



Diplomatic protocol

Course prepared under
Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Programme
Nr 2020-1-RO01-KA226-HE-095411
„Implementation of Digitalization in Defence Higher Education-DDHE”.



WAR
STUDIES
UNIVERSITY



Lecture 7. Parties

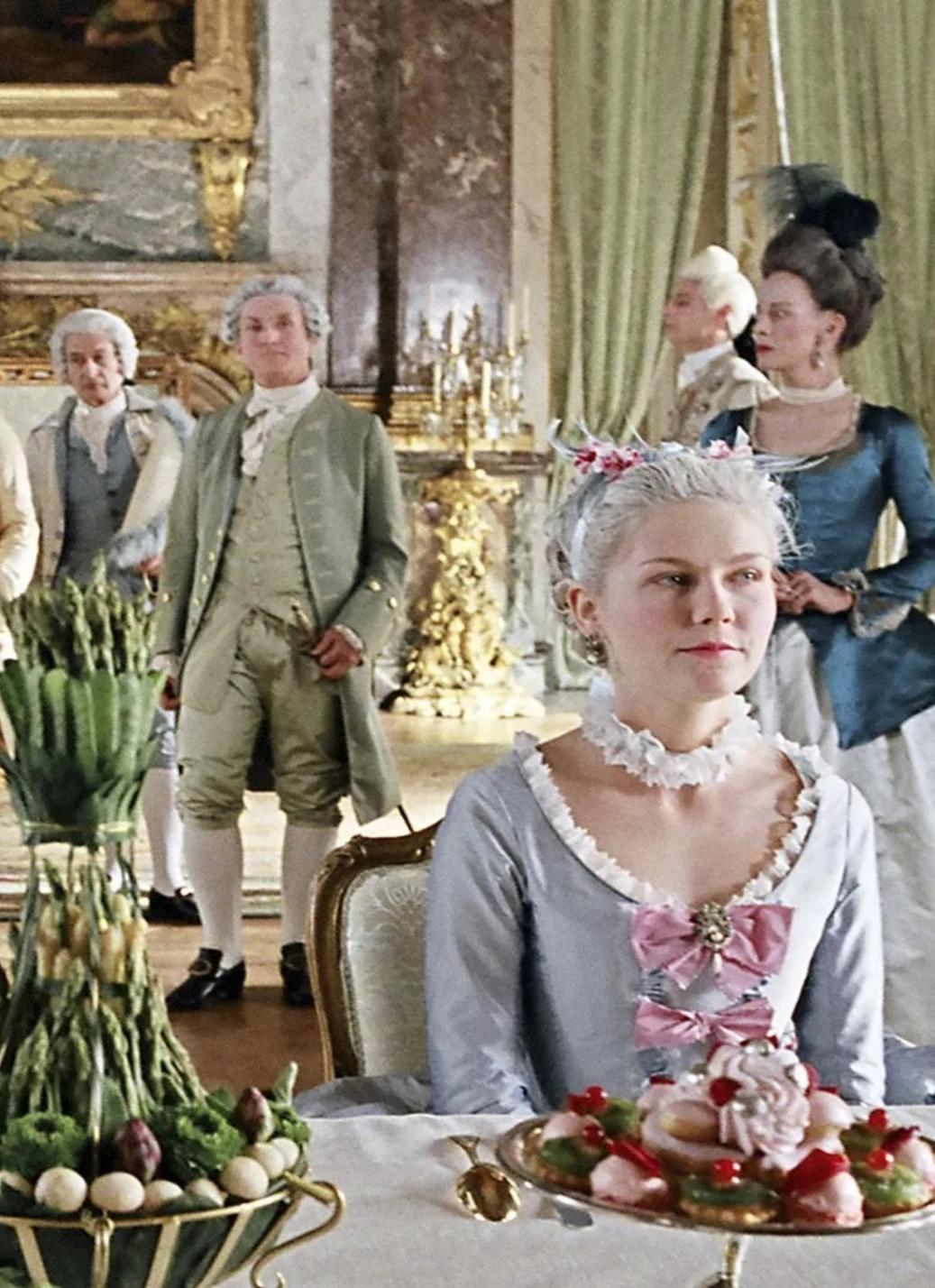
Eng. *party, reception,* Fr. *reception*



- The most important type of social gathering that gathers a group of people around a common table.
- Usually used to celebrate important event in a particularly valued group or with relatives, acquaintances and friends.
- This form of meeting is called a social event (fr. événement convivial).
- Parties are an opportunity to make contacts and meet new people, to have interesting conversations - not only on business and not only on professional topics - and food goes perfectly with this.

- Receptions should primarily express the hospitality shown to those invited and facilitate less formal contacts between people who have only been friends on a professional basis so far.
- The more casual nature of meetings held at parties does not mean that they dispense with the observance of good manners.





Reception

- standing parties, usually referred to as a cocktail or a glass of wine;
 - buffet party;
 - sit-down parties.

Reception

- working (business function, French d'affaires);
- official (formal function, French officielle);
- social (social function, French conviviale).

As far as the importance of the ceremony and the rank of those invited, standing reception might be a mistake if its main participant is a minister, a bishop or an outstanding scholar.

The more formal ones take place in the evening,



- A party held around midday / afternoon is referred to in the language of diplomatic protocol as lunch, and an evening party – dinner.
- Working lunch should last approximately one and a half hours, official lunch can be extended to two hours, and dinner can take up to two and a half hours.
- On days off from work, the Anglo-Saxon custom proposes a formula combining a late breakfast (breakfast) and an early lunch, called brunch in the USA, elevenses in Great Britain, and morning tea in Australia and New Zealand.
- However official receptions are not usually organized on Saturdays and Sundays (unless they are related to celebrations on that day).



Type of receptions





Glass of wine

- A glass of wine (French, vin d'honneur) is not literally a party.
- It is rather a short social accent closing the official ceremony, usually lasting max. 30. min.
- At work, it can be a form of celebrating a name day, promotion or other important event in personal life.

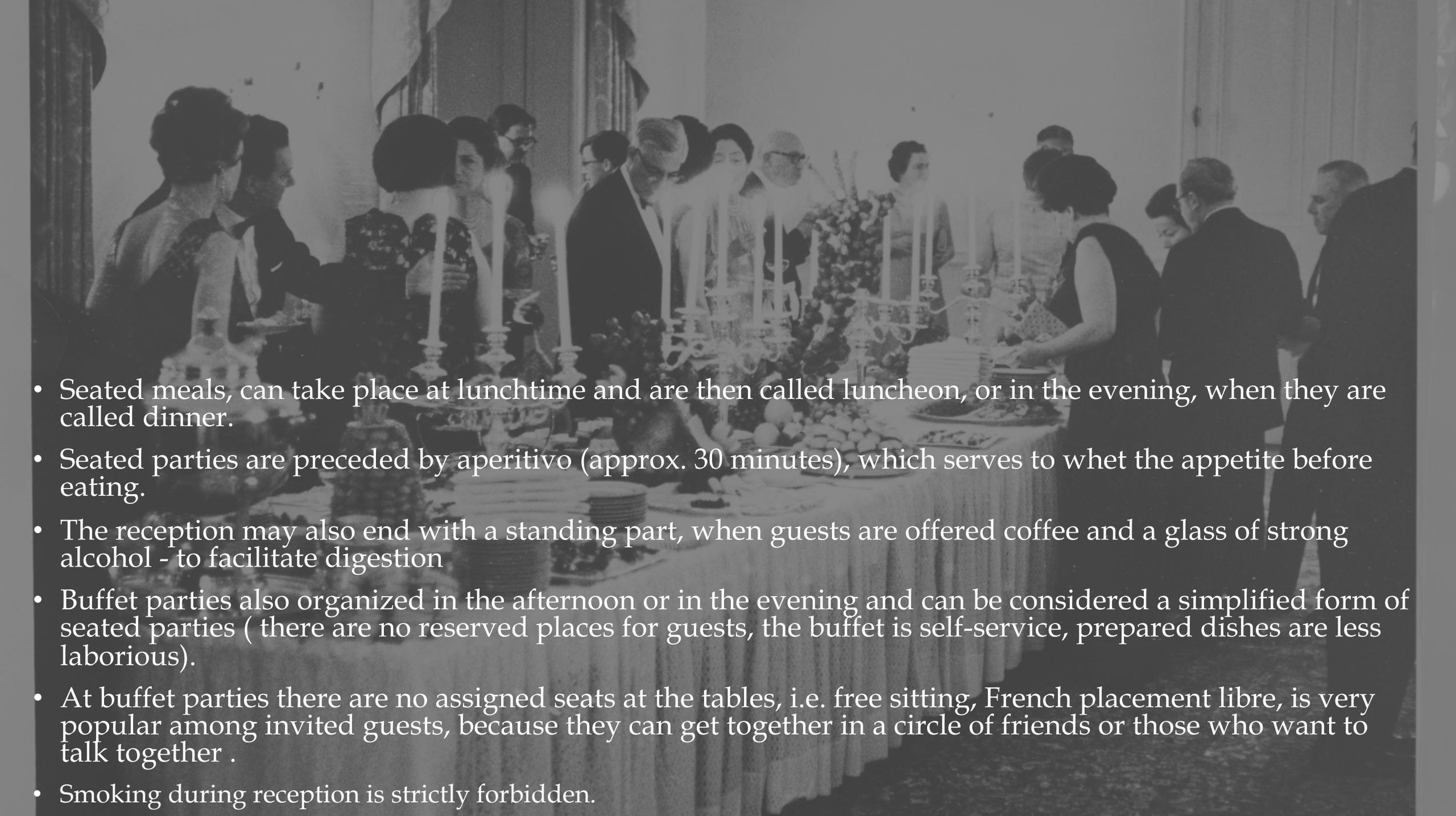
Cocktail

- The **cocktail party** was the original, in Victorian England, a standing gathering of men over a glass of alcohol, held after dark, 6.00 p.m.
 - Cocktail is arranged inside the house and outside as a garden party.
 - It is recommended to stay on the cocktail for at least 20-30 minutes, while it last up to 2 hr.



- It is possible to leave cocktail at any time, while it is not possible to leave seated party before its end.
 - To take French leave (in English language) - advantage of a cocktail party, leaving without saying goodbye to the hosts...
... but it comes from French language: *filer à l'anglaise* (run away English style) .
-

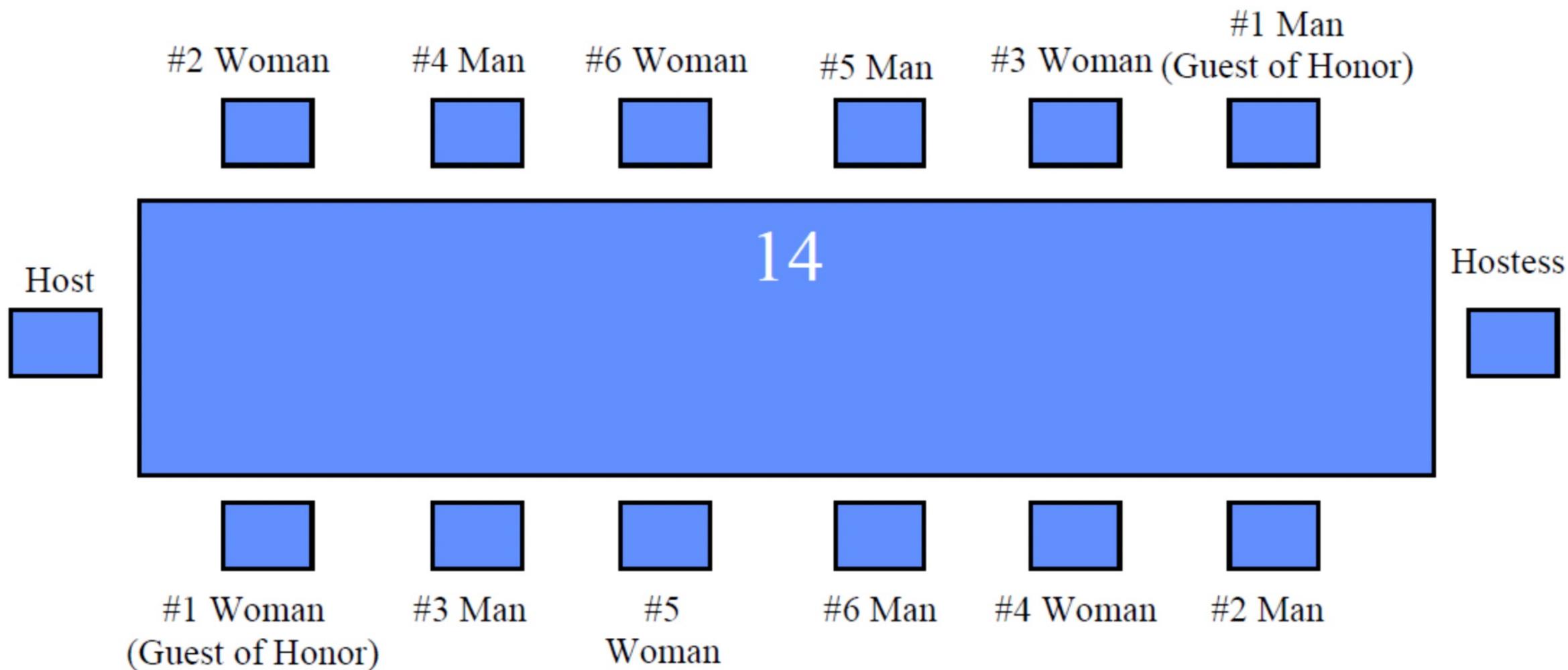


- 
- Seated meals, can take place at lunchtime and are then called luncheon, or in the evening, when they are called dinner.
 - Seated parties are preceded by aperitivo (approx. 30 minutes), which serves to whet the appetite before eating.
 - The reception may also end with a standing part, when guests are offered coffee and a glass of strong alcohol - to facilitate digestion
 - Buffet parties also organized in the afternoon or in the evening and can be considered a simplified form of seated parties (there are no reserved places for guests, the buffet is self-service, prepared dishes are less laborious).
 - At buffet parties there are no assigned seats at the tables, i.e. free sitting, French placement libre, is very popular among invited guests, because they can get together in a circle of friends or those who want to talk together .
 - Smoking during reception is strictly forbidden.

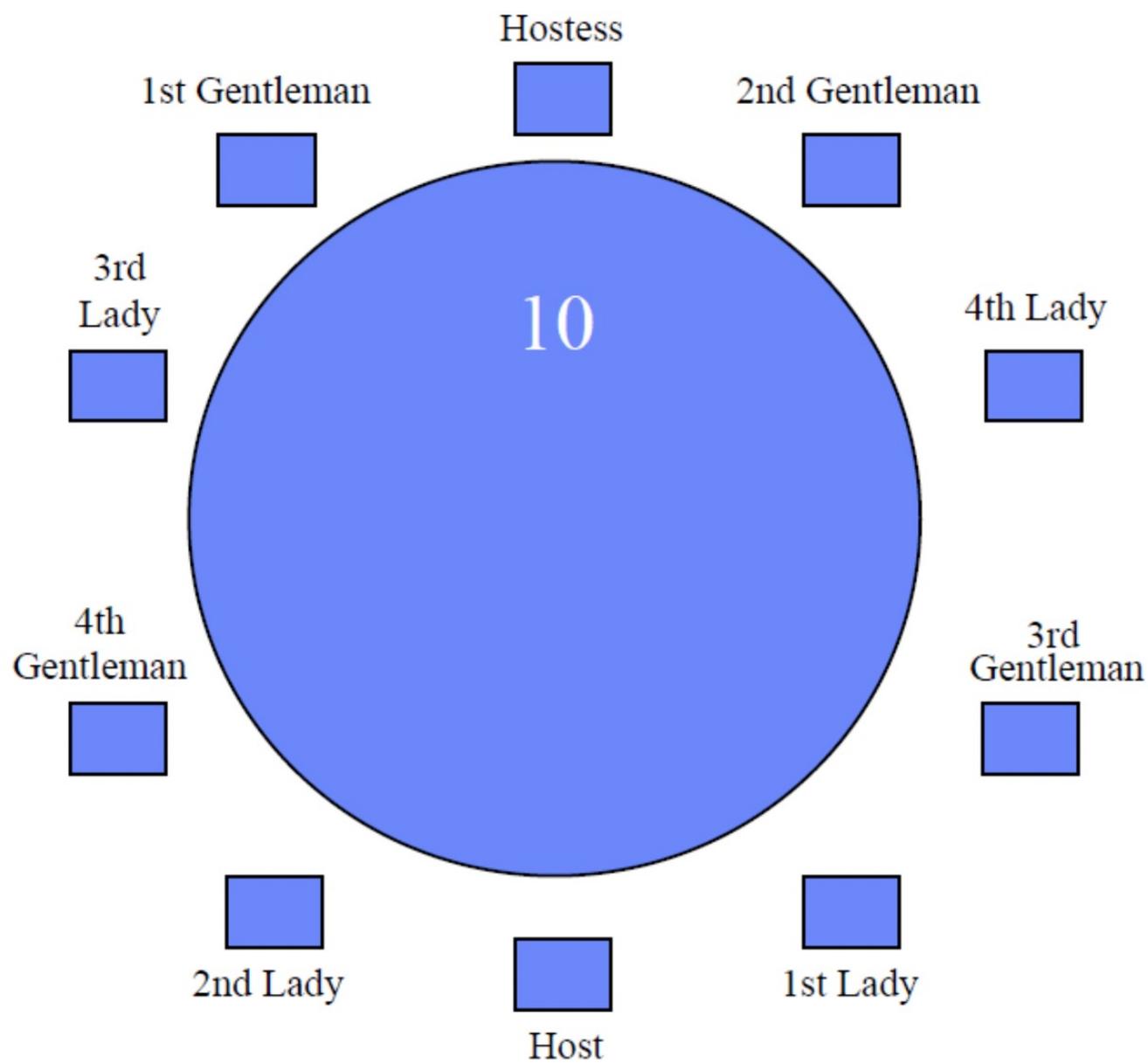
Type of tables



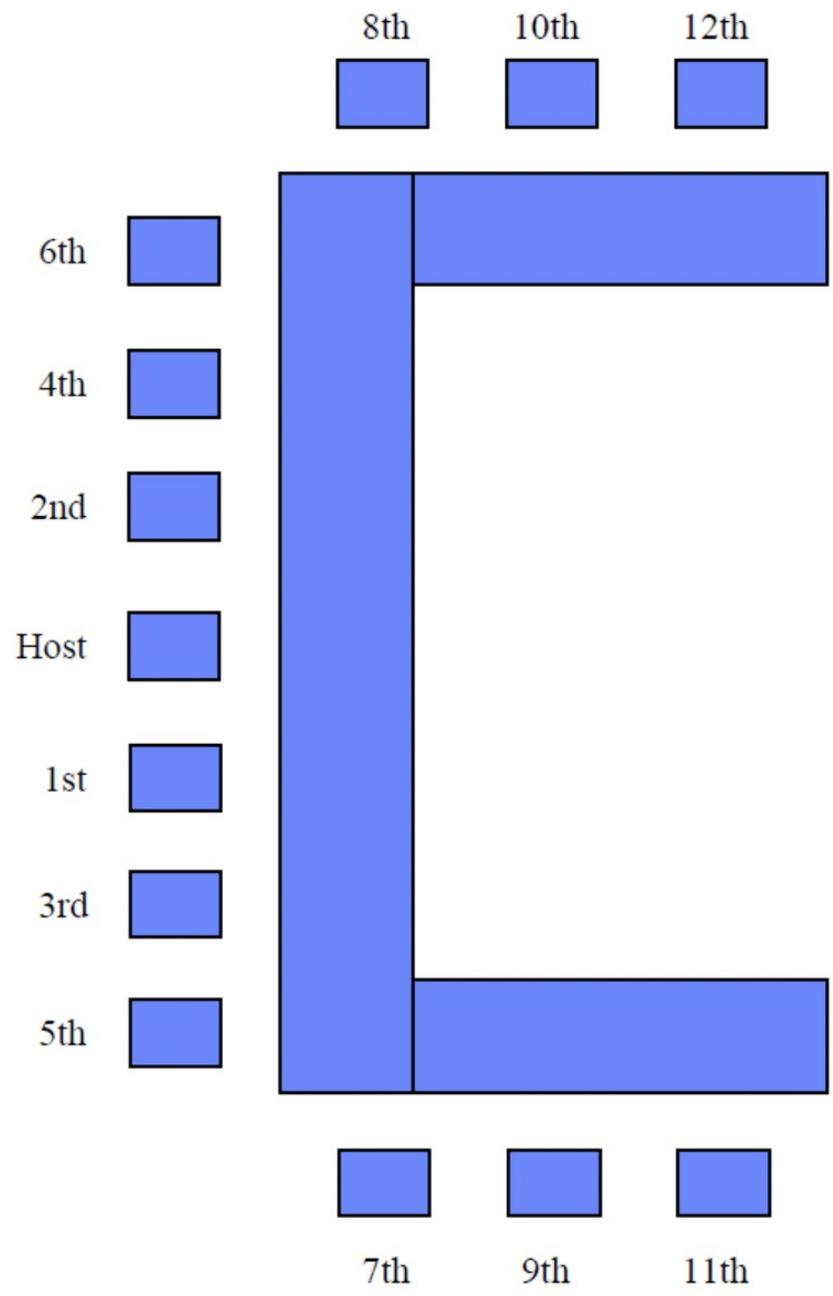
Mixed Seating for Fourteen - Host and Hostess at Ends of Table



Circular Table for Ten - Five Ladies, Five Gentlemen



U-Shaped Table Seating



- 
- A conceptual image showing two hands, one in a dark suit sleeve and one in a light shirt sleeve, reaching towards each other over a table. On the table are two small flags on stands: the French flag (red, white, blue) on the left and the Saudi Arabian flag (green with white Arabic calligraphy) on the right. The background is a light blue wall with dark chairs visible.
- Seating arrangement is the most difficult task of Diplomatic Protocol.
 - Preserving the order of precedence of the invited guests, mix them up, taking into account interests and animosities.



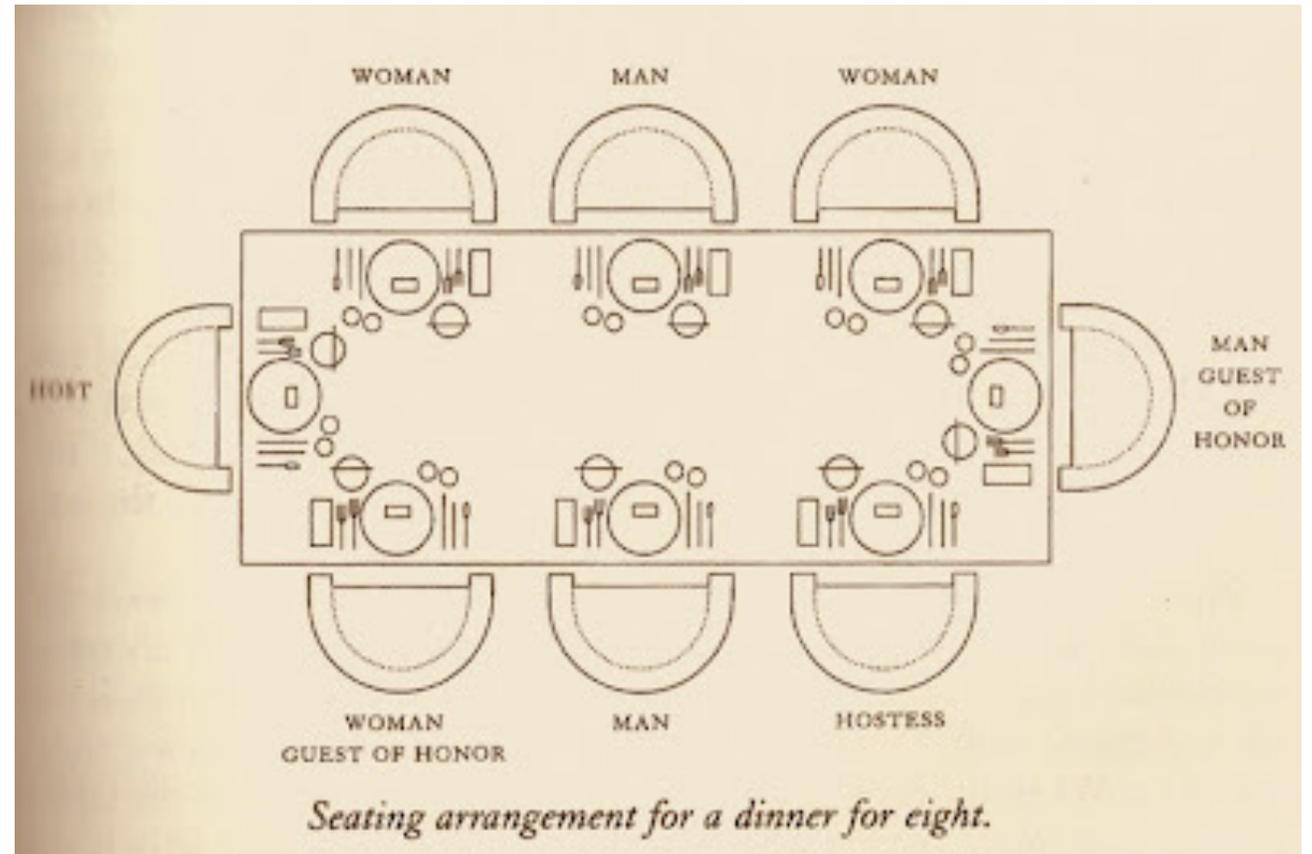
Seating at the table is governed by three rules:

- right-hand primacy,
- precedence,
- alternation.

- **Right-hand primacy** is an old and universal custom of assigning the more honorable place to the right.
- However almost all US presidents of the last half-century were left-handed and instinctively addressed those sitting on the left first, sometimes neglecting those sitting on the right, and therefore considered more important.



- The **principle of precedence** determines the order of taking places from the most important guest to the least important.
- The most important guest sits closest to the hostess, on her right hand, or opposite the host.



- The **principle of alternation** means that women and men are seated alternately, which is always done at parties to emphasize their sociable nature.
- Married couples should never be planted next to each other.
- The principle of alternation may additionally take into account the alternate seating of foreigners and fellow countrymen, but it should always be remembered that a woman must have men on both sides.
- Necessary element: even number of guests - half women, half men.
- The principle of gender alternation does not apply to work parties, which are invited without spouses.



Thank you for your attention!





Marlena Blicharz, PhD

assistant professor

m.blicharz@akademia.mil.pl

National Security Faculty of War Studies University

Warsaw * Poland

