

## Popular Culture

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Popular Culture</b>	The shared traditions, beliefs, and activities of ordinary people in a society, such as festivals, songs, games, and stories.
<b>Elite Culture</b>	The customs and practices of the wealthy and educated classes, often different from those of ordinary people.
<b>Pageant</b>	Public entertainment, usually consisting of a procession.
<b>Carnival</b>	A lively festival, often held before Lent, with costumes, feasting, and games, where normal rules were relaxed.
<b>Charivari/ Skimmington</b>	A noisy, mocking demonstration, often against people who broke social rules, like cheating husbands or nagging wives.
<b>Broadsides and ballads</b>	A sheet of paper with a story, poem or song printed on one side.
<b>Cunning Folk</b>	People who claimed to have magical powers for healing, finding lost items, or protecting against witches.
<b>Festival of Misrule</b>	A festival where normal social rules were turned upside down, such as peasants playing at being lords.

Dates	Key events
<b>1517</b>	Riots in London as a result of May Day celebrations.
<b>1520-1530</b>	Carnivals in Germany used to mock and protest against the Catholic Church.
<b>1560s-1600s</b>	Protestant & Catholic reformers attack 'superstitious' customs: Image smashing, calendar cuts, and stricter preaching reshape village culture; varies by region but trend widespread.
<b>Late C16th</b>	Parish & civic authorities begin regulating festivals (various regions): Efforts to curb disorder, drunkenness, and 'misrule' link religion with social control.
<b>1559</b>	Pieter Brueghel paints 'The Fight between Carnival and Lent'.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
William Shakespeare	Shakespeare's plays, along with those of other playwrights from the time, attracted audiences from all social classes.
Pieter Brueghel the Elder	Brueghel was an artist who was known for painting scenes of peasant life, at a time when this was highly unusual. Brueghel's paintings show popular culture in the Netherlands.

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Confessional strife</b>	Conflict arising from differences in religious beliefs and practices, particularly within and between different Christian denominations.
<b>Little Ice Age</b>	A period of colder weather in Europe causing poor harvests and hardship, often blamed on witches.
<b>The cumulative concept of witchcraft</b>	The idea that the modern understanding of a witch, including characteristics like an old woman, a pact with the Devil and participation in sabbats, developed over time through the combination of various beliefs and practices.
<b>Maleficium</b>	Harmful magic, such as causing illness or damaging crops, believed to be done by witches.
<b>Demonology</b>	The study of demons and evil spirits; in this period, books about witches and the Devil were called demonologies.
<b>The Devil's Pact</b>	A belief that witches made a deal with the Devil in exchange for magical powers.
<b>Sabbat</b>	A supposed secret meeting of witches, often imagined as including feasting, dancing, and worship of the Devil.
<b>Heresy</b>	A belief or opinion that goes against the official teachings of the Church; witchcraft was often seen as heresy.

## The Main Reasons for the Growth and Decline in the Persecution of Witches

Dates	Key events
<b>1484</b>	Pope Innocent VIII released the Papal Bull 'Summis desiderantes affectibus' that authorised the inquisition of witchcraft in Germany.
<b>1486</b>	The 'Malleus Maleficarum' was first published.
<b>1517</b>	Martin Luther's 'Ninety-five Theses' starts the Reformation.
<b>1542</b>	First Witchcraft Act in England
<b>1782</b>	Last European execution for witchcraft takes place in Sweden.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
<b>Heinrich Kramer</b>	Author of the 'Malleus Maleficarum', which played a large role in shaping the cumulative concept of witchcraft.
<b>Reginald Scot</b>	Scot wrote 'The Discoverie of Witchcraft' in 1584, with the aim of showing that witchcraft did not exist. The book caused controversy and influenced both those who condemned and those who supported the persecution of witches.

## The Persecuted

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Accused</b>	A person suspected of being a witch and put on trial.
<b>Marginalised groups</b>	People on the edge of society, like the poor or disabled, often targeted.
<b>Misogyny</b>	Hatred or suspicion of women, common in witch beliefs.
<b>Wise woman</b>	A woman who specialised in herbal cures, remedies and beneficial magic.
<b>Scapegoat</b>	A person who is blamed for the wrongdoings, mistakes, or faults of others, especially for reasons of convenience.
<b>Stereotype</b>	A widely held, but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.
<b>Autonomous</b>	A country or region having the freedom to govern itself or control its own affairs.
<b>Diabolism</b>	Worship of the Devil.
<b>United Provinces</b>	Name for the modern-day Netherlands, which by the seventeenth century had defeated the Spanish and gained independence.

Dates	Key events
<b>1612</b>	Lancashire trials reveal poor, quarrelsome families at risk.
<b>1625-31</b>	Würzburg: executions include children & clergy—panic swept social groups.
<b>1626-32</b>	Bamberg: civic leaders (e.g., Junius) also fall victim; property seizures.
<b>1645-47</b>	East Anglia: mostly poor women (widows, marginal) targeted in wartime fear.
<b>1692</b>	Salem: accusations spread to servants, farmers, respected church members—panic crosses status lines.

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Inquisition</b>	Catholic Church courts investigating heresy and witchcraft.
<b>Secular courts</b>	Non-religious courts handling witchcraft cases in many regions.
<b>Ecclesiastical courts</b>	Church courts that handled witchcraft cases at the beginning of the early modern period.
<b>Edict</b>	An official order, sometime used to regulate witch trials.
<b>Centralisation</b>	Moving trials from local to higher courts to prevent abuses.
<b>Pamphleteering</b>	Authorities spreading anti-witch or pro-witch propaganda material.
<b>Judicial instability</b>	Weak or fragmented legal systems that allowed local courts to conduct large witch hunts.
<b>Holy Roman Empire</b>	A large group of central European territories where some of the most severe witch hunts took place.
<b>Strappado</b>	A form of punishment or torture in which the victim was secured to a rope and made to fall from a height almost to the ground before being stopped with an abrupt jerk.

## Responses of the Authorities to Witchcraft

Dates	Key events
<b>1532</b>	Carolina Law Code introduced – a set of laws in the Holy Roman Empire that allowed torture in witchcraft cases, among other things.
<b>1563</b>	Elizabethan Witchcraft Act (England): Restored penalties for witchcraft, with death for harmful magic causing death.
<b>1736</b>	British Parliament repeals Witchcraft Act; prosecutes fraud instead—decisive legal shift away from belief in real witch power.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
<b>James VI and I</b>	Authored 'Daemonologie' (1597) and backed 1604 Act—royal endorsement of witch fears.

## The Witchcraze in Southern Germany, c.1590-1630

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Prince-Bishops</b>	Catholic rulers in German states who drove witch persecutions.
<b>Hexenhaus/ Drudenhaus</b>	The “witch house” prison in Bamberg for accused witches.
<b>Jesuits</b>	Catholic order influencing harsh witch policies.
<b>Counter-Reformation</b>	The response of the Catholic Church to the Protestant Reformation, in which it attempts to reform itself in order to strengthen itself against Protestantism.
<b>Council of Trent</b>	The gathering of cardinals, bishops and archbishops in Trent in a series of sessions between 1545 and 1563. It issued a number of decrees that reformed the Catholic Church.
<b>weather magic</b>	The supernatural ability to influence or control weather patterns.
<b>semi-autonomous territory</b>	A territory that has a degree of, but not complete, self-government.
<b>coin-clipping</b>	The clipping of small pieces of metal from the edges of coins in order to acquire the silver.

Dates	Key events
<b>1581-1593</b>	Trier witch-hunts.
<b>1616-19</b>	First phase of the Bamberg witch-hunts.
<b>1618-1648</b>	The Thirty Years' War.
<b>1625-1631</b>	Second phase of the Bamberg witch-hunts.
<b>1626-1632</b>	Würzburg witch-hunts.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
<b>Johann Gottfried von Aschhausen</b>	Prince-bishop of Bamberg from 1609 to 1622, and of Würzburg from 1617 to 1622. During his time as prince-bishop of Bamberg, he issued new ordinances on witchcraft in 1610 and conducted two sets of witch-hunts. These led to the deaths of around 300 suspected witches.
<b>Johann Georg Fuchs von Dornheim</b>	Prince-bishop of Bamberg from 1622 to 1633. He played a crucial role in the witch trials of 1626-31, establishing a network of informers, building the Drudenhaus prison with a torture chamber.
<b>Friedrich Förner</b>	Vicar general in Bamberg. His writings and actions fueled the witch-hunts and provided the ideological justification for the persecution of those accused of witchcraft.

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Civil war</b>	A war between citizens of the same country.
<b>Assize courts/circuits</b>	Six assize courts that travelled the country in a series of circuits, hearing the most serious crimes.
<b>Watcher</b>	A person hired to observe suspects for signs of witchcraft.
<b>Familiar</b>	An imp or demon that attended and obeyed a witch, usually in the form of an animal.
<b>Witch's mark</b>	A mark on the body believed to be given by the Devil.
<b>Sleep deprivation</b>	A form of torture used to force confessions.
<b>Puritanism</b>	The belief that any Catholic ceremony or doctrine should be removed from the Church.
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	A person commissioned to perform certain judicial and other functions within a specified locality in England and Wales.
<b>gentry</b>	The class of landowners below the nobility.
<b>Royalist</b>	A supporter of King Charles I during the English Civil Wars.

## Hopkins and the Witch Hunt of 1645-47

Dates	Key events
<b>1644</b>	Matthew Hopkins suspicious of witches in Manningtree.
<b>1645-47</b>	East Anglia witch-hunt.
<b>1645</b>	Eighteen witches hanged at Bury St. Edmunds.
<b>1646</b>	Harsh winter and plague in East Anglia. John Gaule starts to preach against Hopkins and Stearne. Witchcraft campaign spreads to Northamptonshire.
<b>1647</b>	Hopkins publishes 'The Discovery of Witches'. Hopkins attends Norfolk assizes and faces fierce questioning. Witchcraft campaign spreads to Cambridgeshire. Matthew Hopkins dies.
<b>1648</b>	John Stearne publishes 'A Confirmation and Discovery of Witchcraft'.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
<b>Matthew Hopkins</b>	Born in Suffolk, the son of a Puritan clergyman. Between 1645 and 1646 he was involved with John Stearne (initially as Stearne's assistant) in a series of witch-hunts in East Anglia, which led to the deaths of over a hundred people.
<b>John Stearne</b>	Stearne grew up in Suffolk, but lived in Manningtree when the witch-hunts began. He was involved in the interrogation of Elizabeth Clarke, and became one of the key witchfinders in East Anglia as a result.

## The Salem Witch Trials

Key Terms	Definitions
<b>Massachusetts Bay Colony</b>	An English settlement on the coast of North America, established in 1630 by Puritan refugees seeking religious freedom.
<b>Spectral evidence</b>	Testimony about visions or dreams where a spirit or spectral shape allegedly appears to torment an innocent person.
<b>The afflicted girls</b>	The girls who claimed to be bewitched.
<b>Court of Oyer and Terminer</b>	A special court set up to investigate a specific issue.
<b>Theocracy</b>	A system of government in which religious leaders rule in the name of God.
<b>Frontier</b>	The extreme limit of settled land, beyond which lies wilderness.
<b>Ergot poisoning</b>	Ergot is a fungal disease affecting rye. Eating food that was infected by it causing poisoning and hallucinations.
<b>Navigation Acts</b>	Acts that stated goods going to England could be carried only in English ships, unless they were not available.
<b>Royal charter</b>	A grant from the monarch outlining the privileges and rights of an organisation or institution.

Dates	Key events
<b>1675-78</b>	First Indian War, also known as King Philip's War, after the name of the chief of the Wampanoag Indians. The Native Americans massacred English colonists in Massachusetts in 1675 and began a conflict with the settlers.
<b>1678-87</b>	Nin Year' War, also known as the War of the Grand Alliance or the War of the League of Ausburg. It was fought between France's Louis XIV and other European nations, but spread to colonial North America.
<b>1688</b>	The Goodwin possessions began in Boston, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
<b>1692-93</b>	The Salem witch trials took place.
<b>1693</b>	Governor Phipps issued a general pardon in Salem.

Key individuals	Why are they important?
<b>Cotton Mather</b>	Had a controversial role in the Salem witch trials, particularly regarding his support of spectral evidence. In 1693 he published 'Wonders of the Invisible World', in which he defended the trials.
<b>Governor William Phips</b>	Created the Court of Oyer and Terminer to try witchcraft cases in Salem. Phips closed down the court in October 1692 and released those under investigation.