

In the face of dissent from the Hungarian nobility she enforced a codification of the relations between peasants and landlords (urbarial patents) which expressly defined peasants' duties in relation to the area of the land that they farmed. At the same time, new technologies and crops such as potatoes, corn, and tobacco were introduced as well as new breeds of cattle. She played a pioneering role in reforming the health and education systems. The introduction of compulsory education had extraordinary effects on the population as it laid the foundations of universal literacy.

Maria Theresa was one of the few rulers to enjoy a "love marriage". Her husband was Francis Stephen of Lorraine. He was an economist of genius who managed all the financial matters of his wife's countries from the background and borrowed money for her reforms as well as for wars. They had sixteen children. Maria Theresa died in Vienna on 29 November 1780 at the age of 63.



Family of Maria Theresa by Martin van Meytens

Coin details

<i>Denomination:</i> €100
<i>Composition:</i> Au 900, Ag 75, Cu 25
<i>Weight:</i> 9.5 g
<i>Diameter:</i> 26 mm
<i>Edge:</i> milled
<i>Issuing volume:</i> up to a maximum of 5,000 proof coins
<i>Designer:</i> Vladimír Pavlica
<i>Engraver:</i> Dalibor Schmidt
<i>Producer:</i> Mincovňa Kremnica / Kremnica Mint

Placed in an oval medallion, the obverse side of the coin depicts a historical scene from Maria Theresa's coronation parade in Bratislava. To the right of the medallion is the coat of arms of the Slovak Republic. The name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO' is inscribed in the upper part of the coin. In the lower part is the denomination and currency '100 EURO', separated from the year '2016' by a graphic mark. The Kremnica Mint mark 'MK' and the stylised initials of the coin designer Vladimír Pavlica 'VP' are placed to the left of the medallion.

The reverse side of the coin shows a portrait of Maria Theresa placed in an oval medallion. Along the edge are the texts 'KORUNOVÁCIA MÁRIE TERÉZIE' (Coronation of Maria Theresa) and 'BRATISLAVA', and the coronation year '1741', which are separated by graphic marks



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BRATISLAVA CORONATIONS
The 275th anniversary
of the coronation of Maria Theresa

Gold Collector Coin

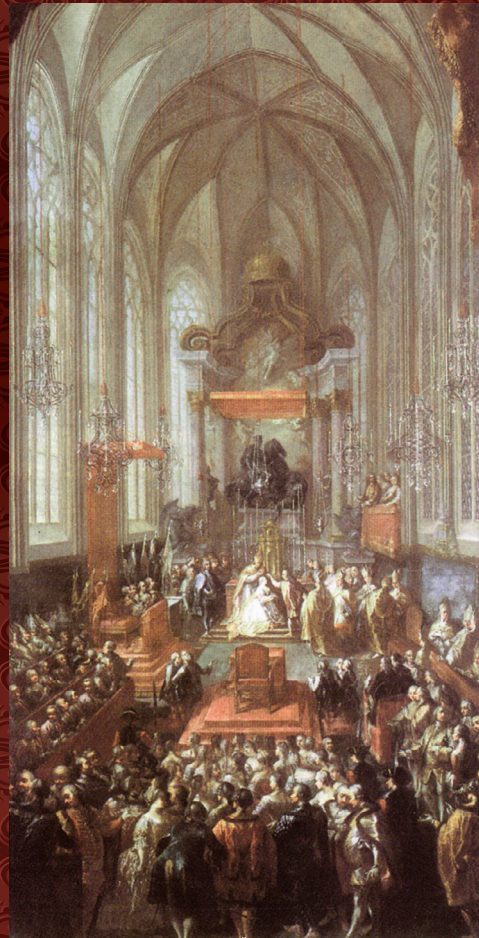
Maria Theresa gained respect and admiration for her statesmanship, political skills and reforms during the forty years of her reign (1740–1780). The German Chancellor Bismarck summed up the personality of Maria Theresa when he called her the greatest statesman of the Austrian dynasty.

The father of Maria Theresa, the emperor Charles VI, had no living male descendant and so his eldest daughter Maria Theresa was trained and educated as a future ruler. He also tried to ensure his daughter's smooth accession to the throne by various agreements and treaties (the Pragmatic sanction of 1713, which established indivisibility of the monarchy and new rules securing the right of succession also for female descendants). Shortly after his death, however, the European powers, led by Prussia, launched an attack on her inheritance and Maria Theresa, only 23 at that time, became embroiled in a long fight to secure her rights. The beginning of her reign was marked by a conflict known as the War of the Austrian Succession (1741–1745) and several years later it was followed by the Seven Years' War (1756–1763). Only the Hungarian estates, which recognised Maria Theresa as her father's successor, remained loyal to her. They strongly supported her in the wars and agreed with her coronation as queen of Hungary.

Maria Theresa coronation procession in Bratislava (then Pressburg)



The coronation ceremony took place on 25 June 1741 in Bratislava (then Pressburg), which was the coronation city of the Hungarian Kingdom between 1563 and 1830. Maria Theresa entered the town with great splendour accompanied by courtiers and Hungarian nobility. The ruler was welcomed at Michael's Gate by representatives of the town council headed by the mayor, who accompanied her to St Martin's Cathedral. The coronation mass was spectacular and attended only by the highest-ranking clerical and secular dignitaries of Hungary. The Archbishop of Esztergom, Imre Esterházy, anointed Maria Theresa with holy oil of catechumen and placed the Crown of St. Stephen upon her head. The Palatine John Pálffy presented her with the sword, sceptre and gold orb. In accordance with ancient custom, the queen then rode on horseback to the top of the coronation hill on the bank of the Danube, where she recited her oath to defend the country.



Maria Theresa never forgot about Bratislava and during her reign Bratislava Castle underwent significant changes and famous architects were involved in its reconstruction. Although she made her home in the summer palace at Schönbrunn near Vienna, she returned to Bratislava quite often, especially in the period after 1765 when her daughter Maria Christina and her husband lived there.

Maria Theresa made great efforts to reform the countries under her rule. During her reign she gradually made reforms to almost all sectors of public and economic life. She reorganized the army, founded a military academy, a cadet school and a polytechnic school. In times of peace the army was involved in public works. Economic reforms required new solutions to the state finances and reform of the tax system. A systematic land survey known as the Theresian cadastre was undertaken, and Maria Theresa also ordered the building of new roads and their regular maintenance. She had a quality silver coinage known as Theresian thalers minted, and later on in 1762, the first paper money in central Europe was issued in Vienna. She supported the development of manufacturing and within eight years' time she managed not only to settle the sovereign debt but also to produce a budget surplus. Maria Theresa reformed the government of towns and villages, the legal system and issued new rules of criminal procedure.

Maria Theresa coronation medal

