

WFWP and UPF Upper Austria: Maria Theresia - and the Feminine Side of Power

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On the occasion of the 300th birthday of the Habsburg Monarch Maria Theresia, Mag. Barbara Grabner dedicated her lecture primarily to the marriage and educational concept of the great Empress and how she strove to bring career and family together. Despite the widespread skepticism and the superiority of detractors, she managed to come through the ordeals and lead far-reaching reforms, without prioritizing the privileged. As ruler, she gave orders with strategic and diplomatic skill through her extraordinary courage and iron will. The creed of her 40-year rule was the following: Serve the State and carry the concerns of the people, as one entrusted would do. The accomplishments reached during her ruling period are still recognizable in the present day.



Mrs. Grabner posed the question at the end: Do women rule differently to men? To what extent is there a typically female way to lead? Was Maria Theresia a precursor for women in power? Are we facing a female age in human history? Remain feminine or adjust to men, with the same or different attributes?

25 participants followed the lively and informative lecture about the life and work of this historical woman, with great interest. We were furthermore encouraged to contemplate what the female qualities in responsible positions are, which are also important for the creation of a peaceful world.

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