

Guadalupe Soriano

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Fashion would be considered to be a free way to express ones style, and have the power to have a lifestyle as they chose. However, that was not always the case, during the eighteenth century there was a law that regulated/ restrained social hierarchies or morals called Sumptuary Law. A more precise definition would be, a “ designed to regulate extravagant expenditures or habits especially on moral or religious grounds” They created a restriction for many individuals, especially women, since it is the eighteenth century. An example of restriction would be a Tignon. A tignon is a cloth that women wore on their head as a headdress. Women in this time wore the headpiece during the slave era.

In New Orleans during the 1700's there was a law passed accordin to The Code Noir that enforced african americans to work in slavery for a lifetime. African American women had to turn in their newborns, they were restricted in their freedom, obtaining any property, etc. Showing an example of sumptuary law. However, since there were so many restrictions, Europeans depended on the african americans for labor so the enforcement were prevented.

The laws were placed as a social practice. Later on Africans were given the opportunity to purchase their freedom and have their own property but they were still restricted from a variety of things under the spanish rule in 1786. Women were prohibited from dressing in accessories such as feathers, jewels. They were only allowed a Trignon to show their lower status in society. The women were not happy so they fought and wore designed and colored tignons.

