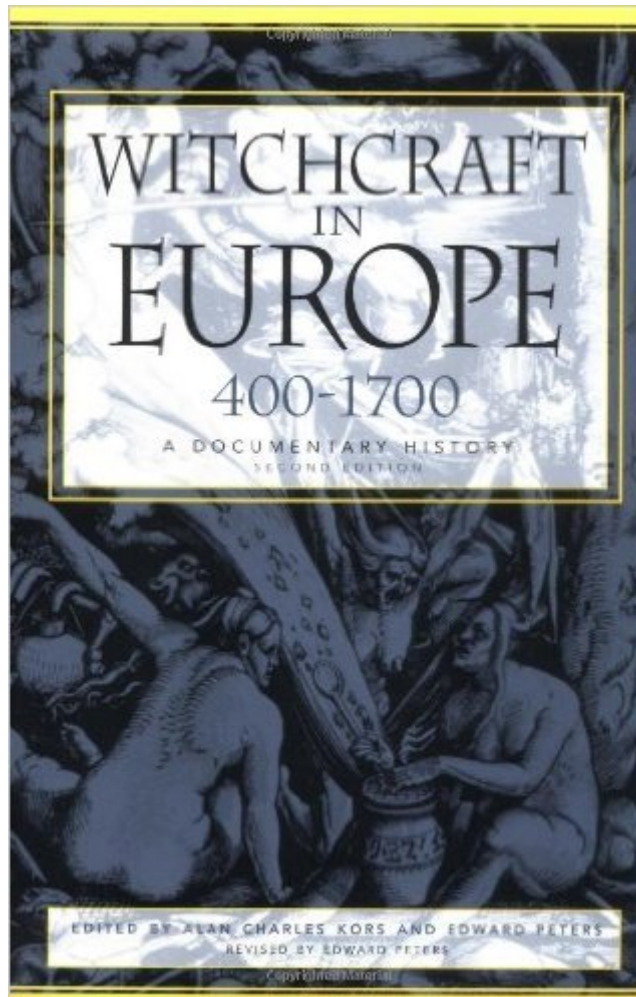


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# Witchcraft In Europe, 400-1700: A Documentary History (Middle Ages Series)



## Synopsis

Selected by Choice magazine as an Outstanding Academic Book for 2001 The 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 essays "which have been revised to reflect current research" 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

I thought nothing could surpass my previous favorite reference book -- the first edition of Kors and Peters' tremendous work. It should be no surprise, then, that it is this, the second edition, that now occupies the seat of honor in my collection. This collection of source documents is, in my opinion, the best available for the study of European witchcraft persecutions. The documents included are specifically edited to highlight relevant sections. I find this extremely valuable; I'm not always up to searching through the writings of Aquinas to find a particular passage. This expanded, second edition provides even more of what I've grown to rely upon: a coherent collection of source documents tracing the development of witchcraft in medieval psychology, through the "witchcraze" in early modern Europe, and concluding with the skepticism developing in the 17th Century. If I'm ever stranded on a desert island, I hope I remembered to bring this book with me.

this book is a compendium of the words of the people who were involved in the witch trials. In it we find the Accusers, the Accused and those who fought against it. All sources are cited, and additional reading on each subject is suggested. This book was the first where I read about what it was that caused so many clergy to be so rabid in their pursuit, prosecution and execution of so many men and women. I highly recommend it to anyone who is serious about Medieval thought.

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 Malifaciarum*, 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.

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.

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 responsables of the Witch Craze.

This is an excellent description of the "dark" forces which scared many people during the Medieval Ages. It is clear, concise, and easy reading.Finn Wilhelmsen.

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