

# The Scottish Witch Hunt In Context

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The Witch-hunt in Early Modern Europe  
Witch Hunts in Europe and America  
Enemies of God  
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The European Witch-Hunt  
The Witches of Fife  
Witch Hunt  
Witch-Hunt  
Scottish Witches and Witch-Hunters  
Village Infernos and Witches' Advocates  
Borders Witch Hunt  
The Ipswich Witch  
Witchcraze  
Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women  
Witch Hunts in the Western World  
Witch-hunting in Seventeenth-century New England : a Documentary History, 1638-1693  
The Discovery of Witches  
Witch Hunt  
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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

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

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

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

the fascinating story of one of england s darkest periods

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

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

the fascinating story of one of england s darkest times

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

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

the years between 1600 and 1700 were a period of war famine plague and religious upheaval in scotland a time when ordinary women and men of the scottish borders who fell under the suspicion of the kirk would face interrogation and torture a time when fear of auld nick turned the world upside down and the cry of witch would almost always lead to the rope and the flame mary craig explores this tremulous period of scottish history and examines the causes and effects of the 17th century witchcraft trials and executions in the scottish borders

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

explores the annihilation of seven million women of spirit and intelligence under the guise of witch hunts in reformation europe

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

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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

starting in the 15th century a fear of witchcraft and alternative practices grew into a hysteria because witches were suspected to be devil worshippers they were considered heretics to the christian church consequently the christians launched a crusade against these women and men matthew hopkins was not only among the greatest supporters of this crusade but also one of the most active participants in just over a year matthew hopkins a self proclaimed witchfinder general killed over one hundred people while the witch hunt hysteria infected much of the 17th century society in england there were still those who opposed the accusations and discrimination against witches after being criticized for his work hopkins decided to publish a guide to witch hunting including methods to discover a witch how to torture them into a confession and how to prosecute them along with outlines of torture methods such as sleep deprivation and forced physical activity the discovery of witches also addressed the questions and concerns raised by those who did not support hopkins under the guise of being a man of god hopkins claimed to have been sent on a divine mission to manipulate other religious groups into joining his cause as hopkin s practices brought him lucrative success he rose to a

short lived power but his published doctrine spread his influence for years after his death the discovery of witches by matthew hopkins is a short text of immeasurable insight though now recognized as zealot propaganda the discovery of witches depicts a chilling perspective of a heinous time in history including the concerns of those who opposed it while hopkin s work immortalizes a fascinating yet repulsive historical movement it also invites readers to reflect on the ways the spirit of his manipulation is still present in modern society this edition of the discovery of witches by matthew hopkins features an eye catching cover deign and is printed in an easy to read font making it both readable and modern

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

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