

HERESY MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND MALE WITCHES IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE AND COLONIAL AMERICA WITCHCRAFT IN EUROPE, 400-1700 INSTRUMENTS OF DARKNESS HERESY, MAGIC AND WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN GERMANY WITCHCRAFT, WITCH-HUNTING, AND POLITICS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN SCOTLAND WITCHCRAFT AND BELIEF IN EARLY MODERN SCOTLAND A HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND FROM 1558 TO 1718 WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE THINKING WITH DEMONS THE WITCH-HUNT IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE INSTRUMENTS OF DARKNESS WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN POLAND, 1500-1800 GENDER AT STAKE INSTRUMENTS OF DARKNESS JONATHAN BARRY J. A. SHARPE LARA APPS BRIAN P. LEVACK ALAN CHARLES KORS J. A. SHARPE GARY K WAITE JAMES SHARPE ANNE SOPHIE G[?] NZEL PETER ELMER LAWRENCE NORMAND J. GOODARE WALLACE NOTESTEIN MERRY E. WIESNER STUART CLARK BRIAN P. LEVACK JAMES SHARPE W. WYPORSKA LARA APPS J. A. SHARPE

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THIS IMPORTANT COLLECTION BRINGS TOGETHER BOTH ESTABLISHED FIGURES AND NEW RESEARCHERS TO OFFER FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON THE EVER CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT OF THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT USING KEITH THOMAS'S RELIGION AND THE DECLINE OF MAGIC AS A STARTING POINT THE CONTRIBUTORS EXPLORE THE CHANGES OF THE LAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF EARLY MODERN WITCHCRAFT AND SUGGEST NEW APPROACHES ESPECIALLY CONCERNING THE CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF THE SUBJECT WITCHCRAFT CASES MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS POWER STRUGGLES OVER GENDER AND IDEOLOGY AS WELL AS SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH A CRUCIAL ROLE PLAYED BY ALTERNATIVE REPRESENTATIONS WITCHCRAFT WAS ALWAYS A CONTESTED IDEA NEVER FULLY ESTABLISHED IN EARLY MODERN CULTURE BUT MUCH HARDER TO DISLODGE THAN HAS USUALLY BEEN ASSUMED THE ESSAYS ARE EUROPEAN IN SCOPE WITH EXAMPLES FROM GERMANY FRANCE AND THE SPANISH EXPANSION INTO THE NEW WORLD AS WELL AS A STRONG CORE OF ENGLISH MATERIAL

INTRODUCES READERS TO THE CURRENT STATE OF DEBATE AND TO FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR INVESTIGATION COVERS SUCH FUNDAMENTAL TOPICS AS WITCHCRAFT AS AN INTELLECTUAL AND THEOLOGICAL PROBLEM NEIGHBOURLY TENSIONS RELATED TO WITCHCRAFT ACCUSATIONS THE ISSUE OF WITCHCRAFT AND GENDER THE PROBLEM OF THE DECLINE OF WITCH CRAFT PERSECUTION THIS BOOK IS CHARACTERIZED THROUGHOUT BY A STRAIGHTFORWARD APPROACH WHICH GUIDES THE READER THROUGH THE SOMETIMES DIFFICULT DETAILS OF THIS FASCINATING BUT MUCH MISUNDERSTOOD SUBJECT THE INTERPRETIVE TEXT IS ACCOMPANIED BY A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTARY EXTRACTS SOME OF THEM NEVER PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED WHICH ALLOWS THE READER TO GET TO GRIPS WITH WITCHCRAFT AS IT WAS EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST AND TO UNDERSTAND HOW HISTORIANS HAVE CONSTRUCTED THEIR INTERPRETATIONS OF EARLY MODERN WITCHCRAFT

THIS BOOK CRITIQUES HISTORIANS ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WITCH HUNTING AS WELL AS THEIR EXPLANATIONS FOR THIS COMPLEX AND PERPLEXING PHENOMENON IT SHOWS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF MEN WERE

ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT IN SOME REGIONS MORE MEN WERE ACCUSED THAN WOMEN THE AUTHORS INSIST ON THE CENTRALITY OF GENDER TRADITION AND IDEAS ABOUT WITCHES IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WITCH AS A DANGEROUS FIGURE THEY CHALLENGE THE MARGINALIZATION OF MALE WITCHES BY FEMINIST AND OTHER HISTORIANS

A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS FROM LEADING SCHOLARS IN THE FIELD THAT COLLECTIVELY 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

A THOROUGHLY REVISED GREATLY EXPANDED EDITION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF EUROPEAN WITCHCRAFT EVER PUBLISHED

AAN DE HAND VAN RECHTBANKVERSLAGEN BESCHRIJFT DE AUTEUR DE HEKSENVOLGINGEN IN ENGELAND

IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY MANY AUTHORITIES DID NOT BELIEVE INQUISITORS STORIES OF A SUPPOSED SATANIC WITCH SECT HOWEVER THE RELIGIOUS CONFLICT OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY REFORMATION ESPECIALLY POPULAR MOVEMENTS OF REFORM AND REVOLT HELPED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH DIABOLICAL CONSPIRACIES WHICH SWEEPED UP RELIGIOUS DISSIDENTS JEWS AND MAGICIANS INTO THEIR NETS WERE BELIEVED TO POSE A VERY REAL THREAT FEAR OF THE DEVIL AND HIS FOLLOWERS INSPIRED HORRIFIC INCIDENTS OF JUDICIALLY APPROVED TERROR IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE LEADING AFTER 1560 TO THE INFAMOUS WITCH HUNTS BRINGING TOGETHER THE FIELDS OF REFORMATION AND WITCHCRAFT STUDIES THIS FASCINATING BOOK REVEALS HOW THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD'S RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS LED TO WIDESPREAD CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY GARY K WAITE EXAMINES IN DEPTH HOW CHURCH LEADERS DISPELLED RISING RELIGIOUS DOUBT BY PERSECUTING HERETICS AND HOW ALLEGED INFERNAL PLOTS AND WITCHES WHO CONFESSED TO MAKING A PACT WITH THE DEVIL HELPED THE AUTHORITIES TO REAFFIRM ORTHODOXY WAITE ARGUES THAT IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE AUTHORITIES CAME TO TERMS WITH PLURALISM THAT THERE WAS A CORRESPONDING DECLINE IN WITCH PANICS

WITCHCRAFT IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND PROVIDES A FASCINATING INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WITCHES AND WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND FROM THE SIXTEENTH TO THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WITCHCRAFT WAS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY DEATH IN ENGLAND DURING THIS PERIOD AND THIS BOOK CHARTS THE WITCH PANICS AND LEGAL PERSECUTION OF WITCHES THAT FOLLOWED EXPLORING TOPICS SUCH AS ELITE ATTITUDES TO WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND THE ROLE OF PRESSURES AND TENSIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY IN ACCUSATIONS OF WITCHCRAFT THE WAY IN WHICH THE LEGAL SYSTEM DEALT WITH WITCHCRAFT CASES AND THE COMPLEX DECLINE OF BELIEF IN WITCHCRAFT REVISED AND UPDATED THIS NEW EDITION EXPLORES THE MODERN HISTORIOGRAPHICAL DEBATE SURROUNDING THIS SUBJECT AND INCORPORATES RECENT FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF HISTORIANS IN THE FIELD BRINGING IT RIGHT UP TO DATE AND IN PARTICULAR OFFERING AN EXTENDED TREATMENT OF THE DIFFICULT ISSUES SURROUNDING GENDER AND WITCHCRAFT SUPPORTED BY A RANGE OF COMPELLING PRIMARY DOCUMENTS THIS BOOK IS ESSENTIAL READING FOR ALL STUDENTS OF THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT

SEMINAR PAPER FROM THE YEAR 2004 IN THE SUBJECT HISTORY OF EUROPE MIDDLE AGES EARLY MODERN AGE GRADE ENGLISH GRADE 58 VON 70 UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM SCHOOL OF HISTORY COURSE HAUPTSEMINAR GENDER AND SOCIETY IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE LANGUAGE ENGLISH ABSTRACT WITCH HUNTING IS SEEN AS SOMETHING PATHOLOGICAL A DISEASE INFECTING LIKE A PLAGUE THE BODY OF THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH IT RAGED ¹ WITH THESE WORDS THE HISTORIAN BOB SCRIBNER DESCRIBED WITCHCRAFT AND WITCH HUNTS THEY ARE DEFINED AS SOMETHING NEGATIVE AND PATHOLOGICAL AND IT IS OBVIOUSLY THAT WITCHCRAFT COULD EASILY EMERGE BECAUSE OF THE TRADITIONAL BELIEFS ROOTED IN THE EARLY MODERN SOCIETY OF GERMANY WITCHCRAFT AND WITCHHUNTS EMERGED IN THIS PERIOD AND MADE THE POPULATION SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE CARRYING OUT OF DENUNCIATION AND ELIMINATION OF INNOCENT PEOPLE THE POPULATION HAD BEEN EASILY INFLUENCED BY THE AUTHORITIES LIKE MAGISTRATES AND THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS IN THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION PASSAGE WITCHCRAFT AND WITCH HUNTS CONCERNING THE EARLY MODERN EUROPE WILL BE LESS PROMINENT RATHER THAN THE STUDY ABOUT WITCHCRAFT AND WITCHHUNTS IN EARLY MODERN GERMANY IN PARTICULAR THE MAIN FOCUS WILL STRESS ON THE SOUTH OF GERMANY BECAUSE IT WAS THE CENTRE OF WITCHCRAFT AND WITCH HUNTS IN ADDITION TO THAT SOME EXAMPLES WILL BE MENTIONED TO SHOW SPECIAL WITCHCRAFT AND WITCH HUNT CASES FIRST IT WILL BE EXAMINED HOW THE TERM WITCH IS DEFINED SHOWN IN A HISTORICAL LINGUISTIC AND AN ETYMOLOGICAL WAY THEN THE TWO AUTHORS OF THE MALLEUS MALEFICARUM² AND THEIR IDEAS ABOUT WITCHES AND WITCHCRAFT WILL BE MENTIONED IN THE FORTH CHAPTER THE SOCIAL CONTEXT SHALL BE EXAMINED IN THIS PASSAGE THE ACCUSED SHALL BE REPRESENTED AND THE REASONS WHICH LED TO THEIR ACCUSATION IN THE LAST CHAPTER THE WITCH HUNTS IN EARLY MODERN GERMANY SHALL BE REPRESENTED IT KEEPS THE QUESTION IN WHAT WAY THE WITCH HUNTS INCREASED DURING THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD AND WHICH REASONS CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR DECLINE FURTHERMORE IT SHOULD BE

BRING OUT WHO WAS ACCUSED FOR WITCHCRAFT AND WHAT LED TO THEIR ACCUSATION WHICH REASONS WERE FUNDAMENTAL FOR THE ACCUSATION OF CERTAIN PEOPLE ESPECIALLY WOMEN AT THAT PERIOD GERMANY WAS PART OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WHICH LACKED OF JURIDICAL POWER AND HAD NO CONTROL OVER ITS OWN TERRITORIES 3 ALSO THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD WAS A TIME OF CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN ECONOMY POLITICS AND EVEN WITHIN THE SOCIETY IN PARTICULAR CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE WOMAN SO THE QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER WITCHCRAFT WAS LINKED TO THE CHANGING FEMALE ROLE IN EARLY MODERN GERMANY OR WAS IT ONLY THE RESULT OF A LOT OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

WITCHCRAFT WITCH HUNTING AND POLITICS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND CONSTITUTES A WIDE RANGING AND ORIGINAL OVERVIEW OF THE PLACE OF WITCHCRAFT AND WITCH HUNTING IN THE BROADER CULTURE OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND BASED ON A MASS OF NEW EVIDENCE EXTRACTED FROM A RANGE OF ARCHIVES BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL IT SEEKS TO RELATE THE RISE AND DECLINE OF BELIEF IN WITCHCRAFT ALONGSIDE THE LEGAL PROSECUTION OF WITCHES TO THE WIDER POLITICAL CULTURE OF THE PERIOD BUILDING ON THE SEMINAL WORK OF SCHOLARS SUCH AS STUART CLARK IAN BOSTRIDGE AND JONATHAN BARRY PETER ELMER DEMONSTRATES HOW LEARNED DISCUSSION OF WITCHCRAFT AS WELL AS THE TRIALS OF THOSE SUSPECTED OF THE CRIME WERE SHAPED BY RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL IMPERATIVES IN THE PERIOD FROM THE PASSAGE OF THE WITCHCRAFT STATUTE OF 1563 TO THE REPEAL OF THE VARIOUS LAWS ON WITCHCRAFT IN THE PROCESS ELMER SHEDS NEW LIGHT UPON VARIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO THE ROLE OF WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLISH SOCIETY INCLUDING THE PROBLEMATIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PURITANISM AND WITCHCRAFT AS WELL AS THE PROCESS OF DECLINE

THIS VOLUME PROVIDES A VALUABLE INTRODUCTION TO THE KEY CONCEPTS OF WITCHCRAFT AND DEMONOLOGY THROUGH A DETAILED STUDY OF ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN AND MOST NOTORIOUS EPISODES OF SCOTTISH HISTORY THE NORTH BERWICK WITCH HUNT IN WHICH KING JAMES WAS INVOLVED AS ALLEGED VICTIM INTERROGATOR JUDGE AND DEMONOLOGIST IT PROVIDES HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED AND INACCESSIBLE MATERIAL FROM THE LEGAL DOCUMENTATION OF THE TRIALS IN A WAY THAT MAKES THE MATERIAL FULLY COMPREHENSIBLE AS WELL AS FULL TEXTS OF THE PAMPHLET NEWS FROM SCOTLAND AND JAMES DEMONOLOGY ALL IN A READABLE MODERNISED SCHOLARLY FORM FULL INTRODUCTORY SECTIONS AND SUPPORTING NOTES PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONTEXTS NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXTS COURT POLITICS SOCIAL HISTORY AND CULTURE RELIGIOUS CHANGES LAW AND THE WORKINGS OF THE COURT AND THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT PROSECUTIONS IN SCOTLAND BEFORE 1590 THE BOOK ALSO BRINGS TO BEAR ON THIS MATERIAL CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP ON THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN WITCHCRAFT

THIS PIONEERING COLLECTION CONCENTRATES ON WITCHCRAFT BELIEFS RATHER THAN WITCH HUNTING IT RANGES WIDELY ACROSS AREAS OF POPULAR BELIEF CULTURE AND RITUAL PRACTICE AS WELL AS DEALING WITH INTELLECTUAL LIFE AND INCORPORATING REGIONAL AND COMPARATIVE ELEMENTS

WALLACE NOTESTEIN S A HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND FROM 1558 TO 1718 IS A COMPREHENSIVE EXPLORATION OF THE CULTURAL AND LEGAL CONTEXTS SURROUNDING THE INFAMOUS WITCH HUNTS DURING THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD NOTESTEIN METICULOUSLY EXAMINES THE BELIEFS ACCUSATIONS AND PERSECUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF PRACTICING WITCHCRAFT SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SOCIO POLITICAL CLIMATE THAT FUELED SUCH HYSTERIA DRAWING FROM ARCHIVAL RECORDS AND CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS NOTESTEIN S SCHOLARLY APPROACH DELVES DEEP INTO THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIETAL MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE WITCH TRIALS OFFERING VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THIS DARK CHAPTER OF ENGLISH HISTORY NOTESTEIN S WRITING IS ENGAGING WITH A CLEAR AND CONCISE STYLE THAT APPEALS TO BOTH ACADEMICS AND GENERAL READERS INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC HIS METICULOUS RESEARCH AND THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS ELEVATE THIS BOOK FROM A MERE HISTORICAL ACCOUNT TO A NUANCED EXPLORATION OF THE HUMAN PSYCHE AND THE POWER DYNAMICS AT PLAY IN WITCHCRAFT ACCUSATIONS WALLACE NOTESTEIN A RENOWNED HISTORIAN OF EARLY MODERN ENGLAND BRINGS HIS EXPERTISE TO BEAR IN THIS AUTHORITATIVE STUDY OF WITCHCRAFT PROVIDING READERS WITH A COMPELLING NARRATIVE THAT CHALLENGES CONVENTIONAL ASSUMPTIONS AND ENCOURAGES CRITICAL REFLECTION FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT NOTESTEIN S A HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND FROM 1558 TO 1718 IS AN ESSENTIAL READ THAT OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO A COMPLEX AND ENDURING PHENOMENON

NEW TO THE PROBLEMS IN EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION SERIES THIS VOLUME OFFERS SECONDARY SOURCE ESSAYS ORGANIZED AROUND THE MAJOR CONTROVERSIES AND INTERPRETATIONS OF THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT IN FOUR PARTS THE TEXT EXAMINES THE MAJOR AREAS OF RECENT SCHOLARSHIP INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS AND DEMONOLOGY PART I THE POLITICAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXTS OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE PART II ACCUSATIONS TRIALS AND PANICS PART III AND GENDER AND WITCHCRAFT PART IV THE TEXT S PEDAGOGY A HALLMARK OF THE PROBLEMS IN EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION SERIES INCLUDES CHAPTER AND ESSAY INTRODUCTIONS TIMELINES ILLUSTRATIONS MAPS AND SUGGESTED READINGS THIS VOLUME IS SUITABLE FOR COURSES IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION AS WELL AS COURSES FOCUSED

EXCLUSIVELY ON WITCHCRAFT OR EUROPEAN WOMEN S HISTORY THE SELECTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS VOLUME REPRESENT THE LATEST IN RESEARCH ON WITCHCRAFT AND WITCH HUNTS MANY OF THEM EXPLICITLY TEST THE IDEAS THAT WERE DEVELOPED IN THE 1970S WHEN ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON WITCHCRAFT SAW ITS FIRST HIGH POINT SEVERAL SOURCES FOCUS ON AREAS WHERE WITCH HUNTING WAS MOST INTENSE SUCH AS EASTERN FRANCE AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE WHILE OTHERS COVER AREAS IN WHICH FEW HUNTS TOOK PLACE SUCH AS NORWAY AND ITALY THE TEXT INCORPORATES RECENT STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY INFLUENTIAL IN THE FIELD INCLUDING WORKS BY STUART CLARK ROBIN BRIGGS AND WOLFGANG BEHRINGER CONTRIBUTIONS BY SCHOLARS FROM THE UNITED STATES ENGLAND HUNGARY AND AUSTRALIA DEMONSTRATE THAT WITCHCRAFT RESEARCH IS TRULY AN INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE

THIS IS A WORK OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE STUART CLARK OFFERS A NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE WITCHCRAFT BELIEFS OF EUROPEAN INTELLECTUALS BASED ON THEIR PUBLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DEMONOLOGY AND SHOWS HOW THESE BELIEFS FITTED RATIONALLY WITH MANY OTHER VIEWS CURRENT IN EUROPE BETWEEN THE FIFTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES PROFESSOR CLARK IS THE FIRST TO EXPLORE THE APPEAL OF DEMONOLOGY TO EARLY MODERN INTELLECTUALS BY LOOKING AT THE BOOKS THEY PUBLISHED ON THE SUBJECT DURING THIS PERIOD AFTER EXAMINING THE LINGUISTIC FOUNDATIONS OF THEIR WRITINGS THE AUTHOR SHOWS HOW THE WRITERS IDEAS ABOUT WITCHCRAFT AND ABOUT MAGIC COMPLEMENTED THEIR OTHER INTELLECTUAL COMMITMENTS IN PARTICULAR THEIR CONCEPTIONS OF NATURE HISTORY RELIGION AND POLITICS THE RESULT IS MUCH MORE THAN A HISTORY OF DEMONOLOGY IT IS A SURVEY OF WIDER INTELLECTUAL AND IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES AND UNDERLINES JUST HOW FAR THE NATURE OF RATIONALITY IS DEPENDENT ON ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

THIS BOOK FIRST APPEARED IN 1987 IT FOCUSES ON THE GREAT AGE OF WITCH HUNTING IN EUROPE AND ALSO IN COLONIAL AMERICA BETWEEN 1450 AND 1750 IN THESE YEARS MORE THAN 100 000 PEOPLE MOST OF THEM WOMEN WERE PROSECUTED BY SECULAR AND ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS ACROSS EUROPE FOR ALLEGEDLY PRACTISING HARMFUL MAGIC AND WORSHIPPING THE DEVIL THE BOOK SETS OUT TO ANSWER THE MAJOR QUESTIONS THAT THIS STRANGE AND TERRIBLE PHENOMENON EVOKES TODAY WHY DID THE TRIALS TAKE PLACE WHY DID THEY SUDDENLY PROLIFERATE IN EUROPE AT THIS TIME HOW MANY TRIALS WERE THERE AND WHERE AND WHAT WERE THE OUTCOMES WHY WERE MORE WITCHES PROSECUTED IN SOME COUNTRIES THAN OTHERS WHO WERE THE ACCUSED AND WHO WERE THEIR ACCUSERS WHY AFTER MORE THAN 200 YEARS OF VIGOROUS ACTIVITY DID THE TRIALS EVENTUALLY DWINDLE AWAY WHAT DID THEY TELL US ABOUT THE SOCIAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF EARLY MODERN EUROPE AND IN PARTICULAR THE POSITION OF WOMEN WITHIN IT IN THIS TIMELY SECOND EDITION BRIAN LEVACK NOW INCORPORATES THE LATEST SCHOLARSHIP ON THE SUBJECT

THIS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY EXAMINES POLISH DEMONOLOGY IN RELATION TO WITCHCRAFT TRIALS IN WIELKOPOLSKA REVEALING THE WITCH AS A FORCE FOR BOTH GOOD AND EVIL IT EXPLORES THE USE OF WITCHCRAFT THE NATURE OF ACCUSATIONS AND THE ROLE OF GENDER

THIS STUDY OF MALE WITCHES ADDRESSES INCIDENTS OF WITCH HUNTING IN BRITAIN AND EUROPE USING FEMINIST CATEGORIES OF GENDER ANALYSIS TO CRITIQUE THE FEMINIST AGENDA THAT MARS MANY STUDIES IT ADVANCES A MORE BALANCED AND COMPLEX VIEW OF WITCH HUNTING AND IDEAS ABOUT WITCHES IN THEIR GENDERED FORMS

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