

## The Scottish Witch Hunt In Context

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England : a Documentary History, 1638-1693 *William E. Burns Brian P. Levack Julian Goodare Julian Goodare Lu Ann Homza Clifton W. Wilcox Stuart MacDonald Brian P. Levack Silvia Federici Brian A. Pavlac Johannes Dillinger Christina Lerner Steije Hofhuis Anne Sophie G nzl C. L'Estrange Ewen Kristen J. Sollee Joseph Klaitz J. Goodare David L. Jones David D. Hall*

from early sorcery trials of the 14th century associated primarily with french and papal courts to the witch executions of the late 18th century this book s entries cover witch hunting in individual countries major witch trials from chelmsford england to salem massachusetts and significant individuals from famous witches to the devout persecutors entries such as the evil eye familiars and witch finders cover specific aspects of the witch hunting process while entries on writers and modern interpretations provide insight into the current thinking on early modern witch hunts from the wicked witch of children s stories to halloween and present day wiccan groups witches and witchcraft still fascinate observers of western culture witches were believed to affect climatological catastrophes put spells on their neighbors and cavort with the devil in early modern europe and the americas witches and witch hunting were an integral part of everyday life touching major events such as the reformation and the scientific revolution as well as politics law medicine and culture

between 1450 and 1750 thousands of people most of them women were accused prosecuted and executed for the crime of witchcraft the witch hunt was not a single event it comprised thousands of individual prosecutions each shaped by the religious and social dimensions of the particular area as well as political and legal factors brian levack sorts through the proliferation of theories to provide a coherent introduction to the subject as well as contributing to the scholarly debate the book examines why witchcraft prosecutions took place how many trials and victims there were and why witch

hunting eventually came to an end explores the beliefs of both educated and illiterate people regarding witchcraft uses regional and local studies to give a more detailed analysis of the chronological and geographical distribution of witch trials emphasises the legal context of witchcraft prosecutions illuminates the social economic and political history of early modern europe and in particular the position of women within it in this fully updated third edition of his exceptional study levack incorporates the vast amount of literature that has emerged since the last edition he substantially extends his consideration of the decline of the witch hunt and goes further in his exploration of witch hunting after the trials especially in contemporary africa new illustrations vividly depict beliefs about witchcraft in early modern europe

this book is a collection of essays on scottish witchcraft and witch hunting which covers the whole period of the scottish witch hunt from the mid 16th century to the early 18th it particularly emphasizes the later stages since scholars are now as keen to explain why witch hunting declined as why it occurred there are studies of particular witchcraft panics including a reassessment of the role of king james vi the book thus covers a wide range of topics concerned with scottish witch hunting and also places it in the context of other topics gender relations folklore magic and healing and moral regulation by church and state

the european witch hunt seeks to explain why thousands of people mostly lower class women were deliberately tortured and killed in the name of religion and morality during three centuries of intermittent witch hunting throughout europe and north america combining perspectives from history sociology psychology and other disciplines this book provides a comprehensive account of witch hunting in early modern europe julian goodare sets out an original interpretation of witch hunting as an episode of ideologically driven persecution by the godly state in the era of the reformation and

counter reformation full weight is also given to the context of village social relationships and there is a detailed analysis of gender issues witch hunting was a legal operation and the courts rationale for interrogation under torture is explained panicking local elites rather than central governments were at the forefront of witch hunting further chapters explore folk beliefs about legendary witches and intellectuals beliefs about a secret conspiracy of witches in league with the devil witch hunting eventually declined when the ideological pressure to combat the devil s allies slackened a final chapter sets witch hunting in the context of other episodes of modern persecution this book is the ideal resource for students exploring the history of witch hunting its level of detail and use of social theory also make it important for scholars and researchers

this book revises what we thought we knew about one of the most famous witch hunts in european history between 1608 and 1614 thousands of witchcraft accusations were leveled against men women and children in the northern spanish kingdom of navarre the inquisition intervened quickly but incompetently and the denunciations continued to accelerate as the phenomenon spread children began to play a crucial role not only were they reportedly victims of the witches harmful magic but hundreds of them also insisted that witches were taking them to the devil s gatherings against their will presenting important archival discoveries lu ann homza restores the perspectives of illiterate basque speaking individuals to the history of this shocking event and demonstrates what could happen when the spanish inquisition tried to take charge of a liminal space because the spanish inquisition was the body putting those accused of witchcraft on trial modern scholars have depended upon inquisition sources for their research homza s groundbreaking book combines new readings of the inquisitional evidence with fresh archival finds from non inquisitional sources including local secular and religious courts and from notarial and census records expanding our understanding of this witch hunt as well as the history of children

community norms and legal expertise in early modern europe village infernos and witches advocates is required reading for students and scholars of the spanish inquisition and the history of witchcraft in early modern europe

along the coast of fife in villages like culross and pittenweem history records that some women were executed as witches nevertheless the reality of what happened the night that janet cornfoot was lynched at pittenweem is hard to grasp as one sits by the harbour watching the fishing boats unload their catch and the pleasure boats rising with the tide how could people do this to an old woman why was no one ever brought to justice and why would anyone defend such a lynching the task of the historian is to try to make events in the past come alive and seem less strange the details of the witch hunt are fascinating some of the anecdotes are strange the modern reader finds it hard to imagine illness being blamed on the malevolence of a beggar woman denied charity or the economic failure of a sea voyage being attributed to the village hag not bad weather witch hunting was related to ideas values attitudes and political events it was a complicated process involving religious and civil authorities village tensions and the fears of the elite the witch hunt in scotland also took place at a time when one of the main agendas was the creation of a righteous or godly society as a result religious authorities had control over aspects of people s lives which seem as strange to us today as beliefs about magic or witchcraft it was not accidental that the witch hunt in scotland and specifically in fife should have happened at this time this book tells the story of what occurred over a period of a century and a half and offers some explanation as to why it occurred

shortlisted for the 2008 katharine briggs award witch hunting in scotland presents a fresh perspective on the trial and execution of the hundreds of women and men prosecuted for the crime of witchcraft an offence that involved the alleged practice of maleficent magic and the worship of the devil

for inflicting harm on their neighbours and making pacts with the devil brian p levack draws on law politics and religion to explain the intensity of scottish witch hunting topics discussed include the distinctive features of the scottish criminal justice system the use of torture to extract confessions the intersection of witch hunting with local and national politics the relationship between state building and witch hunting and the role of james vi scottish calvinism and the determination of zealous scottish clergy and magistrates to achieve a godly society this original survey combines broad interpretations of the rise and fall of scottish witchcraft prosecutions with detailed case studies of specific witch hunts witch hunting in scotland makes fascinating reading for anyone with an interest in witchcraft or in the political legal and religious history of the early modern period

we are witnessing a new surge of interpersonal and institutional violence against women including new witch hunts this surge of violence has occurred alongside an expansion of capitalist social relations in this new work that revisits some of the main themes of caliban and the witch silvia federici examines the root causes of these developments and outlines the consequences for the women affected and their communities she argues that no less than the witch hunts in sixteenth and seventeenth century europe and the new world this new war on women is a structural element of the new forms of capitalist accumulation these processes are founded on the destruction of people s most basic means of reproduction like at the dawn of capitalism what we discover behind today s violence against women are processes of enclosure land dispossession and the remolding of women s reproductive activities and subjectivity as well as an investigation into the causes of this new violence the book is also a feminist call to arms federici s work provides new ways of understanding the methods in which women are resisting victimization and offers a powerful reminder that reconstructing the memory of the past is crucial for the struggles of the present

this comprehensive resource explores the intersection of religion politics and the supernatural that spawned the notorious witch hunts in europe and the new world witch hunts in the western world persecution and punishment from the inquisition through the salem trials traces the evolution of western attitudes towards magic demons and religious nonconformity from the roman empire through the age of enlightenment placing these chilling events into a wider social and historical context witch hunts are discussed in eight narrative chapters by region highlighting the cultural differences of the people who incited them as well as the key reforms social upheavals and intellectual debates that shaped european thought vivid accounts of trials and excerpts from the writings of both witch hunters and defenders throughout the holy roman empire france the british isles and colonies southern europe scandinavia and eastern europe bring to life one of the most intriguing and shocking periods in western history this in depth and comprehensive resource explores the intersection of religion politics and the supernatural that spawned the notorious witch hunts in europe and the new world witch hunts in the western world traces the evolution of western attitudes towards magic demons and religious nonconformity from the roman empire through the age of enlightenment placing these chilling events into a wider social and historical context witch hunts are discussed in fascinating detail by region highlighting the cultural differences of the people who incited them as well as the key reforms social upheavals and intellectual debates that shaped european thought vivid accounts of trials and excerpts from the writings of both witch hunters and defenders throughout the holy roman empire france the british isles and colonies southern europe scandinavia and eastern europe bring to life one of the most intriguing and shocking periods in western history accessible narrative chapters make this a fascinating volume for general readers while offering a wealth of historic information for students and scholars features include a complete glossary of terms timeline of major events recommended reading selections index and black and white illustrations

inspired by recent efforts to understand the dynamics of the early modern witch hunt johannes dillinger has produced a powerful synthesis based on careful comparisons narrowing his focus to two specific regions swabian austria and the electorate of trier he provides a nuanced explanation of how the tensions between state power and communalism determined the course of witch hunts that claimed over 1 300 lives in sixteenth and seventeenth century germany dillinger finds that far from representing the centralizing aggression of emerging early states against local cultures witch hunts were almost always driven by members of the middling and lower classes in cities and villages and they were stopped only when early modern states acquired the power to control their localities situating his study in the context of a pervasive magical worldview that embraced both orthodox christianity and folk belief dillinger shows that in some cases witch trials themselves were used as magical instruments designed to avert threats of impending divine wrath evil people describes a two century evolution in which witch hunters who liberally bestowed the label evil people on others turned into modern images of evil themselves in the original german evil people won the friedrich spee award as an outstanding contribution to the history of witchcraft

why did early modern europeans hunt for witches were these persecutions a shrewd tool to oppress women or the poor or were they just a way of making money or were witch hunters primarily driven by a genuine belief in witchcraft the witches sabbath the diabolical pact and the nightly flight were elements in the early modern concept of witchcraft that seem to have been intelligently designed to trigger persistent witch persecutions but in contrast to what many past historical scholars presumed witch hunts were not based on intelligent design so how to explain them this book proposes a new model darwinian cultural evolution it contends that witch hunting s apparent design emerged from a hidden evolutionary process in which



cultural variants which accidentally unleashed larger persecutions were cumulatively preserved witch hunting did not so much evolve to serve human interests but to ensure its own selfish reproduction historians have often compared witch persecutions to the outbreaks of contagious disease but only as a figure of speech but shouldn't we take the similarities more seriously this book argues that witch hunting was a cultural virus that spread at the expense of its human hosts and thus bridges the gap between qualitative history and the burgeoning field of darwinian cultural evolution

seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject history of europe middle ages early modern age grade english grade 58 von 70 university of nottingham school of history course hauptseminar gender and society in early modern europe language english abstract witch hunting is seen as something pathological a disease infecting like a plague the body of the communities in witch it raged 1 with these words the historian bob scribner described witchcraft and witch hunts they are defined as something negative and pathological and it is obviously that witchcraft could easily emerged because of the traditional beliefs rooted in the early modern society of germany witchcraft and witchhunts emerged in this period and made the population susceptible to the carrying out of denunciation and elimination of innocent people the population had been easily influenced by the authorities like magistrates and their fellow citizens in the following discussion passage witchcraft and witch hunts concerning the early modern europe will be less prominent rather than the study about witchcraft and witchhunts in early modern germany in particular the main focus will stress on the south of germany because it was the centre of witchcraft and witch hunts in addition to that some examples will be mentioned to show special witchcraft and witch hunt cases first it will be examined how the term witch is defined shown in a historical linguistic and an etymological way then the two authors of the malleus maleficarum<sup>2</sup> and their ideas about witches and witchcraft will be mentioned in the forth chapter the social context

shall be examined in this passage the accused shall be represented and the reasons which led to their accusation in the last chapter the witch hunts in early modern germany shall be represented it keeps the question in what way the witch hunts increased during the early modern period and which reasons contributed to their decline furthermore it should be bring out who was accused for witchcraft and what led to their accusation which reasons were fundamental for the accusation of certain people especially women at that period germany was part of the holy roman empire which lacked of juridical power and had no control over its own territories 3 also the early modern period was a time of considerable changes in economy politics and even within the society in particular concerning the role of the woman so the question remains whether witchcraft was linked to the changing female role in early modern germany or was it only the result of a lot of different political economical and social changes in the early modern period

originally published in 1929 the author presents a formidable collection of facts brought together in a scholarly manner this is an examination of the general history of witchcraft its changing laws and legal procedures as well as methods of interrogation and punishment this book must be considered an essential reference work for every student of witch lore

travelling through cities and sites across italy france germany ireland the united kingdom and the united states kristen j sollee explores the places and people significant to the early modern legacy of the witch between the 15th and 17th centuries a confluence of political economic and religious factors ignited a wildfire of witch hysteria in europe and later in parts of america at the heart of these witch hunts were often dangerous misconceptions about femininity and female sexuality and women were disproportionately punished as a result today this lineage of oppression remains a vital reference point in the fight for women s rights and human rights in the western world and beyond by infusing an adventurous first

person narrative with extensive research and moments of imaginative historical fiction sollee author of witches sluts feminists makes an often overlooked period of history come alive written for armchair travellers and on the ground explorers alike witch hunt not only uncovers the horrors of history but how the archetype of the witch has been rehabilitated for witches are not just haunting figures of the past the witch is also a liberatory icon and identity of the present provided by publisher

this is the first book to consider the general course and significance of the european witch craze of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries since h r trevor roper s classic and pioneering study appeared some fifteen years ago drawing upon the advances in historical and social science scholarship of the past decade and a half joseph klaitis integrates the recent appreciations of witchcraft in regional studies the history of popular culture anthropology sociology and psychology to better illuminate the place of witch hunting in the context of social political economic and religious change in all klaitis has done a good job avoiding the scandalous and sensational he has maintained throughout with sensitivity and economy an awareness of the uniqueness of the theories and persecutions that have fascinated scholars now for two decades and are unlikely to lose their appeal in the foreseeable future american historical review this is a commendable synthesis whose time has come fascinating the sixteenth century journal comprehensive and clearly written an excellent book choice impeccable research and interpretation stand behind this scholarly but not stultifying account booklist a good solid general treatment erik midelfort servants of satan is a well written easy to read book and the bibliography is a good source of secondary materials for further reading journal of american folklore

this book brings together twelve studies that collectively provide an overview of the main issues of live interest in scottish witchcraft as well as fresh

studies of the well established topic of witch hunting the book also launches an exploration of some of the more esoteric aspects of magical belief and practice

the year 1645 saw the biggest witch hunt in english history faced by the extreme challenges of religious dissent poverty sickness and the threat of foreign invasion ipswich became an ideological battlefield during the english civil wars here puritanism struggled against catholic sensibilities the devil loomed at the door of every english home and the age of the witchfinder was born this book focuses on witchcraft in ipswich and the most extreme punishment ever given to an english witch and challenges some stereotypes of the period reflecting on the growth in puritan sects gender politics the exploitation of the poor the importance of beliefs in the occult and the rise of english power in the new world

this documentary collection details the history of witch hunting in 17th century new england beginning in 1638 through the 1692 salem witch trials and the 1693 stamford fairfield connecticut witch hunt hall american religious history harvard divinity school provides an introduction to the history of witch hunting in new england discussing its lore the gendered nature of the hunts and the social and economic issues at stake he also introduces each group of documents providing specifics about the characters and the background to the case annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

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