

# The Witchcraft Sourcebook

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this collection of trial records laws treatises sermons speeches woodcuttings paintings and literary texts illustrates how contemporaries from various periods have perceived alleged witches and their activities

the witchcraft sourcebook now in its second edition is a fascinating collection of documents that illustrates the development

of ideas about witchcraft from ancient times to the eighteenth century many of the sources come from the period between 1400 and 1750 when more than 100 000 people most of them women were prosecuted for witchcraft in europe and colonial america during these years the prominent stereotype of the witch as an evil magician and servant of satan emerged catholics and protestants alike feared that the devil and his human confederates were destroying christian society including trial records demonological treatises and sermons literary texts narratives of demonic possession and artistic depiction of witches the documents reveal how contemporaries from various periods have perceived alleged witches and their activities brian p levack shows how notions of witchcraft have changed over time and considers the connection between gender and witchcraft and the nature of the witch s perceived power this second edition includes an extended section on the witch trials in england scotland and new england fully revised and updated introductions to the sources to include the latest scholarship and a short bibliography at the end of each introduction to guide students in their further reading the sourcebook provides students of the history of witchcraft with a broad range of sources many of which have been translated into english for the first time with commentary and background by one of the leading scholars in the field

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the fourth edition of the witch hunt in early modern europe written by one of the leading names in the field is the ideal resource for both students and scholars of the witch hunts 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 the witchcraft sourcebook now in its second edition is a fascinating collection of documents illustrating the development of ideas about witchcraft from ancient times to the eighteenth century along with commentary and background by brian levack including trial records demonological treatises and sermons literary texts narratives of demonic possession and artistic depiction of witches the documents show how notions of witchcraft have changed over time and consider the connection between gender and witchcraft and the nature of the witch s perceived

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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

discover the hidden depths of the sabbath take flight for a mesmerizing exploration of an event long shrouded in fear and mystery the witches sabbath kelden presents an in depth examination of the sabbath s historical and folkloric development as well as its re emergence within the modern practice of witchcraft from discussions on the folklore of flight and the events of nocturnal gatherings to enchanting rituals and recipes you ll find everything you need to not only understand the nature of the legendary sabbath but also journey there yourself offering impressive research and compelling stories from across europe and the early american colonies this book is the ultimate resource for discovering an oft misunderstood and overlooked aspect of witchcraft includes a foreword by jason mankey author of the horned god of the witches

stories about witches are by their nature stories about the most basic and profound of human experiences healing sex violence tragedies aging death and encountering the mystery and magic of the unknown it is no surprise then that witches loom large in our cultural imaginations in academia studies of witches rarely emerge from scholars who are themselves witches and or embedded in communities of witchcraft practitioners the witch studies reader brings together a diverse group of scholars practitioners and scholar practitioners who examine witchcraft from a critical decolonial feminist perspective that decenters europe and departs from exoticizing and pathologizing writing on witchcraft in the global south the authors show how witches are keepers of suppressed knowledges builders of new futures exemplars of praxis and theorists in their own right throughout they account for the vastly different national political economic and cultural contexts in which the witch is currently being claimed and repudiated offering a pathbreaking transnational feminist examination of witches and witchcraft that upends white supremacist colonial patriarchal knowledge regimes this volume brings into being the interdisciplinary field of feminist witch studies contributors maria amir ruth asiimwe bernadette barton ethel brooks shelina brown ruth charnock soma chaudhuri carolyn chernoff saira chhibber simon clay krystal cleary adrianna l ernstberger tina escaja laurie essig marcelitte failla d ferrett marion goldman jaime hartless margaretha haughwout patricia humura apoorvaa joshi govind kelkar oliver kellhammer ayça kurtoğlu helen macdonald isabel machado brandy renee mccann dev nathan mary jo neitz amy nichols belo allison or ap pierce emma quilty anna rogel karen schaller jacquelyn marie shannon shashank shekhar sinha gabriella v smith nathan snaza shannon hughes spence eric steinhart morena tartari nicole trigg katie von wald tushabe wa tushabe jane ward

how did the reformation which initially promoted decidedly illiberal positions end up laying the groundwork for western

liberalism the english reformation began as an evangelical movement driven by an unyielding belief in predestination intolerance stringent literalism political quietism and destructive iconoclasm yet by 1688 this illiberal early modern upheaval would deliver the foundations of liberalism free will liberty of conscience religious toleration readerly freedom constitutionalism and aesthetic liberty how did a movement with such illiberal beginnings lay the groundwork for the enlightenment james simpson provocatively rewrites the history of liberalism and uncovers its unexpected debt to evangelical religion sixteenth century protestantism ushered in a culture of permanent revolution ceaselessly repudiating its own prior forms its rejection of tradition was divisive violent and unsustainable the proto liberalism of the later seventeenth century emerged as a cultural package designed to stabilize the social chaos brought about by this evangelical revolution a brilliant assault on many of our deepest assumptions permanent revolution argues that far from being driven by a new strain of secular philosophy the british enlightenment is a story of transformation and reversal of the protestant tradition from within the gains of liberalism were the unintended results of the violent early reformation today those gains are increasingly under threat in part because liberals do not understand their own history they fail to grasp that liberalism is less the secular opponent of religious fundamentalism than its dissident younger sibling uncertain how to confront its older evangelical competitor

for nearly thirty years during which it has been continuously in print jeffrey russell s a history of witchcraft has been the one authoritative concise illustrated history of witchcraft now in collaboration with brooks alexander who has conducted innovative researches in the field this classic book has been fully revised with new chapters and illustrations publisher website june 2007

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

along the coast of fife in villages like culross and pittenweem historical markers and pamphlets now include the fact that some women were executed as witches within these burghs still the reality of what happened the night that janet cornfoot was lynched in the harbour is hard to grasp as one sits in the harbour of pittenweem 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

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

one of the most important benefits of this book is that brummett and his contributors demonstrate interesting ways to read critically t b dykeman choiceunmasking the social and political messages found in popular culture sometimes movies television shows political speeches and music lyrics seem to be about one thing on the surface but express other serious social and political issues when we examine them more closely using methods of formal analysis uncovering hidden rhetorics social issues in disguise offers students and scholars a key to unlocking hidden text that abounds in popular culture key features weaves meticulous analysis with popular culture throughout keeping students and scholarly readers alike engaged and interested empowers students to find hidden themes in texts of everyday life and inspires ongoing critical thinking using a clear and engaging style and examples of well known works makes formal analysis more accessible

intended audience interested scholars and upper level undergraduate students enrolled in such courses as rhetoric and popular culture contemporary rhetorical theory criticism media criticism popular culture and mass communication rhetorical methods and so forth will find this compelling text an informative and delightful read

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

this book examines longstanding debates in the anthropology of religion concerning the connections between ritual and meaning belief politics emotion development and gender but it examines these old topics from a radically new perspective that of the cognitive science of religion as such the volume identifies potential solutions to established problems but it also sets out a program for future research in the field the volume includes a substantial introduction from harvey whitehouse and james laidlaw who highlight the connections between key issues in the history of religious anthropology and the latest findings of scientific psychology this volume they argue presents us with potential solutions to old problems but also with a series of new and exciting challenges this book is part of the ritual studies monograph series edited by pamela j stewart and andrew strathern department of anthropology university of pittsburgh the introduction and endpapers by the editors which detail these positions are excellent the papers in between which explore the relation of ep to the thought of malinowski durkheim and other seminal anthropological scholars of religion are likewise first rate highly recommended c s peebles indiana university bloomington choice magazine

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