

# The Witchcraft Reader

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the excellent reader offers a selection of the best historical writing on witchcraft exploring how belief in witchcraft began and the social and context in which this belief flourished

the witchcraft reader offers a wide range of historical perspectives on the subject of witchcraft in a single accessible volume exploring the enduring hold that it has on human imagination the witch trials of the late middle ages and the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries have inspired a huge and expanding scholarly literature as well as an outpouring of popular representations this fully revised and enlarged third edition brings together many of the best and most important works in the field it explores the origins of witchcraft prosecutions in learned and popular culture fears of an imaginary witch cult the role of religious division and ideas about the devil the gendering of suspects the making of confessions and the decline of witch beliefs an expanded final section explores the various revivals and images of witchcraft that continue to flourish in contemporary western culture equipped with an extensive introduction that foregrounds significant debates and themes in the study of witchcraft providing the extracts with a critical context the witchcraft reader is essential

reading for anyone with an interest in this fascinating subject

short stories about witches past present and future on this planet and on others

exploring the elements of reality in early modern witchcraft and popular magic through a combination of detailed archival research and broad ranging interdisciplinary analyses this book complements and challenges existing scholarship and offers unique insights into this murky aspect of early modern history

the book investigates the witch as a key rhetorical symbol in twentieth and twenty first century feminist memory politics activism and popular culture the witch demonstrates the inheritance of paradoxical pasts traversing numerous ideological memoryscapes this book is an examination of the ways that the witch has been deployed by feminist activists and writers in their political efforts in the twentieth century and how this has indelibly affected cultural memories of the witch and the witch trials and how this plays out in popular culture representations of the symbol through the twentieth and twenty first centuries consequently this book considers the relationship between popular culture and media activist politics and cultural memory using hauntological theories of memory and temporality and literary screen and cultural studies methodologies this book considers how popular culture remembers misremembers and forgets usable pasts and the uses and misuses of these memories for feminist politics given the ubiquity of the witch in popular culture politics and activism since 2016 this book is a timely examination of the range of meanings inherent to the figure and is an important study of how cultural symbols like the witch inherit paradoxical memories histories and politics the book will be valuable for scholars across disciplines including witchcraft studies feminist philosophy and history memory studies and popular culture studies

whether they prefer blockbusters historical dramas or documentaries people learn much of what they know about history from the movies in american history goes to the movies w bryan rommel ruiz shows how popular representations of historic events shape the way audiences understand the history of the united states including american representations of race and gender and stories of immigration especially the familiar narrative of the american dream using films from many different genres american history goes to the movies draws together movies that depict the civil war the wild west the assassination of jfk and the events of 9 11 from the birth of a nation and gone with the wind to the exorcist and united 93 to show how viewers use movies to make sense of the past addressing not only how we render history for popular enjoyment but also how hollywood s renderings of america influence the way americans see themselves and how they make sense of the world

this book uses communities of women as a framework for reading women s experience rights and aspirations in assam and northeast india it explores the varying roles played by such communities in the formation of society the emergence of a women s public sphere and the representation of these communities in culture the essays in the volume study a host of women s communities including the mahila samiti jain women s organisations lekhika sanstha lesbian communities religious gatherings scientific and environmental groups women s collaborations through cookbooks as well as nebulous communities of victims of persecution they examine how women s communities are both empowering and transformational but may paradoxically also be regressive and static lucid analytical and rich with case studies this volume will be useful to scholars and researchers of gender studies sociology political science history and cultural studies particularly those interested in northeast india

over 170 contributors from 28 nations provide vivid documented descriptions and analyses of witchcraft trials and locations folklore and beliefs magical practices and deities influential texts and the full range of players in this extraordinary drama witchcraft theorists and theologians historians and authors judges clergy and rulers the accused and their persecutors concentrating on europe and the americas in the early modern era the work also covers relevant topics from the ancient near east including the hebrew and christian bibles classical antiquity and the european middle ages

the works selected for this volume are taken from topical literature representing the prosecution of english women for witchcraft between 1566 and 1712 the texts here were chosen to represent all the ways in which women s activities as witches were presented in popular literature rather than texts aimed at a more leisured and literate readership

in this original study of witchcraft gibson explores the stories told by and about witches and their victims through trial records early news books pamphlets and fascinating personal accounts the author discusses the issues surrounding the interpretation of original historical sources and demonstrates that their representations of witchcraft are far from straight forward or reliable innovative and thought provoking this book sheds new light on early modern people s responses to witches and on the sometimes bizarre flexibility of the human imagination

this reader offers an overview of anthropological findings about religion that spans 100 years of work eighteen new readings are among the fifty six selections in the fourth edition the selections are organized into nine categories the origin and development of religion the function of religion in human society the interpretation of symbolism the analysis of myth the symbolic analysis of ritual the purposes of shamanism interpretations of magic witchcraft and divination the meaning of ghosts and ancestor worship dynamics in religion all selections are place in historical and theoretical perspectives and encompass systematic study and both classic and recent publications publisher

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