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Introduction to the Fashion Industry 1101
2/2/19

Homework Assignment

1. Sumptuary Laws—what are they? Define.

Black's Law Dictionary defines them as "Laws made for the purpose of restraining luxury or extravagance, particularly against inordinate expenditures in the matter of apparel, food, furniture, etc. They were laws that were expected to regulate and fortify social hierarchies and morals through limitations.

2. Tignon (Ti-yon)—what is it? Define.

A tignon, according to *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*, is a madras handkerchief used especially in Louisiana as a headdress. It's worn in a turban style by a lot of Creole women from Louisiana.

3. What do sumptuary laws have to do with the history of the tignon in New Orleans in 1786? Why was this particular sumptuary law put into place?

Sumptuary laws have a lot to do with the history of the tignon in New Orleans, these headdresses weren't originally worn because women felt like wearing them. This particular sumptuary law was put into place by Governor Esteban Rodriguez Miró. The law was meant to, according to *Face2FaceAfrica*, regulate the style of dress and appearance for people of color. Black women's features often attracted male white, French, and Spanish suitors and their beauty was a perceived threat to white women. The tignon law was a tactic used to combat the men pursuing and engaging in affairs with Creole women. In short, the hope was to calm white men's desires while also being a class signifier.

