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## This happened in Sweden in the 1700s

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# *This happened in Sweden in the 1700s*

- **1700-1718** Sweden was attacked by Denmark, Poland, and Russia, and at first managed well to ward off these enemies, but as the years went by, the wars continued and the country was brought to the edge of ruin.
- **1710–1713** The plague killed thousands of people around the country.
- **1709** at the battle of Poltava, in present-day Ukraine, Sweden lost to the Russians, and Swedish soldiers had to spend many years in Siberia as prisoners.
- **1718** King Karl XII was killed in the trenches outside Fredrikshald in Norway, and was succeeded by his sister Ulrika Eleonora, who shortly afterwards abdicated in favor of her husband Fredrik I.
- **1721** In the Peace Treaty of Nystad Sweden had to give up the Baltic provinces and most of the German conquests.
- **1726** The Conventicle Edict prohibited people congregate in the homes, with guests present, holding religious meetings.
- **1734** A totally new version of the Swedish Common Law was instituted. Among other things, it proclaimed that estate inventories should be taken after deceased persons, children born out-of-wedlock had no right to inherit, and a woman was legally enfranchised only as a widow.
- **1743** After an unsuccessful war with Russia, Sweden had to give up parts of eastern Finland in the Peace of Åbo.
- **1749** The Table Office, *Tabellverket*, started to assemble statistics about the population of Sweden. The name of this authority was later changed to The Central Bureau of Statistics.
- **1751** King Fredrik I died and was succeeded by King Adolf Fredrik, who was a very distant relative, but who had been chosen his successor by the *Riksdag*.
- **1752** The first Seamen's Registries (*Sjömanshus*) were started.
- **1753** The calendar was changed from the Julian to the Gregorian; February only had 17 days.
- **1757-1762** War in Pomerania, which ended without great losses. The soldiers are said to have learned to eat and cultivate the potato during this war.
- **1766** The Edict of the Freedom of the Press, *Tryckfrihetsförordningen*, was proclaimed.
- **1772** King Adolf Fredrik died and was succeeded by his son, King Gustaf III. The royal power had been very limited since 1719, but the king soon made a coup and declared himself an advocate of the doctrine of division of power between the *Riksdag* and the monarch.
- **1772–1773** An epidemic of dysentery killed many children and old people all over the country.
- **1778** The king decreed that women were allowed to give birth without revealing their names. This was supposed to bring down the number of children murdered by their mothers, to avoid the shame of an illegitimate child. Most women convicted of murdering a child were sentenced to death, and the number of death sentences worried the king, who had to sign them.
- **1788-1790** War against Russia, which mostly took place in Finland. It ended with the Peace of Värälä in 1790.
- **1792** King Gustaf III was murdered at the Opera in Stockholm. He was succeeded by his young son, King Gustaf IV Adolf.

*Elisabeth Thorsell*