



# THE DUKE GRANTS AN AUDIENCE

planning game

KLASSIK  
STIFTUNG  
WEIMAR

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planning game  
**THE DUKE  
GRANTS AN  
AUDIENCE**

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HERZOG DUKE



Herzog Carl August (1757-1828)  
*Duke Carl August*



! You are the DUKE's interest group!

● While the other groups prepare themselves for the role they play, you develop a five-point rescue plan for your territory!

Present your Master Plan and begin with the words "My plan is ..."

#### TIP

- ▲ Think about which means you may use as a DUKE to make the different social classes identify themselves more strongly with the duchy of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach!
- ▲ As the DUKE, what could you do to make the people (regardless which social class) enjoy living in your duchy?
- ▲ When you portray the DUKE, you should primarily accept cost neutral or low-cost demands!
- ▲ During the game, consider which of the demands could benefit you. Whatever you do, you and your territory must profit!

# DUKE

## SOCIAL POSITION



- Regent of the duchy of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach beginning in 1775
- Feudal ruler (duke)
- Commander in Chief of the Weimar army
- Prussian General/ military leader beginning in 1787



REGENT  
(Duke)

COURT and  
STATE OFFICES

NOBILITY  
Estates of the country,  
noble feudal lords,  
cities independent of parliament

BOURGEOISIE  
Citizens, craftsmen, merchants, peasants  
(subjects entitled to rights)

Sub-Bourgeois Classes  
Servants, day-labourers, domestics

# DUKE

## FINANCIAL SITUATION



- the duke's treasury is depleted (the debt situation is stifling)
- the palace has burnt down (extremely difficult financial situation, livelihood is at stake)
  - ▲ he knows that he must find financial resources due to the economic redistribution, in order to fill his treasury and pay state debts
- spends lots of money on his special passion: hunting

Carl August at the hunt



# DUKE CHARACTERISTICS



- educated by Christoph Martin Wieland in the spirit of the Enlightenment  
*“One must teach him to think well, act well, react well. He must become accustomed to thinking well ...”* Wieland
- educated in literature and art
  - ▲ strong personal relationship to literature, art and theatre
  - ▲ supporter of bourgeois culture and science
- progressive thinker  
(wanted to reign for the good of the people)
- willing to make compromises
- ambitious

Christoph Martin Wieland



# PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS



■ 1750	a good meal	1 ½ Gr.
■ End of 1780's	2 furnished rooms and board per year	20 Carolin*
■ Around 1797	10-12 lbs. pork	1 Taler
	12-14 lbs. beef	1 Taler
	18-20 lbs. veal	1 Taler
	12-14 pigeons	1 Taler
	1 chicken	2-3 Groschen
	1 bread loaf (3 lbs.)	1 Groschen
■ End of 18 <sup>th</sup> century	25 lbs. of bread	1 Taler
	2 lbs. of tobacco	1 Taler
	½ lb. of tea	1 Taler
	2 bottles of Champagne	1 Taler
	1 tailored suit	20 Taler



1 Taler, silver

## ▲ Conversion:

1 Groschen = about 12 Pfennige

20 Carolin\* = about 100-120 Taler

1 Carolin = about 6 Taler

1 Taler = about 24 Groschen



2 Pfennig, copper

\*Pfennig = penny; Groschen = groat; Taler is an old German (Austrian and Swiss) silver coin; Carolin is a more valuable coin.



ADEL NOBILITY

Jakob Friedrich Freiherr von Fritsch (1731-1814)  
*Jakob Friedrich Baron von Fritsch*



You are the NOBILITY's interest group!

Choose demands and arguments that you want to present to the DUKE in order to improve the situation of your social class!



# NOBILITY

## SOCIAL POSITION

- ruling class in feudalism:  
defence and representation of the state  
internally and externally
- enjoys privileges and has duties to perform,  
for example when assuming offices
  - ▲ exempted from military duty and to a certain  
extent from taxes and fees
  - ▲ legal privileges due to class
  - ▲ has access to the highest and most lucrative  
court and state offices

*„The dividing wall between nobility  
and bourgeoisie that I found in Weimar  
greatly displeased me.”* Prof. Karl Morgenstern 1798  
(1770-1852)



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Servants, day-labourers, domestics

# NOBILITY

## FINANCIAL SITUATION

- secure, high income  
(from court and state offices)
- financially well off/supported by the duke
- BUT! dependent upon tax revenues

Round table room in the Wittumspalais



# NOBILITY

## CHARACTERISTICS

- actions and decisions are possible within the limits of their social standing
  - ▲ relationship in Weimar between the rulers and the ruled = „*strange mixture of paternalism and caretaking*“
- well-situated lifestyle appropriate to their standing
- boredom
  - ▲ search for entertainment and distraction
- preferences: conversation, card games, hunting, formal balls and literature

Sternbrücke (Star Bridge) and palace facade in the Weimar Park



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*Friedrich Justin Bertuch (1747-1822)*

KAUFLEUTE  
MERCHANTS



You are the MERCHANTS' interest group!

Choose demands and arguments that you want to present to the DUKE in order to improve the situation of your social class!



# MERCHANTS

## SOCIAL POSITION



- the merchants belong to the bourgeoisie
- there are very few merchants (1820: **8,673** inhabitants in Weimar)
  - ▲ **38 (!)** merchants, of which the fewest are bourgeois, but rather for the most part belong to the petite bourgeoisie

*“Of the (...) people who live in the city, by far the largest number is a race of petite bourgeois Philistines, who display neither the refinement of a court city nor any sort of wealth.”* Unknown author



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# MERCHANTS

## FINANCIAL SITUATION



- lack of capital/low profits
  - ▲ trade largely takes place at the local market (foreign merchants are only allowed to attend the two annual markets), for the daily needs of the court, the bourgeois and the inhabitants of nearby villages
- very little long-distance trade (modest amount)
- Income:



1 Taler, silver

up to 100 Taler	4	} 13%
101 - 150 Taler	1	
151 - 200 Taler	1	} 69%
201 - 300 Taler	5	
301 - 400 Taler	6	
401 - 500 Taler	7	
501 - 600 Taler	7	
601 - 700 Taler	-	} 18%
701 - 800 Taler	2	
801 - 900 Taler	5	

- the merchants' wealth are limited, only five of the 38 merchants enjoyed "*profitable wealth*"
- the merchant Friedrich Justin Bertuch is an exception, whose income in his Landes-Industrie-Comptoir (publisher for craftsmens' products) amounted to 6.000 Taler

# MERCHANTS

## CHARACTERISTICS



- the merchants' situation is difficult
- the city of Weimar is located far away from the east-westward and north-southward routes through Thuringia and untouched by any significant thoroughfare
  - ▲ Weimar is unimportant for trade
  - ▲ around 1770 *"the way from Erfurt to Weimar is very bad"* (= very poor quality road)
- countless customs barriers prevent the exchange of goods between states



View of the city of Weimar

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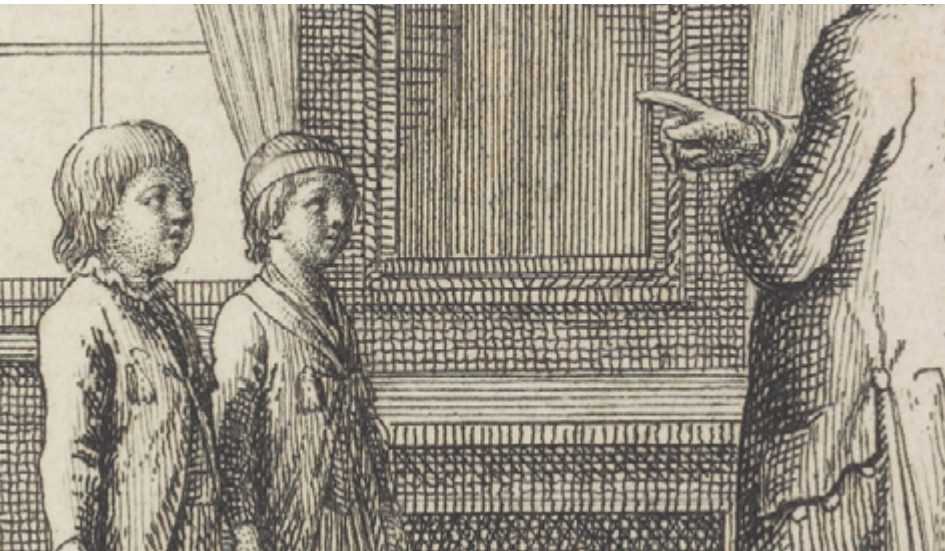
LEHRER | TEACHERS

*Der Unterricht*  
*Teaching*



You are the TEACHERS' interest group!

Choose demands and arguments that you want to present to the DUKE in order to improve the situation of your social class!



# TEACHERS

## SOCIAL POSITION



- Teachers who work at schools (provide very elementary lessons, often with one classroom for many age groups) for the lower classes also belong to the lower class themselves

*“Their reputation was so poor that a Gymnasium (high school) teacher in Weimar [...] ranked below the chamber servants and riding servants.”*

- ▲ also the teachers at schools of higher education belong to the servants’ class
- Nobility and bourgeoisie could afford private teachers for their children



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# TEACHERS

## FINANCIAL SITUATION



- no regular salary
- most of the teachers are hardly able to pay for the basic necessities
  - ▲ 60% of the teachers receive between 51 and 100 Taler (school pay) or 30 Taler (per year) = income of a day labourer
- in addition, they are paid in goods
  - ▲ a log of firewood in the winter or eggs on St. Martin's Day
- other forms of pay SCHOOL MASTER MEALS: The wealthier members of the community take turns inviting the teacher to eat with them, thus teacher = „Reihumesser“ (eater in turn)
- also: payment of the “MATHS PENNY” = fee/amount paid for the children who were taught arithmetic in addition to religion and reading lessons

*“The schoolmaster could hardly live from teaching“*



Inkwell with quill

- ▲ teachers are often only able to survive because of additional income (i.e. writing letters, delivering newspapers)
- ▲ plant a garden in order to make ends meet

# TEACHERS CHARACTERISTICS



- no systematic scholarly education

- Mandatory: theology diploma

- ▲ no obligation to attend school, but going to school is common

*"When I sometimes think back on the school situation, I am amazed that I was able to bend my back under this burden for so long..."*

Winckelmann 1757

- ▲ Schedule of the Weimar Spinning and Knitting School for poor soldiers' children:

*26 hours (weekly):*

**20h** Reading and explanation of the gospel, bible history, repetition of the sermon, recitation of motivating sayings, verses and psalms

**2h** Latin

**4h** Arithmetic and writing

Riddle alphabet



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Bauern bei einem Fasse  
*Peasants at a barrel*

BAUERN PEASANTS



You are the PEASANTS' interest group!

Choose demands and arguments that you want to present to the DUKE in order to improve the situation of your social class!



# PEASANTS

## SOCIAL POSITION



- Peasants = social class that works hard and is “*in raw ignorance*”
- Duchy of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach  
63% of the population are peasants
- Agriculture important source of income for the bourgeoisie
- Trift-, Hut- and Fronwesen are the predominating kinds of services
  - ▲ 750 names of the various services exists: horse-, hand-, building-, hunting-, firewood-service etc.



Peasant boy with firewood

TRIFT/TRIFTEN = the sheep of the landlord had the first right to be herded over the property of the peasants

HUT = derived from *hüten* (to herd): the peasants' property had to be made available for herding the landlord's herds

FRON = compulsory labour by the peasants for their feudal lord derived from the Middle High German, *vrôn* = "that which concerns the Lord [profane or sacred]"

- strict punishment for misbehaviour

# PEASANTS

## FINANCIAL SITUATION



- the peasants are financially “crushed” between the goods and money taxes as well as the compulsory labour or Fron (see Social Position)  
*“A horse labourer had to work 3.3 Prussian Morgen (ca. 1 ha) per day with his horse. In return, he received 2 pounds of bread and one penny for a “little cheese”.*
  - ▲ Bread are served as a food allowance (board), since Fron is an unpaid labor
  - ▲ *Taxes per field: 18 Groschen 8 Pfennig (per year) within the city limits: 12 Groschen (per year)*  
1 field = 0.28 ha
- taxes are raised according to the quality of the field (good soil = higher taxes, poor soil = lower taxes)



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# PEASANTS

## CHARACTERISTICS



- during the 18th century agriculture within city limits is considered a nuisance
  - ▲ removal of agriculture from within city limits
  - ▲ cleaner city + better fire protection
  
- description of peasant life in the outskirts of the duchy:

*“...the large, well-built farms disappeared from the villages and were replaced by meagre huts. The poorly clothed and scantily equipped country peasants, who drove desolate horses and wagons, confirmed my notion that I must be in a less plentiful and wealthy country. I had reached the right conclusion, because I was indeed on the property of Weimar.”*
  
- reading material from which peasants can educate themselves are limited to two books:
  - ▲ the Bible
  - ▲ the farmers' almanac

Woodcutter near the cow wagon



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