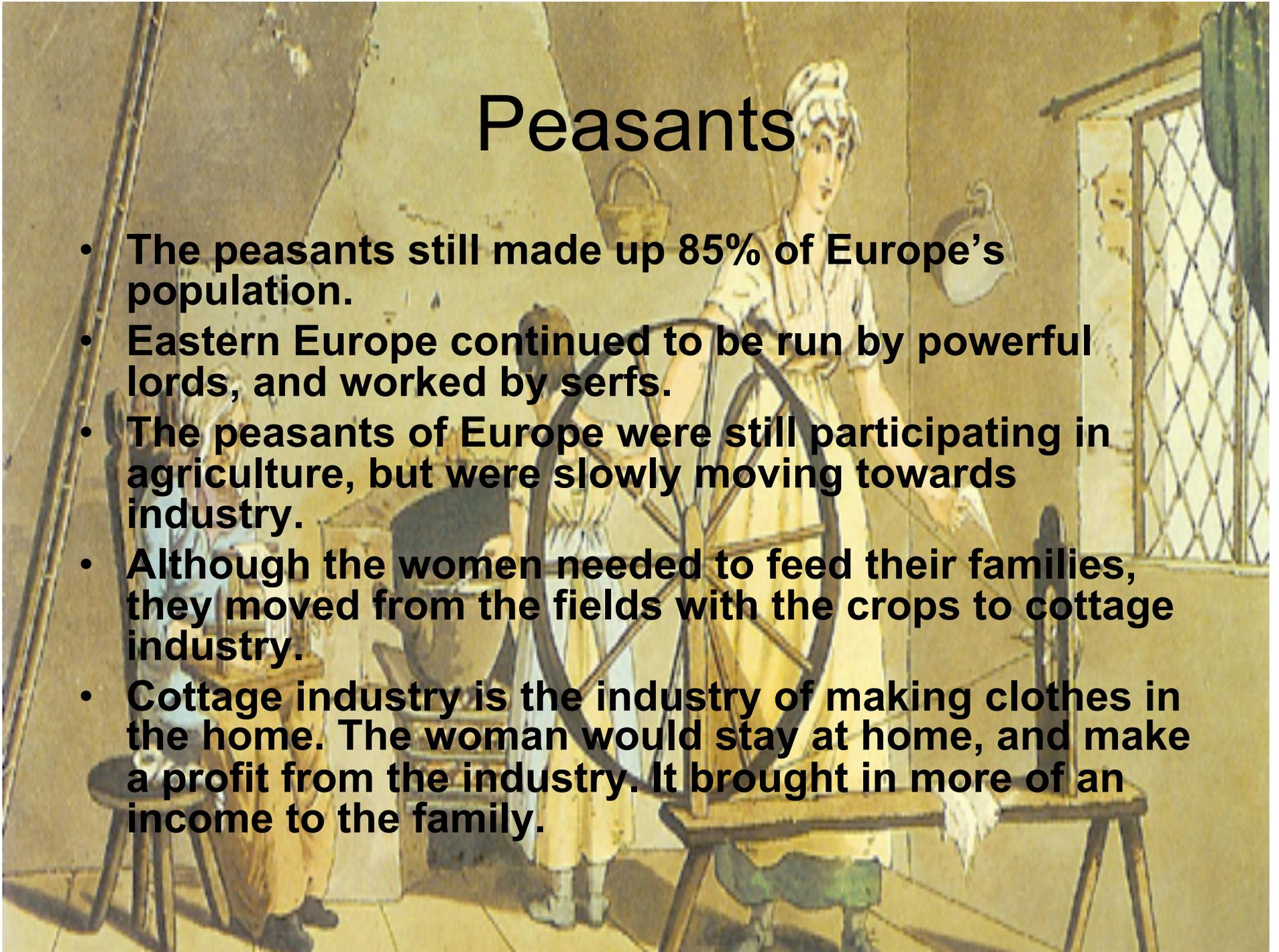
P R É A M B U L E.

Les mères, les filles, les soeurs, représentantes de la nation, demandent d'être constituées en assemblée nationale. Considérant que l'ignorance, l'oubli ou le mépris des droits de la femme, sont les seules causes des malheurs publics et de la corruption des gouvernements, ont résolu d'exposer dans une déclaration solennelle, les droits naturels, inaliénables et sacrés de la femme, afin que cette déclaration, constamment présente à tous les membres du corps social, leur rappelle sans cesse leurs droits et leurs devoirs, afin que les actes du pouvoir des femmes, et ceux du pouvoir des hommes pouvant être à chaque instant comparés avec le but de toute institution politique, en soient plus respectés, afin que les réclamations des citoyennes, fondées désormais sur des principes simples et incontestables, tournent toujours au maintien de la constitution, des bonnes moeurs, et au bonheur de tous.

En conséquence, le sexe supérieur en beauté comme en courage, dans les souffrances maternelles, reconnaît et déclare, en présence

Peasants

- The peasants still made up 85% of Europe's population.
- Eastern Europe continued to be run by powerful lords, and worked by serfs.
- The peasants of Europe were still participating in agriculture, but were slowly moving towards industry.
- Although the women needed to feed their families, they moved from the fields with the crops to cottage industry.
- Cottage industry is the industry of making clothes in the home. The woman would stay at home, and make a profit from the industry. It brought in more of an income to the family.



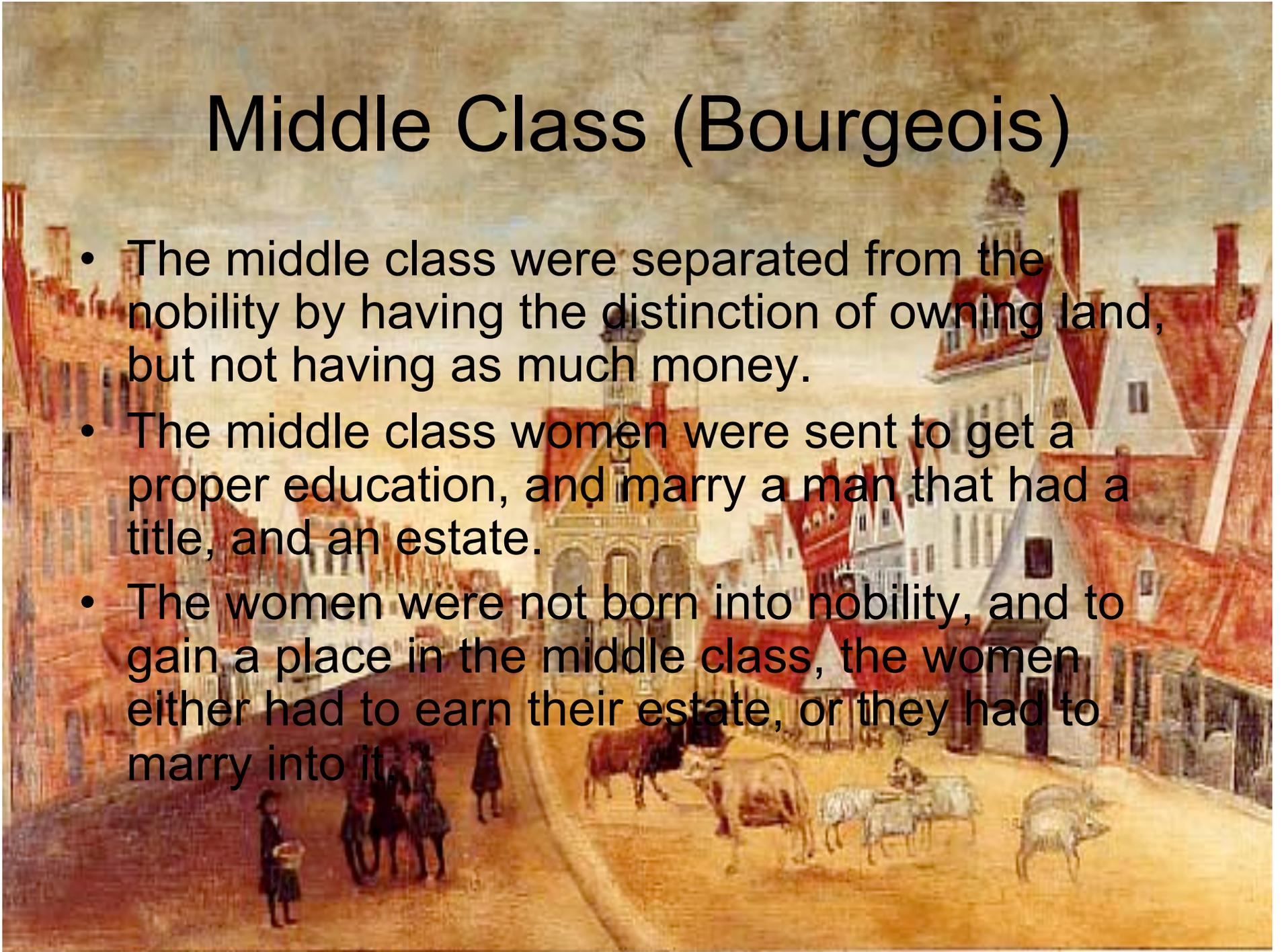
Peasants (cont)



- The peasant women of the century were the main provider of food for their families.
- Some still had obligations to land owners.
- Although the education system was improving, many woman did not have a proper education, and could not do much more than manual labor.

Middle Class (Bourgeois)

- The middle class were separated from the nobility by having the distinction of owning land, but not having as much money.
- The middle class women were sent to get a proper education, and marry a man that had a title, and an estate.
- The women were not born into nobility, and to gain a place in the middle class, the women either had to earn their estate, or they had to marry into it.



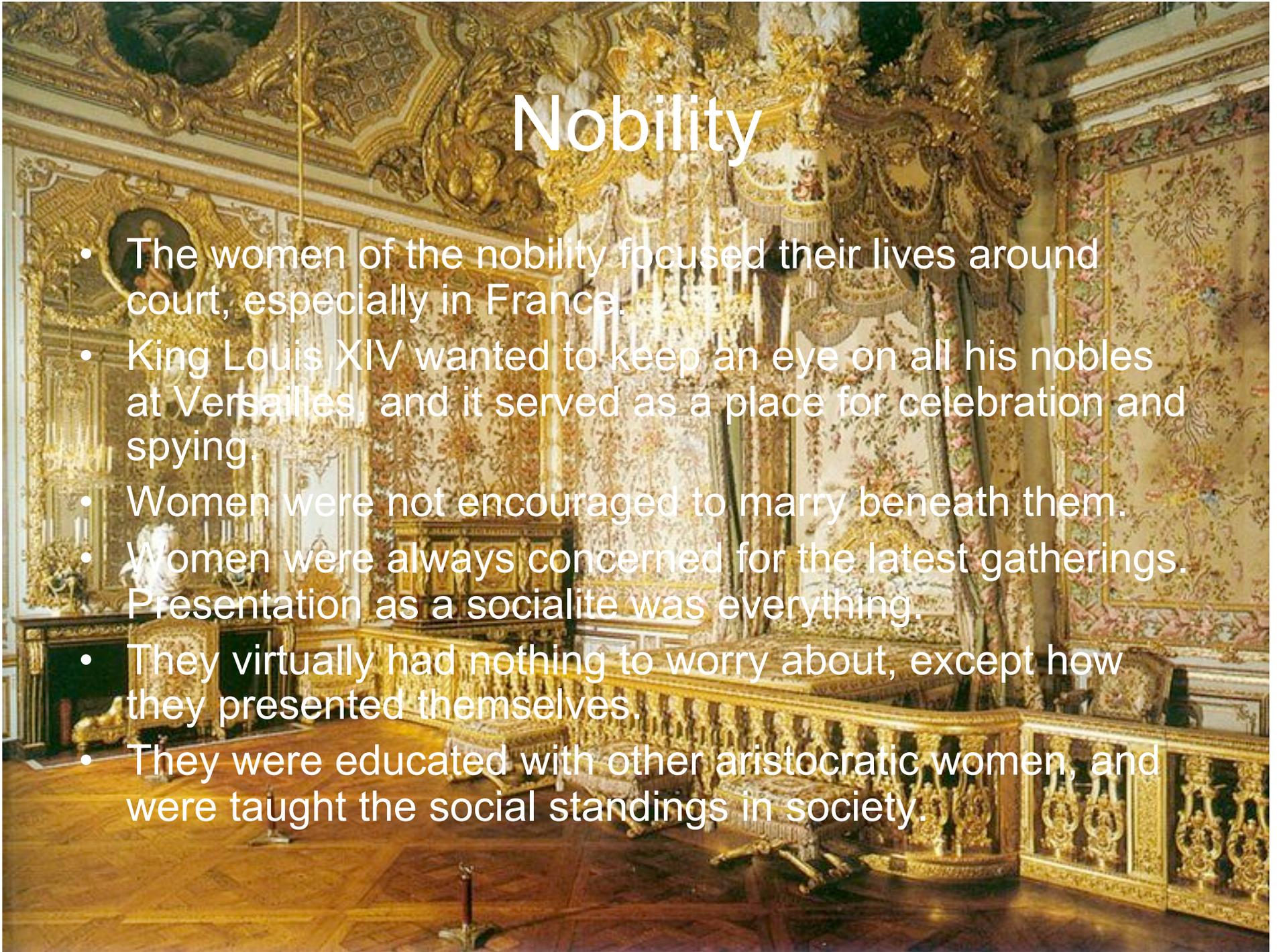
Middle Class (cont)



- Some of the women that accounted for the middle class had minimal power, and they began to be treated better.
- Many became esteemed authors.
- This shift in the power of women helped pave the way for the suffragettes of later years.

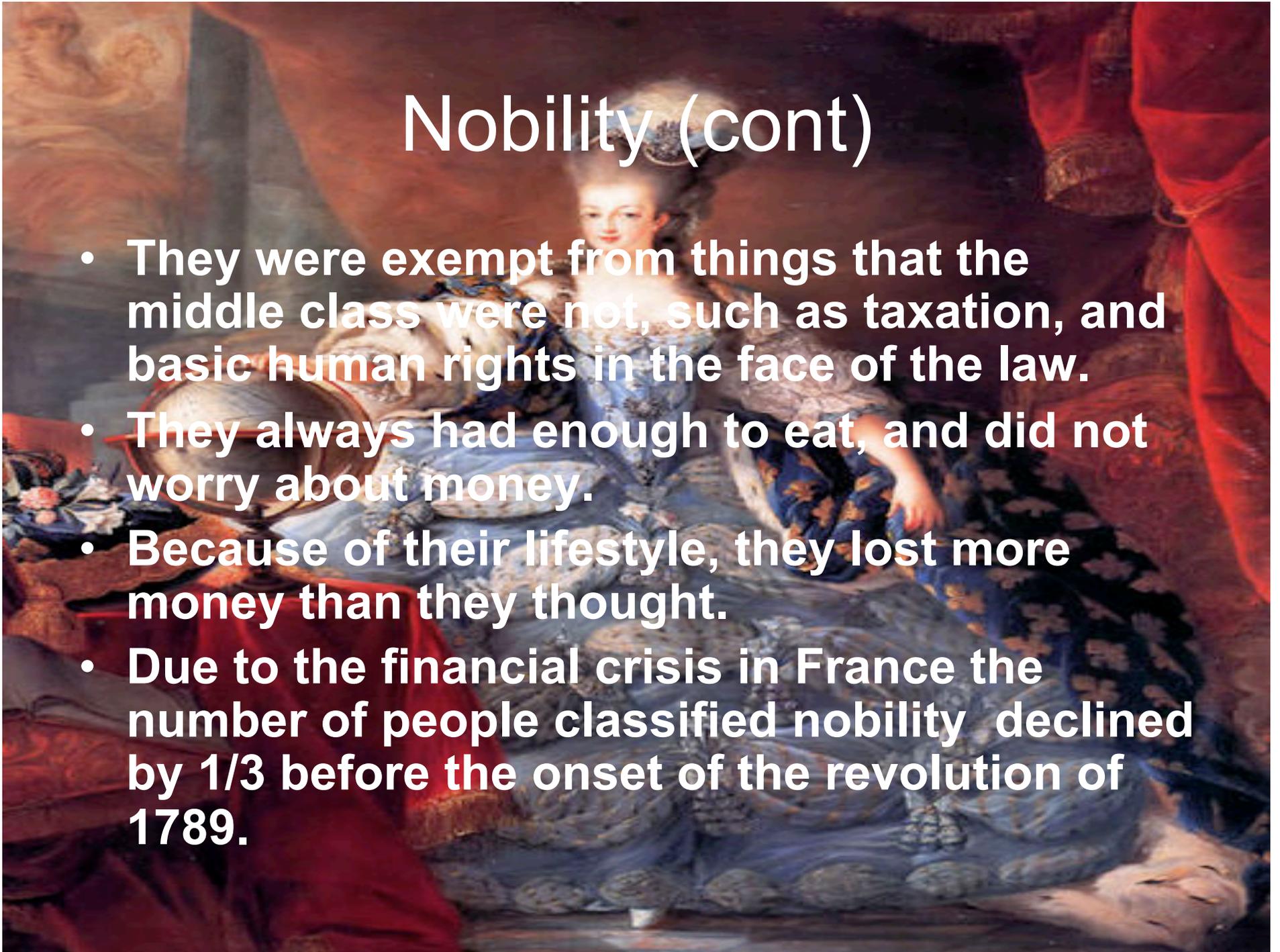
Nobility

- The women of the nobility focused their lives around court, especially in France.
- King Louis XIV wanted to keep an eye on all his nobles at Versailles, and it served as a place for celebration and spying.
- Women were not encouraged to marry beneath them.
- Women were always concerned for the latest gatherings. Presentation as a socialite was everything.
- They virtually had nothing to worry about, except how they presented themselves.
- They were educated with other aristocratic women, and were taught the social standings in society.



Nobility (cont)

- They were exempt from things that the middle class were not, such as taxation, and basic human rights in the face of the law.
- They always had enough to eat, and did not worry about money.
- Because of their lifestyle, they lost more money than they thought.
- Due to the financial crisis in France the number of people classified nobility declined by 1/3 before the onset of the revolution of 1789.



Notable Women 1700-1815

Maria Theresa of Austria

- 1717-1780
- Reigned from 1740-1780
- Maria's reforms included:
- Centralized tax collections
- Reorganized administrative offices.
- Tripled size of army
- Opened military academy.
- Opened primary education.
- Outlawed torture and capital punishment.
- Reduced obligations of serfs.
- Tried to regain Silesia, but failed.
- Formed an alliance with France to strengthen their position against Prussia, by having her daughter Marie Antoinette marry the dauphin of France.



Catherine the Great of Russia

- **German born Princess, married Peter III, and seized power after her husband was taken out of power.**
- **Brought educational reform to Russia.**
- **Promoted woman's rights and religious tolerance.**
- **Wanted to create the image of a philosopher on the throne, enlightened absolutism.**
- **Gained land from the Russo-Turkish War.**
- **Carried a leading role in the Partitions of Poland.**



Mary Wollstonecraft

- **1759-1797**
- **Was a British writer, and feminist.**
- **Is best known for A Vindication of the Rights of Woman in 1792.**
- **She argued that women are not inferior to men, they only lack proper education.**
- **She called for a social order founded on reason.**
- **Paved the way for more woman authors, most notably, her daughter, Mary Shelly (Frankenstein)**



Olympe De Gouges

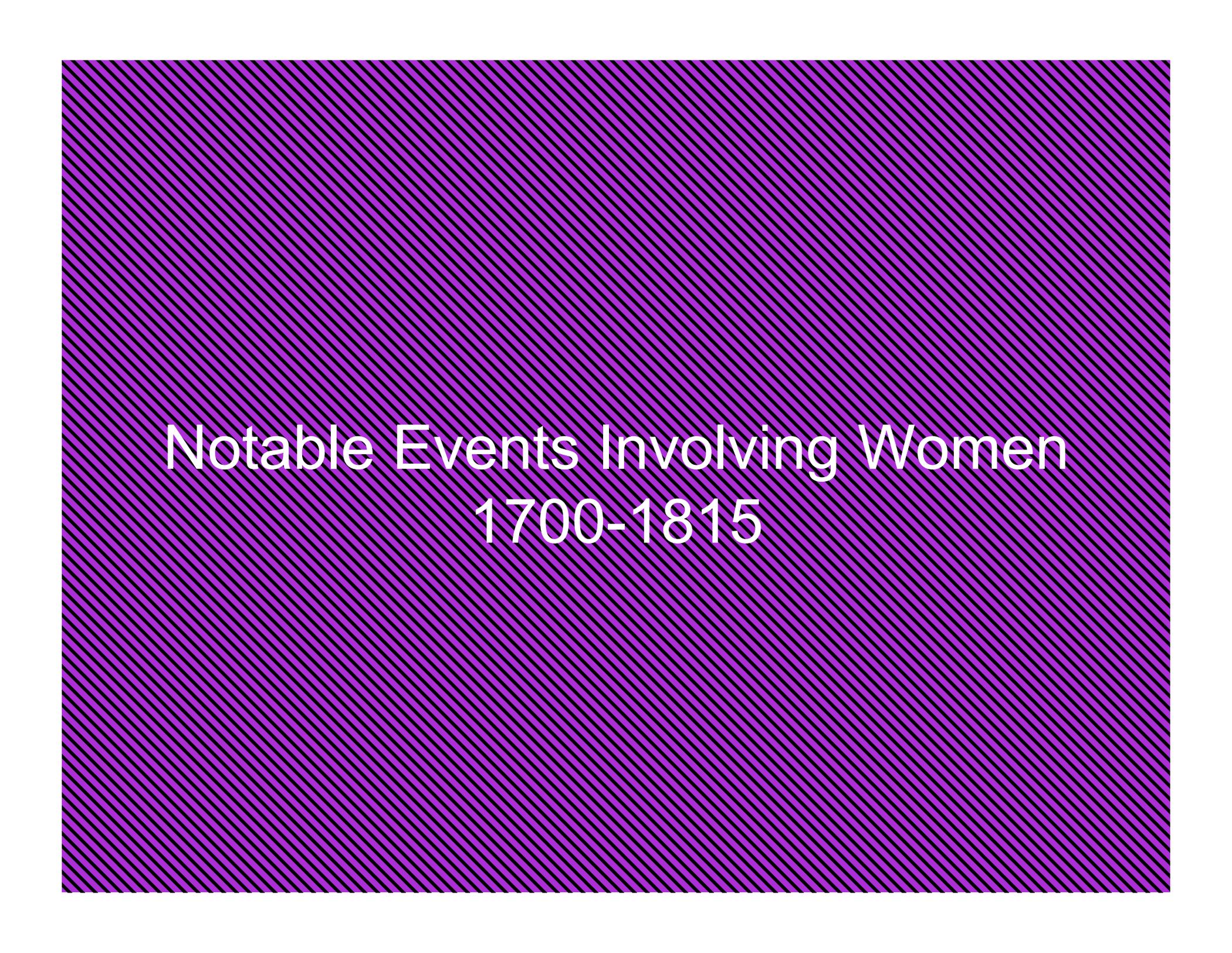
- 1748-1793
- A writer and political activist.
- Wrote the Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen in 1791.
- Was simply a revision of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.
- Called to include women as free and equal.
- Also included that men and women were free in marriage.
- Challenged the notion of male authority.
- Executed for her opposition to Robespierre, and her close relationship with the Girondists during the Reign of Terror.



Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire

- **1757-1806**
- **Was a celebrated socialite.**
- **A Whig, who was an active political campaigner, although women's suffrage was over a century away.**

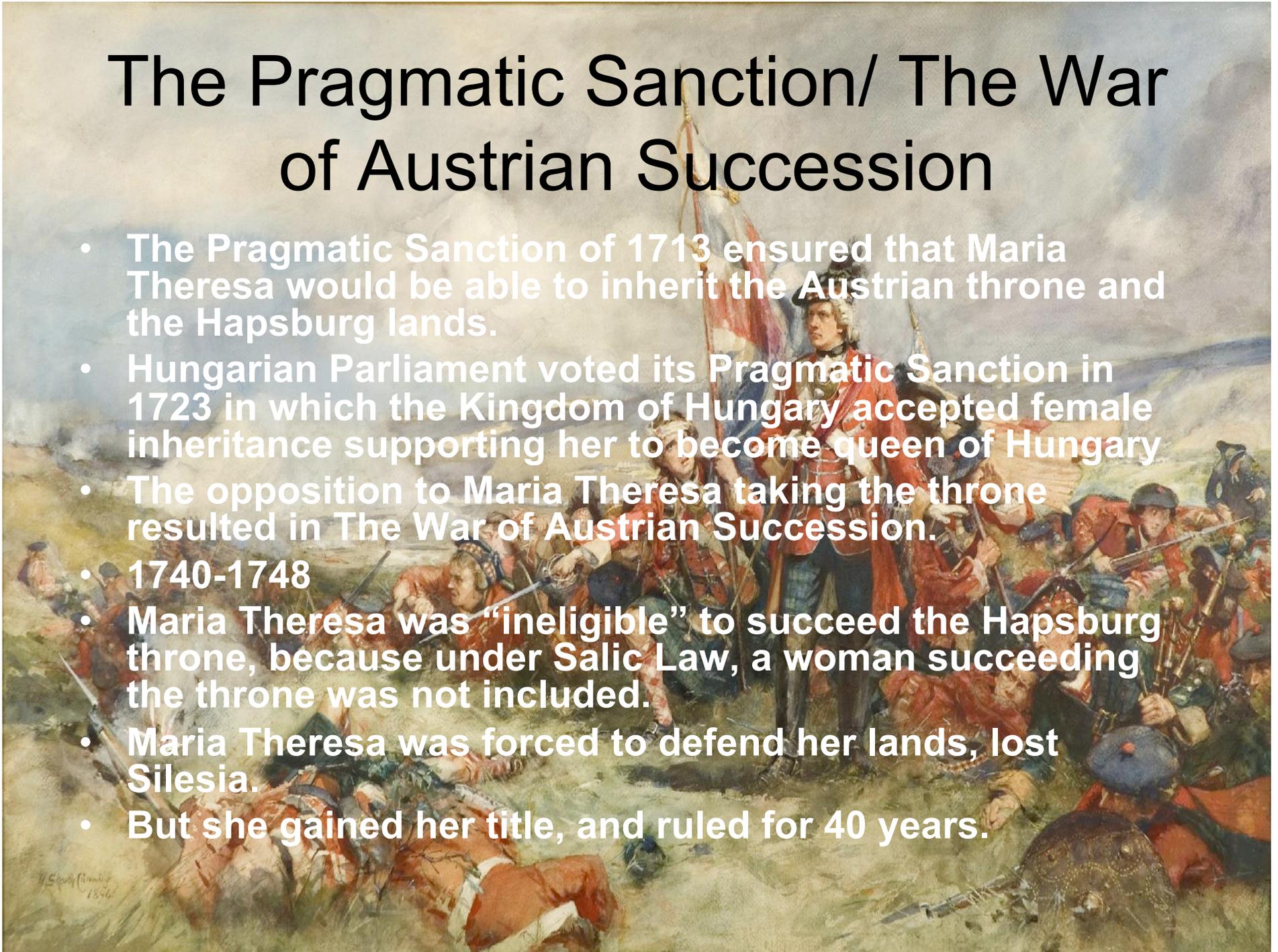


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Notable Events Involving Women 1700-1815

The Pragmatic Sanction/ The War of Austrian Succession

- The Pragmatic Sanction of 1713 ensured that Maria Theresa would be able to inherit the Austrian throne and the Hapsburg lands.
- Hungarian Parliament voted its Pragmatic Sanction in 1723 in which the Kingdom of Hungary accepted female inheritance supporting her to become queen of Hungary
- The opposition to Maria Theresa taking the throne resulted in The War of Austrian Succession.
- 1740-1748
- Maria Theresa was “ineligible” to succeed the Hapsburg throne, because under Salic Law, a woman succeeding the throne was not included.
- Maria Theresa was forced to defend her lands, lost Silesia.
- But she gained her title, and ruled for 40 years.



Women's Bread March on Versailles

- **October 5, 1789**
- **They blamed Marie Antoinette for their food misfortune.**
- **The women marched to Versailles rallying and petitioning for the food they didn't have and could not feed their families.**
- **There was still a bread shortage, and the prices were still very high.**
- **There had been rumors that the nobility were hoarding the grain in France.**

Women's Petition to the National Assembly

- Petition produced during the French Revolution
- Presented to the French National Assembly, in November 1789.
- Proposed to give women equality.
- Provided 6 pages of women's contributions, and addressed gender roles.
- Was written as follows:
- "The National Assembly, wishing to reform the greatest and most universal of abuses, and to repair the wrongs of a six-thousand-year long injustice, has decreed and decrees as follows:"
- 1. Abolishment of male privilege throughout France.
- 2. Equal liberty, advantages, rights, and honors between the sexes.
- 3. Equal nobleness between the genders and sexes including grammatically.
- 4. The end of clauses stating "the wife is authorized by her husband" because there should be equality within the household.
- 5. Right for all to wear breeches.
- 6. End of degrading soldiers by having them wear women's clothing and instead be punished by declaring his gender neuter.
- 7. Admittance of the feminine sex to the district and departmental assemblies and "elevated to municipal responsibilities and even as deputies to the National Assembly." The consultative and deliberative voices of women.
- 8. Appointment of the feminine sex as Magistrates.
- 9. The same applies to all positions, compensations, and military dignities.
- 10. Entrance of the feminine sex into the sanctuary.