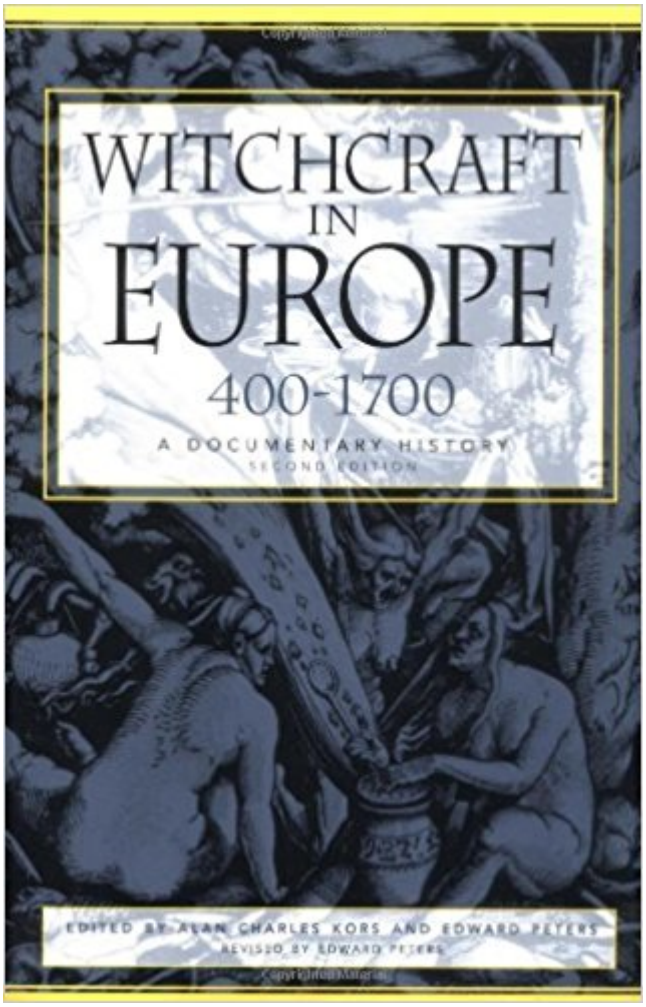
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Witchcraft In Europe, 400-1700: A Documentary History (Middle Ages Series)



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Synopsis

Selected by Choice magazine as an Outstanding Academic Book for 2001The highly-acclaimed first edition of this book chronicled the rise and fall of witchcraft in Europe between the twelfth and the end of the seventeenth centuries. Now greatly expanded, the classic anthology of contemporary texts reexamines the phenomenon of witchcraft, taking into account the remarkable scholarship since the book's publication almost thirty years ago.Spanning the period from 400 to 1700, the second edition of Witchcraft in Europe assembles nearly twice as many primary documents as the first, many newly translated, along with new illustrations that trace the development of witch-beliefs from late Mediterranean antiquity through the Enlightenment. Trial records, inquisitors' reports, eyewitness statements, and witches' confessions, along with striking contemporary illustrations depicting the career of the Devil and his works, testify to the hundreds of years of terror that enslaved an entire continent.Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, Thomas Hobbes, and other thinkers are quoted at length in order to determine the intellectual, perceptual, and legal processes by which "folklore" was transformed into systematic demonology and persecution. Together with explanatory notes, introductory essaysÃ¢â ¬â •which have been revised to reflect current researchÃ¢â ¬â •and a new bibliography, the documents gathered in Witchcraft in Europe vividly illumine the dark side of the European mind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"An indispensable source book."Ã¢â ¬â •Choice, in a review of the first edition"Revisions have made this anthology stronger and even more essential."Ã¢â ¬â •Choice"Comprehensive, original, scholarly, philosophically searching, and meticulously prepared. . . . The volume, copiously illustrated, reveals the shocking impact of the belief in witches on Europe's Middle Ages, and examines the struggles of thinkers . . . to confront the phenomenon on rational terms. This is a major work in the genre."Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, in a review of the first edition

Alan Charles Kors is Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania and author of Atheism in France, 1650-1729 and (with Harvey A. Silvergate) The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses. Edward Peters is Henry Charles Lea Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania. Among his books are Torture and The First Crusade, both also available from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

If you're someone interested in the growth of witchcraft during the medieval era, you must own this text. Comprised of 69 treatises of well-known individuals in the time span mentioned, this book basically covers the whole shebang and they're all original sources. A superb text for a student of medieval history, witchcraft specifically and its growth over 1300 years, and the crushing results of such beliefs. You can pick or choose who to read depending on your interests or gobble up the whole book and come away well-rounded regarding your knowledge of the rise of witchcraft in medieval Europe. A must-have book for those studying this period.

Print is far too small for the average person with the slightest reduction in eyesight. I have bad eyesight and even with prescription glasses was unable to read it

This book is a collection of source documents, arranged in roughly chronological order, relating to the development of the medieval views on witchcraft and the witch craze. It ends with later, more skeptical voices such as Reginald Scot.The book begins with excerpts from the works of St. Augustine, eventually works its way through the writings of Thomas Aquinas, the Malleus Malifacarum, witch trial testimony, and even dissenting opinions in verdicts. It shows clearly the development of the image of witch from misguided pagan through diabolical child-killer and the eventual triumph of skepticism in the wake of dangerously self-fulfilling witch hunts.

Kors and Peters do a great job at helping you understand the texts back then. Super informative

and interesting.

I expected documentary evidence of cases, in a narrative format. Instead the book is a compendium of scholarly thought, highly theoretical and concerned mostly with definitions. It’s somewhat interesting but not very enlightening.

This is source documentation. It is as close to historic fact as it gets. Note the hatred of native Europeans tradition from 400 AD on. Hopefully others will realize that Europeans "lost the war" a long, long time ago and have been slaves since then. May the Goddess and God touch the hearts of all people and bring them back to harmony.

this book give in details the texts and laws in a range of time about the "problem" of witchcraft. the book gives a good clue to the responsibles of the Witch Craze.

A superb book for our research library

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