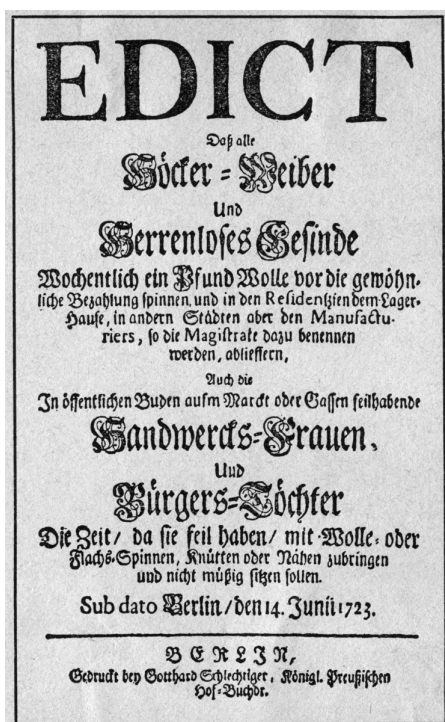


Edict: A Pound of Wool per Week (June 14, 1723)

Abstract

This Prussian edict by Frederick William I (“the Soldier King”) stated that “market women, master-less servants, artisans’ wives, stall-women at markets, and burghers’ daughters” were to spin one pound of wool or flax every week, or knit or sew, rather than “sit around idly.” This is a good example of cameralist legislation driven both by state-building zeal and a moral fervor that aimed to “productivize” the common people. Provisions for the enforcement of such edicts were flimsy, and they often went unfulfilled.

Source



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