

Heresy Magic And Witchcraft In Early Modern Europe

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Witchcraft in Early Modern England
Witchcraft in Early North America
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Heresy, Magic and Witchcraft in Early Modern Europe
The Witch–Hunt in Early Modern Europe
Thinking with Demons
The Literature of Witchcraft in New England
Witchcraft in the Ancient World and the Middle Ages
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Witchcraft in Early Modern Poland, 1500–1800
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The Place of Magic in the Intellectual History of Europe ...
Witchcraft in early modern Württemberg
Imagining the Witch
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this important collection brings together both established figures and new researchers to offer fresh perspectives on the ever controversial subject of the history of witchcraft using keith thomas s religion and the decline of magic as a starting point the contributors explore the changes of the last twenty five years in the understanding of early modern witchcraft and suggest new approaches especially concerning the cultural dimensions of the subject witchcraft cases must be understood as power struggles over gender and ideology as well as social relationships with a crucial role played by alternative representations witchcraft was always a contested idea never fully established in early modern culture but much harder to dislodge than has usually been assumed the essays are european in scope with examples from germany france and the spanish expansion into the new world as well as a strong core of english material

the essays in this handbook written by leading scholars working in the rapidly developing field of witchcraft studies explore the historical literature regarding witch beliefs and witch trials in europe and colonial america between the early fifteenth and early eighteenth centuries during these years witches were thought to be evil people who used magical power to inflict physical harm or misfortune on their neighbours witches were also believed to have made pacts with the devil and sometimes to have worshipped him at nocturnal assemblies known as sabbaths these beliefs provided the basis for defining witchcraft as a secular and ecclesiastical crime and prosecuting tens of thousands of women and men for this offence the trials resulted in as many as fifty thousand executions these essays study the rise and fall of witchcraft prosecutions in the various kingdoms and territories of europe and in english spanish and portuguese colonies in the americas they also relate these prosecutions to the catholic and protestant reformations the introduction of new forms of criminal procedure medical and scientific thought the process of state building profound social and economic change early modern patterns of gender relations and the wave of demonic possessions that occurred in europe at the same time the

essays survey the current state of knowledge in the field explore the academic controversies that have arisen regarding witch beliefs and witch trials propose new ways of studying the subject and identify areas for future research

a thoroughly revised greatly expanded edition of the most important documentary history of european witchcraft ever published

a collection of essays from leading scholars in the field that collectively study the rise and fall of witchcraft prosecutions in the various kingdoms and territories of europe and in english spanish and portuguese colonies in the americas

witchcraft in early modern england provides a fascinating introduction to the history of witches and witchcraft in england from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century witchcraft was a crime punishable by death in england during this period and this book charts the witch panics and legal persecution of witches that followed exploring topics such as elite attitudes to witchcraft in england the role of pressures and tensions within the community in accusations of witchcraft the way in which the legal system dealt with witchcraft cases and the complex decline of belief in witchcraft revised and updated this new edition explores the modern historiographical debate surrounding this subject and incorporates recent findings and interpretations of historians in the field bringing it right up to date and in particular offering an extended treatment of the difficult issues surrounding gender and witchcraft supported by a range of compelling primary documents this book is essential reading for all students of the history of witchcraft

witchcraft in early north america investigates european african and indian witchcraft beliefs and their expression in colonial america alison games s engaging book takes us beyond the infamous outbreak at salem massachusetts to look at how witchcraft was a central feature of colonial societies in north america her substantial and lively introduction orients readers to the subject and to the rich selection of documents that follows the documents begin with first encounters between european missionaries and native americans in new france and new mexico and they conclude with witch hunts among native americans in the years of the early american republic the documents some of which have never been published previously include excerpts from trials in virginia new mexico and massachusetts accounts of outbreaks in salem abiquiu new mexico and among the delaware indians

descriptions of possession legal codes and allegations of poisoning by slaves the documents raise issues central to legal cultural social religious and gender history this fascinating topic and the book's broad geographic and chronological coverage make this book ideally suited for readers interested in new approaches to colonial history and the history of witchcraft

superstition and magic in early modern europe brings together a rich selection of essays which represent the most important historical research on religion magic and superstition in early modern europe each essay makes a significant contribution to the history of magic and religion in its own right while together they demonstrate how debates over the topic have evolved over time providing invaluable intellectual historical and socio political context for readers approaching the subject for the first time the essays are organised around five key themes and areas of controversy part one tackles superstition part two the tension between miracles and magic part three ghosts and apparitions part four witchcraft and witch trials and part five the gradual disintegration of the magical universe in the face of scientific religious and practical opposition each part is prefaced by an introduction that provides an outline of the historiography and engages with recent scholarship and debate setting the context for the essays that follow and providing a foundation for further study this collection is an invaluable toolkit for students of early modern europe providing both a focused overview and a springboard for broader thinking about the underlying continuities and discontinuities that make the study of magic and superstition a perennially fascinating topic

in the fifteenth century many authorities did not believe inquisitors stories of a supposed satanic witch sect however the religious conflict of the sixteenth century reformation especially popular movements of reform and revolt helped to create an atmosphere in which diabolical conspiracies which swept up religious dissidents jews and magicians into their nets were believed to pose a very real threat fear of the devil and his followers inspired horrific incidents of judicially approved terror in early modern europe leading after 1560 to the infamous witch hunts bringing together the fields of reformation and witchcraft studies this fascinating book reveals how the early modern period's religious conflicts led to widespread confusion and uncertainty gary k waite examines in depth how church leaders dispelled rising religious doubt by persecuting heretics and how alleged infernal

plots and witches who confessed to making a pact with the devil helped the authorities to reaffirm orthodoxy waite argues that it was only when the authorities came to terms with pluralism that there was a corresponding decline in witch panics

the witch hunt in early modern europe now in its fourth edition is the perfect resource for both students and scholars of the witch hunts written by one of the leading names in the field for those starting out in their studies of witch beliefs and witchcraft trials brian levack provides a concise survey of this complex and fascinating topic while for more seasoned scholars the scholarship is brought right up to date this new edition includes the most recent research on children gender male witches and demonic possession as well as broadening the exploration of the geographical distribution of witch prosecutions to include recent work on regions cities and kingdoms enabling students to identify comparisons between countries now fully integrated with brian levack's the witchcraft sourcebook there are links to the sourcebook throughout the text pointing students towards key primary sources to aid them in their studies the two books are drawn together on a new companion website with supplementary materials for those wishing to advance their studies including an extensive guide to further reading a chronology of the history of witchcraft and an interactive map to show the geographical spread of witch hunts and witch trials across europe and north america a long standing favourite with students and lecturers alike this new edition of the witch hunt in early modern europe will be essential reading for those embarking on or looking to advance their studies of the history of witchcraft

this is a work of fundamental importance for our understanding of the intellectual and cultural history of early modern europe stuart clark offers a new interpretation of the witchcraft beliefs of european intellectuals based on their publications in the field of demonology and shows how these beliefs fitted rationally with many other views current in europe between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries professor clark is the first to explore the appeal of demonology to early modern intellectuals by looking at the books they published on the subject during this period after examining the linguistic foundations of their writings the author shows how the writers ideas about witchcraft and about magic complemented their other intellectual commitments in particular their conceptions of nature history religion and politics the result is much more than a history of demonology it is a survey of wider intellectual and ideological purposes and underlines just how far the nature of rationality is dependent on its historical context

this comprehensive study examines polish demonology in relation to witchcraft trials in wielkopolska revealing the witch as a force for both good and evil it explores the use of witchcraft the nature of accusations and the role of gender

this is the first book to offer a detailed modern survey of witchcraft historiography by using a broad chronological structure from contemporary responses through to modern day the book draws on contributions from a range of leading experts in the field to provide a much needed overview of the area

extensive bibliography on demonology and witchcraft systematically describing all materials including books monographs conference reports and doctoral dissertations covering these subjects subjects from the 15th century to the 21st century 5000 entries and indices on author subject and anonymous works 320 b w illustrations of title pages

imagining the witch explores emotions gender and selfhood through the lens of witch trials in early modern germany witch trials were clearly a gendered phenomenon but witchcraft was not a uniquely female crime while women constituted approximately three quarters of those tried for witchcraft in the holy roman empire a significant minority were men witchcraft was also a crime of unbridled passion it centred on the notion that one person s emotions could have tangible and deadly physical consequences yet it is also true that not all suspicions of witchcraft led to a formal accusation and not all witch trials led to the stake indeed just over half the total number put on trial for witchcraft in early modern europe were executed in order to understand how early modern people imagined the witch we must first begin to understand how people understood themselves and each other this can help us to understand how the witch could be a member of the community living alongside their accusers yet inspire such visceral fear through an examination of case studies of witch trials that took place in the early modern lutheran duchy of württemberg in southwestern germany laura kounine examines how the community church and the agents of the law sought to identify the witch and the ways in which ordinary men and women fought for their lives in an attempt to avoid the stake the study further explores the visual and intellectual imagination of witchcraft in

this period in order to piece together why witchcraft could be aligned with such strong female stereotypes on the one hand but also be imagined as a crime that could be committed by any human whether young or old male or female by moving beyond stereotypes of the witch imagining the witch argues that understandings of what constituted witchcraft and the witch appear far more contested and unstable than has previously been suggested it also suggests new ways of thinking about early modern selfhood which moves beyond teleological arguments about the development of the modern self indeed it is the trial process itself that created the conditions for a diverse range of people to reflect on and give meaning to emotions gender and the self in early modern lutheran germany

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