

medieval and early modern times

medieval and early modern times shaped the course of history through dramatic social, political, and cultural transformations. Spanning roughly from the 5th to the 18th century, these eras witnessed the rise and fall of kingdoms, the spread of religions, revolutions in art and science, and the development of new economic systems. In this comprehensive article, we'll explore key aspects of medieval and early modern times, including their historical context, daily life, technological advancements, religious movements, and the legacy they left behind. Readers will gain insight into how feudalism and monarchies structured society, how innovations like the printing press changed the world, and how these periods laid the foundations for the modern age. Whether you're a student, historian, or curious reader, this guide offers an engaging and informative look at the forces that shaped centuries of human civilization.

- Historical Overview of Medieval and Early Modern Times
- Society and Daily Life
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Historical Overview of Medieval and Early Modern Times

The medieval and early modern periods cover a vast expanse of history, generally considered to range from the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century to the dawn of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century. The medieval era, often called the Middle Ages, was marked by the fragmentation of Europe into feudal kingdoms, the dominance of the Catholic Church, and frequent wars for territory and power. The early modern period saw the emergence of centralized nation-states, the Age of Exploration, and significant cultural and intellectual shifts.

Crucial events, such as the Crusades, the Black Death, the Renaissance, and the Protestant Reformation, dramatically shaped societies during these centuries. The transition from medieval to early modern times involved a move from agrarian economies and local loyalties to more urbanized living and global interactions. These changes set the stage for modernity, influencing the development of science, economics, and social structures.

Key Historical Milestones

- Fall of the Western Roman Empire (476 AD)
- Rise of Feudalism and Manorialism
- The Crusades (1096–1291)
- The Black Death (1347–1351)
- The Renaissance (14th–17th centuries)
- The Protestant Reformation (1517 onwards)

- Age of Exploration (15th–17th centuries)
- Scientific Revolution (16th–18th centuries)

Society and Daily Life

Life during medieval and early modern times varied greatly depending on social class, location, and era. In medieval Europe, most people lived in rural villages and worked the land as peasants, while a small elite of nobles controlled vast estates. Towns and cities grew in importance during the early modern period, as trade and commerce flourished.

Families were generally large, and life expectancy was low due to disease and limited medical knowledge. Social mobility was restricted, with rigid class structures. Clothing, diet, and housing reflected one's social status, with peasants living in simple dwellings and eating basic foods, while the nobility enjoyed luxuries and elaborate feasts.

Peasant and Noble Life

- Peasants worked on farms, paid taxes, and owed labor to their lord.
- Nobles managed estates, participated in politics, and led armies.
- Urban dwellers included merchants, artisans, and tradespeople.

Gender Roles and Family Structure

Medieval and early modern societies were patriarchal, with men holding most legal rights and women's roles centered on household management and child-rearing. Marriage was often arranged, especially among the nobility, for political or economic reasons. Children were considered adults by their early teens, and education was limited, though literacy increased during the early modern era.

Political Structures and Governance

Political organization during medieval and early modern times was complex and varied across regions. Feudalism was the dominant system in medieval Europe, characterized by a hierarchy of lords, vassals, and serfs. Kings, queens, and local nobles wielded significant power, often competing for control.

The early modern era saw the decline of feudalism and the rise of centralized monarchies. Absolute rulers, such as France's Louis XIV, exemplified the trend toward strong, unified states. Parliaments and representative bodies began to emerge, and new political philosophies challenged traditional authority.

Feudalism and Manorialism

- Land was granted by monarchs to nobles in exchange for military service.
- Peasants were bound to the land, providing labor and goods to their lord.
- Manorial estates functioned as self-sufficient communities.

Rise of Nation-States

During the early modern period, kingdoms consolidated power, forming the foundations of modern nation-states. This process involved centralizing authority, establishing standing armies, and developing bureaucracies. The Treaty of Westphalia (1648) helped end religious wars and defined the concept of sovereign states.

Cultural and Artistic Developments

The medieval and early modern periods witnessed extraordinary achievements in art, architecture, literature, and music. Medieval culture was deeply influenced by religion, resulting in Gothic cathedrals, illuminated manuscripts, and religious drama. The Renaissance marked a turning point, emphasizing humanism, classical learning, and artistic innovation.

Artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Albrecht Dürer revolutionized painting and sculpture. Literature, too, flourished, with figures such as Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, and Miguel de Cervantes contributing seminal works. Music evolved from Gregorian chant to complex polyphony and the beginnings of opera.

Medieval Art and Architecture

- Gothic cathedrals with soaring arches and stained glass windows.
- Romanesque churches featuring heavy stonework and rounded arches.

- Illuminated manuscripts produced by monks in monasteries.

The Renaissance and Humanism

Humanism, a central theme of the Renaissance, focused on the study of classical antiquity and the potential of human achievement. This intellectual movement fostered new approaches to art, science, and education, leading to a burst of creativity and innovation.

Scientific and Technological Advancements

Medieval and early modern times were pivotal for scientific progress. While much medieval science was rooted in religious and classical traditions, the early modern period ushered in the Scientific Revolution. Thinkers such as Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton challenged old beliefs and laid the groundwork for modern physics, astronomy, and biology.

Technological innovations transformed daily life and global interactions. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-15th century enabled the mass production of books, spreading knowledge rapidly. Advances in navigation, such as the compass and astrolabe, fueled the Age of Exploration and the discovery of new continents.

Major Scientific Figures and Discoveries

- Nicolaus Copernicus: Heliocentric model of the solar system.

- Galileo Galilei: Telescopic observations and laws of motion.
- Isaac Newton: Laws of gravity and calculus.
- William Harvey: Circulation of blood.

Technological Innovations

- Printing press revolutionized access to information.
- Gunpowder altered warfare and political power.
- Improved ships enabled global exploration.

Religion and Philosophy

Religion was a central force in both medieval and early modern times, shaping every aspect of life. Christianity, especially the Catholic Church, dominated medieval Europe, influencing laws, education, and culture. The Orthodox Church played a similar role in Eastern Europe, while Islam flourished across the Middle East and North Africa.

The early modern period brought religious upheaval, with movements such as the Protestant Reformation challenging Catholic authority. Religious wars and conflicts were common, but new philosophies, including rationalism and empiricism, began to take root. These shifts led to greater religious diversity and the gradual separation of church and state.

The Church and Society

- Monasteries were centers of learning and charity.
- Pilgrimages and festivals marked the religious calendar.
- Church courts governed morality and legal matters.

Reformation and Religious Conflict

Martin Luther's 95 Theses sparked the Protestant Reformation, leading to the creation of new Christian denominations and intense conflict across Europe. The Catholic Church responded with the Counter-Reformation, reforming itself and reaffirming core doctrines. These religious changes deeply affected European politics, society, and culture.

Legacy and Influence on Modern Society

The impact of medieval and early modern times extends far beyond their centuries. Foundations laid during these periods shape modern government, law, education, and culture. The development of universities, the growth of cities, and the spread of literacy changed the fabric of society. Democratic ideas and individual rights, first debated in early modern parliaments and salons, later influenced revolutions and the birth of modern democracy.

Many traditions, artistic styles, and philosophical concepts from these eras remain influential today.

Modern science, technology, and global interconnectedness all trace roots to the innovations and explorations of the early modern period. Understanding these times provides valuable context for current challenges and achievements.

Enduring Contributions

- Legal systems and representative government.
- Scientific inquiry and empirical methods.
- Artistic and architectural heritage.
- Religious diversity and tolerance.
- Expansion of trade and global networks.

Questions & Answers about Medieval and Early Modern Times

Q: What are the main differences between medieval and early modern times?

A: Medieval times were characterized by feudalism, agrarian economies, and religious dominance, while early modern times saw centralized nation-states, increased urbanization, and major advancements in science, technology, and culture.

Q: How did the printing press impact society during the early modern period?

A: The printing press enabled the mass production of books, dramatically increasing literacy, spreading ideas quickly, and fueling major movements such as the Renaissance and Reformation.

Q: What role did religion play in medieval and early modern societies?

A: Religion was central to daily life, law, education, and politics. The Catholic Church dominated medieval Europe, while the Reformation led to religious conflict and greater diversity in the early modern period.

Q: Who were some important figures from medieval and early modern times?

A: Key figures include Charlemagne, Leonardo da Vinci, Martin Luther, Galileo Galilei, and Isaac Newton, each of whom influenced their era's politics, culture, or science.

Q: What were common occupations during the medieval period?

A: Most people were peasants working the land, while others were artisans, merchants, clergy, or nobility managing estates and serving in government or military roles.

Q: What artistic styles were prominent in medieval and early modern times?

A: Gothic and Romanesque styles dominated medieval art and architecture, while the Renaissance introduced realism, perspective, and a revival of classical forms.

Q: How did scientific thinking change during these periods?

A: Medieval science was based on tradition and religious authority, but the early modern era emphasized observation, experimentation, and rational inquiry, leading to the Scientific Revolution.

Q: What was life like for women during medieval and early modern times?

A: Women's roles were mostly limited to household management and family, with few legal rights, though some participated in religious, artistic, and political life, especially in the early modern period.

Q: How did warfare evolve from medieval to early modern times?

A: Medieval warfare relied on knights, castles, and siege weapons, while early modern warfare saw the introduction of gunpowder, standing armies, and more organized military structures.

Q: What lasting impact did these periods have on modern society?

A: Medieval and early modern times laid the groundwork for modern governments, legal systems, science, and cultural traditions, influencing contemporary life in profound ways.

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Medieval and Early Modern Times: A Journey Through History

Are you fascinated by the clash of swords, the rise of powerful empires, and the dawn of scientific revolution? Then prepare for a captivating journey through the medieval and early modern times, a period spanning centuries of dramatic change and enduring legacy. This comprehensive guide will

dissect the key features, major events, and significant impacts of this transformative era, providing a detailed overview that will leave you with a richer understanding of our shared history. We'll explore everything from the structure of medieval society to the groundbreaking discoveries that ushered in the modern world. Get ready to delve into a period that shaped the world we know today.

The Medieval Period: From the Fall of Rome to the Renaissance

The medieval period, often referred to as the Middle Ages, stretches roughly from the 5th to the 15th centuries. It's a period frequently misunderstood, often portrayed as a "dark age," a simplistic label that fails to capture its complexity and dynamism.

Feudalism: The Backbone of Medieval Society

The socio-political system of feudalism dominated much of the medieval landscape. This hierarchical structure saw power decentralized, with kings granting land (fiefs) to nobles in exchange for military service and loyalty. These nobles, in turn, granted land to knights, creating a complex web of obligations and allegiances. Serfs, the lowest rung of the social ladder, worked the land in exchange for protection and a share of the harvest. This system, though rigid, provided a framework for social order in a fragmented Europe.

The Church's Influence: Faith and Power

The Catholic Church held immense power during the medieval period, influencing not only spiritual life but also political and social affairs. The Church was a significant landowner, controlled education, and played a critical role in resolving disputes. Monasteries served as centers of learning and preservation of knowledge, while the papacy often clashed with secular rulers, vying for ultimate authority. The Crusades, a series of religious wars, highlight the Church's considerable political influence and its impact on global interactions.

The Black Death: A World-Altering Catastrophe

The Black Death, a devastating bubonic plague pandemic, swept through Europe in the mid-14th century, altering the course of history. It decimated the population, causing widespread social, economic, and political upheaval. The plague's impact is still studied today, demonstrating the vulnerability of even the most robust societies to infectious disease.

The Early Modern Period: Renaissance, Reformation, and Revolution

The early modern period, generally spanning the 15th to the 18th centuries, marks a significant transition from the medieval world. It's characterized by rapid changes in politics, religion, science, and culture.

The Renaissance: A Rebirth of Classical Learning

The Renaissance, meaning "rebirth," witnessed a renewed interest in classical Greek and Roman art, literature, and philosophy. This intellectual and artistic flourishing challenged medieval scholasticism and laid the groundwork for future scientific advancements. Master artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael redefined artistic expression, producing works that continue to inspire awe.

The Protestant Reformation: A Challenge to Papal Authority

The Protestant Reformation, initiated by Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses, shattered the religious unity of Europe. Luther's challenge to papal authority and the selling of indulgences sparked a religious upheaval that led to the formation of new Protestant denominations and centuries of religious conflict. The Reformation had profound political consequences, transforming the map of Europe and contributing to the rise of nation-states.

The Scientific Revolution: A Paradigm Shift

The Scientific Revolution, building upon Renaissance humanism, marked a dramatic shift in how humans understood the natural world. Figures like Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, and Isaac Newton challenged established scientific theories and developed new methodologies, laying the foundations for modern science and significantly impacting philosophical thought. This period saw the rise of empiricism and the application of reason to understand the universe.

Conclusion

The medieval and early modern times represent a pivotal period in human history, characterized by dramatic societal changes, scientific breakthroughs, and religious transformations. From the rigid

structure of feudalism to the revolutionary ideas of the Renaissance and Reformation, these centuries shaped the world we inhabit today. By understanding this period, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of our past and the forces that have molded the present.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between the High Middle Ages and the Late Middle Ages? The High Middle Ages (roughly 1000-1300 CE) is often characterized by relative stability, economic growth, and the flourishing of Gothic architecture and scholasticism. The Late Middle Ages (roughly 1300-1500 CE) witnessed the Black Death, the Hundred Years' War, and the beginning of the Renaissance, marking a period of decline and significant upheaval.
2. How did the printing press impact the early modern period? Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press revolutionized the spread of information, making books more accessible and accelerating the dissemination of new ideas. This contributed significantly to the Reformation and the Scientific Revolution.
3. What were the major causes of the Hundred Years' War? The Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) was a complex conflict with multiple underlying causes, including disputes over succession to the French throne, economic competition between England and France, and tensions between the English and French nobility.
4. How did the Renaissance influence the Scientific Revolution? The Renaissance emphasis on humanism and classical learning fostered a spirit of inquiry and critical thinking that paved the way for the scientific advancements of the Scientific Revolution. The recovery of classical texts helped to revive interest in mathematics and natural philosophy.
5. What are some key differences between medieval and early modern art? Medieval art was often characterized by religious themes, symbolic representation, and a focus on conveying spiritual meaning. Renaissance art emphasized realism, humanism, perspective, and a renewed focus on classical forms and ideals. Early modern art continued this trend, branching into diverse styles and incorporating new technologies and ideas.

medieval and early modern times: Medieval and Early Modern Times Diane Hart, 2005-06-30

medieval and early modern times: World History Stanley Mayer Burstein, Richard Shek, 2006
Students study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years AD 500-1789.

medieval and early modern times: East Meets West in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times Albrecht Classen, 2013-09-03 This new volume explores the surprisingly intense and complex relationships between East and West during the Middle Ages and the early modern world, combining a large number of critical studies representing such diverse fields as literary (German, French, Italian, English, Spanish, and Arabic) and other subdisciplines of history, religion, anthropology, and linguistics. The differences between Islam and Christianity erected strong barriers separating two global cultures, but, as this volume indicates, despite many attempts to 'Other' the opposing side, the premodern world experienced an astonishing degree of contacts, meetings, exchanges, and influences. Scientists, travelers, authors, medical researchers, chroniclers, diplomats, and

merchants criss-crossed the East and the West, or studied the sources produced by the other culture for many different reasons. As much as the theoretical concept of 'Orientalism' has been useful in sensitizing us to the fundamental tensions and conflicts separating both worlds at least since the eighteenth century, the premodern world did not quite yet operate in such an ideological framework. Even though the Crusades had violently pitted Christians against Muslims, there were countless contacts and a palpable curiosity on both sides both before, during, and after those religious warfares.

medieval and early modern times: Death in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times

Albrecht Classen, 2016-04-11 Death is not only the final moment of life, it also casts a huge shadow on human society at large. People throughout time have had to cope with death as an existential experience, and this also, of course, in the premodern world. The contributors to the present volume examine the material and spiritual conditions of the culture of death, studying specific buildings and spaces, literary works and art objects, theatrical performances, and medical tracts from the early Middle Ages to the late eighteenth century. Death has always evoked fear, terror, and awe, it has puzzled and troubled people, forcing theologians and philosophers to respond and provide answers for questions that seem to evade real explanations. The more we learn about the culture of death, the more we can comprehend the culture of life. As this volume demonstrates, the approaches to death varied widely, also in the Middle Ages and the early modern age. This volume hence adds a significant number of new facets to the critical examination of this ever-present phenomenon of death, exploring poetic responses to the Black Death, types of execution of a female murderess, death as the springboard for major political changes, and death reflected in morality plays and art.

medieval and early modern times: Sexuality in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times

Albrecht Classen, 2008-12-10 Sexuality is one of the most influential factors in human life. The responses to and reflections upon the manifestations of sexuality provide fascinating insights into fundamental aspects of medieval and early-modern culture. This interdisciplinary volume with articles written by social historians, literary historians, musicologists, art historians, and historians of religion and mental-ity demonstrates how fruitful collaborative efforts can be in the exploration of essential features of human society. Practically every aspect of culture both in the Middle Ages and the early modern age was influenced and determined by sexuality, which hardly ever surfaces simply characterized by prurient interests. The treatment of sexuality in literature, chronicles, music, art, legal documents, and in scientific texts illuminates central concerns, anxieties, tensions, needs, fears, and problems in human society throughout times.

medieval and early modern times: Medieval and Early Modern Times: Discovering Our Past Jackson J. Spielvogel, 2005-03-01 Provides information on world history between the years from the fall of Rome to the Age of Enlightenment. Combines motivating stories with research-based instruction that helps students improve their reading and social studies skills as they discover the past. Every lesson of the textbook is keyed to California content standards and analysis skills.

medieval and early modern times: Medieval and Early Modern Times Carlton Joseph Huntley Hayes, Frederick F. Clark, 1966

medieval and early modern times: Laughter in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times

Albrecht Classen, 2010-09-22 Despite popular opinions of the 'dark Middle Ages' and a 'gloomy early modern age,' many people laughed, smiled, giggled, chuckled, entertained and ridiculed each other. This volume demonstrates how important laughter had been at times and how diverse the situations proved to be in which people laughed, and this from late antiquity to the eighteenth century. The contributions examine a wide gamut of significant cases of laughter in literary texts, historical documents, and art works where laughter determined the relationship among people. In fact, laughter emerges as a kaleidoscopic phenomenon reflecting divine joy, bitter hatred and contempt, satirical perspectives and parodic intentions. In some examples protagonists laughed out of sheer happiness and delight, in others because they felt anxiety and insecurity. It is much more difficult to detect premodern sculptures of laughing figures, but they also existed. Laughter reflected a variety of concerns, interests, and intentions, and the collective approach in this volume to laughter in the

past opens many new windows to the history of mentality, social and religious conditions, gender relationships, and power structures.

medieval and early modern times: Imagination and Fantasy in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Time Albrecht Classen, 2020-08-24 The notions of other peoples, cultures, and natural conditions have always been determined by the epistemology of imagination and fantasy, providing much freedom and creativity, and yet have also created much fear, anxiety, and horror. In this regard, the pre-modern world demonstrates striking parallels with our own insofar as the projections of alterity might be different by degrees, but they are fundamentally the same by content. Dreams, illusions, projections, concepts, hopes, utopias/dystopias, desires, and emotional attachments are as specific and impactful as the physical environment. This volume thus sheds important light on the various lenses used by people in the Middle Ages and the early modern age as to how they came to terms with their perceptions, images, and notions. Previous scholarship focused heavily on the history of mentality and history of emotions, whereas here the history of pre-modern imagination, and fantasy assumes center position. Imaginary things are taken seriously because medieval and early modern writers and artists clearly reveal their great significance in their works and their daily lives. This approach facilitates a new deep-structure analysis of pre-modern culture.

medieval and early modern times: Mainstreams of Civilization.... Carlton J. H. Hayes, James H. Hanscom, Frederick F. Clark, Margareta Faissler, 1965

medieval and early modern times: Incarceration and Slavery in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age Albrecht Classen, 2021-10-19 People in the Middle Ages and the early modern age more often suffered from imprisonment and enslavement than we might have assumed. Incarceration and Slavery in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age approaches these topics from a wide variety of perspectives and demonstrates collectively the great relevance of the issues involved. Both incarceration and slavery were (and continue to be) most painful experiences, and no one was guaranteed exemption from it. High-ranking nobles and royalties were often the victims of imprisonment and, at times, had to wait many years until their ransom was paid. Similarly, slavery existed throughout Christian Europe and in the Arab world. However, while imprisonment occasionally proved to be the catalyst for major writings and creativity, slaves in the Ottoman empire and in Egypt succeeded in rising to the highest position in society (Janissaries, Mamluks, and others).

medieval and early modern times: *NG WORLD HISTORY MEDIEVAL and EARLY MODERN TIMES SE CALIFORNIA* National Geographic Learning National Geographic Learning, 2016-09

medieval and early modern times: Late Medieval and Early Modern Fight Books , 2016-06-27 Late Medieval and Early Modern Fight Books offers insights into the cultural and historical transmission and practices of martial arts, based on the corpus of the Fight Books (Fechtbücher) in 14th- to 17th-century Europe. The first part of the book deals with methodological and specific issues for the studies of this emerging interdisciplinary field of research. The second section offers an overview of the corpus based on geographical areas. The final part offers some relevant case studies. This is the first book proposing a comprehensive state of research and an overview of Historical European Martial Arts Studies. One of its major strengths lies in its association of interdisciplinary scholars with practitioners of martial arts. Contributors are Sydney Anglo, Matthias Johannes Bauer, Eric Burkart, Marco Cavina, Franck Cinato, John Clements, Timothy Dawson, Olivier Dupuis, Bert Gevaert, Dierk Hagedorn, Daniel Jaquet, Rachel E. Kellet, Jens Peter Kleinau, Ken Mondschein, Reinier van Noort, B. Ann Tlusty, Manuel Valle Ortiz, Karin Verelst, and Paul Wagner.

medieval and early modern times: Travel, Time, and Space in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Time Albrecht Classen, 2018-10-22 Research on medieval and early modern travel literature has made great progress, which now allows us to take the next step and to analyze the correlations between the individual and space throughout time, which contributed essentially to identity formation in many different settings. The contributors to this volume engage with a variety of pre-modern texts, images, and other documents related to travel and the individual's self-orientation

in foreign lands and make an effort to determine the concept of identity within a spatial framework often determined by the meeting of various cultures. Moreover, objects, images and words can also travel and connect people from different worlds through books. The volume thus brings together new scholarship focused on the interrelationship of travel, space, time, and individuality, which also includes, of course, women's movement through the larger world, whether in concrete terms or through proxy travel via readings. Travel here is also examined with respect to craftsmen's activities at various sites, artists' employment for many different projects all over Europe and elsewhere, and in terms of metaphysical experiences (catabasis).

medieval and early modern times: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Medieval and Early Modern Times , 2014-03-27 This volume brings together articles on the cultural, religious, social and commercial interactions among Jews, Christians and Muslims in the medieval and early modern periods. Written by leading scholars in Jewish studies, Islamic studies, medieval history and social and economic history, the contributions to this volume reflect the profound influence on these fields of the volume's honoree, Professor Mark R. Cohen.

medieval and early modern times: Chess in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Age Daniel E. O'Sullivan, 2012-07-30 The game of chess was wildly popular in the Middle Ages, so much so that it became an important thought paradigm for thinkers and writers who utilized its vocabulary and imagery for commentaries on war, politics, love, and the social order. In this collection of essays, scholars investigate chess texts from numerous traditions – English, French, German, Latin, Persian, Spanish, Swedish, and Catalan – and argue that knowledge of chess is essential to understanding medieval culture. Such knowledge, however, cannot rely on the modern game, for today's rules were not developed until the late fifteenth century. Only through familiarity with earlier incarnations of the game can one fully appreciate the full import of chess to medieval society. The careful scholarship contained in this volume provides not only insight into the significance of chess in medieval European culture but also opens up avenues of inquiry for future work in this rich field.

medieval and early modern times: Magic and Magicians in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Time Albrecht Classen, 2017-10-23 There are no clear demarcation lines between magic, astrology, necromancy, medicine, and even sciences in the pre-modern world. Under the umbrella term 'magic,' the contributors to this volume examine a wide range of texts, both literary and religious, both medical and philosophical, in which the topic is discussed from many different perspectives. The fundamental concerns address issue such as how people perceived magic, whether they accepted it and utilized it for their own purposes, and what impact magic might have had on the mental structures of that time. While some papers examine the specific appearance of magicians in literary texts, others analyze the practical application of magic in medical contexts. In addition, this volume includes studies that deal with the rise of the witch craze in the late fifteenth century and then also investigate whether the Weberian notion of disenchantment pertaining to the modern world can be maintained. Magic is, oddly but significantly, still around us and exerts its influence. Focusing on magic in the medieval world thus helps us to shed light on human culture at large.

medieval and early modern times: Mendicant cultures in the medieval and early modern world : word, deed, and image Sally J. Cornelison, 2016

medieval and early modern times: Crime and Punishment in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Age Albrecht Classen, Connie Scarborough, 2012-10-30 All societies are constructed, based on specific rules, norms, and laws. Hence, all ethics and morality are predicated on perceived right or wrong behavior, and much of human culture proves to be the result of a larger discourse on vices and virtues, transgression and ideals, right and wrong. The topics covered in this volume, addressing fundamental concerns of the premodern world, deal with allegedly criminal, or simply wrong behavior which demanded punishment. Sometimes this affected whole groups of people, such as the innocently persecuted Jews, sometimes individuals, such as violent and evil princes. The issue at stake here embraces all of society since it can only survive if a general framework is observed that is based in some way on justice and peace. But literature and the visual arts provide many examples

of open and public protests against wrongdoings, ill-conceived ideas and concepts, and stark crimes, such as theft, rape, and murder. In fact, poetic statements or paintings could carry significant potentials against those who deliberately transgressed moral and ethical norms, or who even targeted themselves.

medieval and early modern times: *World History*, 2006 Combines motivating stories with research-based instruction that helps students improve their reading and social studies skills as they discover the past. Every lesson of the textbook is keyed to California content standards and analysis skills.

medieval and early modern times: *Urban Space in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age* Albrecht Classen, 2009 Although the city as a central entity did not simply disappear with the Fall of the Roman Empire, the development of urban space at least since the twelfth century played a major role in the history of medieval and early modern mentality within a social-economic and religious framework. Whereas some poets projected urban space as a new utopia, others simply reflected the new significance of the urban environment as a stage where their characters operate very successfully. As today, the premodern city was the locus where different social groups and classes got together, sometimes peacefully, sometimes in hostile terms. The historical development of the relationship between Christians and Jews, for instance, was deeply determined by the living conditions within a city. By the late Middle Ages, nobility and bourgeoisie began to intermingle within the urban space, which set the stage for dramatic and far-reaching changes in the social and economic make-up of society. Legal-historical aspects also find as much consideration as practical questions concerning water supply and sewer systems. Moreover, the early modern city within the Ottoman and Middle Eastern world likewise finds consideration. Finally, as some contributors observe, the urban space provided considerable opportunities for women to carve out a niche for themselves in economic terms.

medieval and early modern times: *Medieval and Early Modern Performance in the Eastern Mediterranean* Arzu Öztürkmen, Evelyn Birge Vitz, 2014 On the large eastern edge of the Mediterranean, the period from the start of the Crusades through the Ottoman era knew - and brought into mutual contact - a truly remarkable array of performances and performers, of a multitude of types. But of course examination of performance in the Eastern Mediterranean during the medieval and early modern era requires some careful conceptualization: of 'performance' and 'performer'; of 'the Mediterranean' as well - this region also often being termed the 'Muslim world', the 'Middle East', or the 'Ottoman domain'. This book represents a preliminary attempt to lay out and analyse a broad set of performance genres in this particular geographical setting.

medieval and early modern times: Christianity and Violence in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Period Fernanda Alfieri, Takashi Jinno, 2021-03-08 The volume explores the relationship between religion and violence in Europe from the Middle Ages to the Early modern period, involving European and Japanese scholars. It investigates the ideological foundations of the relationship between violence and religion and their development in a varied corpus of sources (political and theological treatises, correspondence of missionaries, pamphlets, and images).

medieval and early modern times: *Temporality and Mediality in Late Medieval and Early Modern Culture* Christian Kiening, Martina Stercken, 2018 This interdisciplinary volume explores the ways in which time is staged at the threshold between the Middle Ages and the early modern period. Proceeding from the reality that all cultural forms are inherently and inescapably temporal, it seeks to discover the significance of time in mediations and communications of all kinds. By showing how time is displayed in diverse cultural strategies and situations, the essays of this volume show how time is intrinsic to the very concept of tradition. In exploring a variety of medial forms and communicative practices, they also reveal that while the beginning of the age of printing (around 1500) may mark a fundamental change in terms of reproduction and circulation, artefacts and other historical traditions continue to employ earlier systems and practices relating time and space. The volume features articles by leading researchers in their respective fields, including studies on mosaics as a medium reflecting space and time; the triptych's potential as a time machine; winged

altarpieces mediating eternity; texts and images of the passion of Christ permeating past, present, and future; dimensions of time embedded in maps; a compendium of world knowledge organized by forms of time and temporality; the figuration of prophecy in times of crisis; the portrayal of time in architecture. This volume thus provides a new approach to media and mediality from the perspective of cultural history.

medieval and early modern times: *Images of Otherness in Medieval and Early Modern Times* Anja Eisenbeiss, Lieselotte E. Saurma-Jeltsch, 2012 From French miniature paintings to the work of Pope Pius II, this collection of essays explores the philosophical history behind medieval European art. The essays reveal how a visual vocabulary was established among French miniature painters to express the concepts of personal identity and alterity in their work and how Pope Pius II helped spread these metaphysical ideologies across the eastern Christian world. An exhaustive and articulate guide to European art in the Middle Ages, this book is essential reading for art students and enthusiasts alike.

medieval and early modern times: McDougal Littell World History: Medieval and Early Modern Times , 2005-03-16 Combines motivating stories with research-based instruction that helps students improve their reading and social studies skills as they discover the past. Every lesson of the textbook is keyed to California content standards and analysis skills.

medieval and early modern times: Religion and the Medieval and Early Modern Global Marketplace Taylor & Francis Group, 2021-10-15 Religion and the Medieval and Early Modern Global Marketplace brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines to examine the intersection, conflict, and confluence of religion and the market before 1700. Each chapter analyses the unique interplay of faith and economy in a different locale: Syria, Ethiopia, France, Iceland, India, Peru, and beyond. In ten case studies, specialists of archaeology, art history, social and economic history, religious studies, and critical theory address issues of secularization, tolerance, colonialism, and race with a fresh focus. They chart the tensions between religious and economic thought in specific locales or texts, the complex ways that religion and economy interacted with one another, and the way in which matters of faith, economy, and race converge in religious images of the pre- and early modern periods. Considering the intersection of faith and economy, the volume questions the legacy of early modern economic and spiritual exceptionalism, and the ways in which prosperity still entangles itself with righteousness. The interdisciplinary nature means that this volume is the perfect resource for advanced undergraduates, postgraduates, and scholars working across multiple areas including history, literature, politics, art history, global studies, philosophy, and gender studies in the medieval and early modern periods.

medieval and early modern times: *Friendship in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Age* Albrecht Classen, Marilyn Sandidge, 2011-03-29 Although it seems that erotic love generally was the prevailing topic in the medieval world and the Early Modern Age, parallel to this the Ciceronian ideal of friendship also dominated the public discourse, as this collection of essays demonstrates. Following an extensive introduction, the individual contributions explore the functions and the character of friendship from Late Antiquity (Augustine) to the 17th century. They show the spectrum of variety in which this topic appeared - not only in literature, but also in politics and even in painting.

medieval and early modern times: Death in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times Albrecht Classen, 2016-04-11 Death is not only the final moment of life, it also casts a huge shadow on human society at large. People throughout time have had to cope with death as an existential experience, and this also, of course, in the premodern world. The contributors to the present volume examine the material and spiritual conditions of the culture of death, studying specific buildings and spaces, literary works and art objects, theatrical performances, and medical tracts from the early Middle Ages to the late eighteenth century. Death has always evoked fear, terror, and awe, it has puzzled and troubled people, forcing theologians and philosophers to respond and provide answers for questions that seem to evade real explanations. The more we learn about the culture of death, the more we can comprehend the culture of life. As this volume demonstrates, the approaches to

death varied widely, also in the Middle Ages and the early modern age. This volume hence adds a significant number of new facets to the critical examination of this ever-present phenomenon of death, exploring poetic responses to the Black Death, types of execution of a female murderess, death as the springboard for major political changes, and death reflected in morality plays and art.

medieval and early modern times: *World History and Geography* California. Dept. of Education, 1994-01-01 This document is a response to teachers' requests for practical assistance in implementing California's history-social science framework. The document offers stimulating ideas to enrich the teaching of history and social science, enliven instruction for every student, focus on essential topics, and help make learning more memorable. Experiences and contributions of ethnic groups and women in history are integrated in this course model. The framework is divided into 11 units: (1) Connecting with Past Learnings: Uncovering the Remote Past; (2) Connecting with Past Learnings: the Fall of Rome; (3) Growth of Islam; (4) African States in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times; (5) Civilizations of the Americas; (6) China; (7) Japan; (8) Medieval Societies: Europe and Japan; (9) Europe During the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution; (10) Early Modern Europe: The Age of Exploration to the Enlightenment; and (11) Linking Past to Present. Six of the 11 units delineated in the framework's 7th grade course description are developed in these course models. All units follow the same format. Each begins with a rationale and overview. Ways are suggested for teachers to coordinate the model with the state-adopted textbook for 7th grade. A presentation of activities to introduce and continue the sample topic are suggested to encourage students to apply what they have studied through projects. Each unit ends with an extensive annotated list of sample resources. (DK)

medieval and early modern times: *Drama, Play, and Game* Lawrence M. Clopper, 2001-05 How was it possible for drama, especially biblical representations, to appear in the Christian West given the church's condemnation of the theatrum of the ancient world? In a book with radical implications for the study of medieval literature, Lawrence Clopper resolves this perplexing question. *Drama, Play, and Game* demonstrates that the theatrum repudiated by medieval clerics was not theater as we understand the term today. Clopper contends that critics have misrepresented Western stage history because they have assumed that theatrum designates a place where drama is performed. While theatrum was thought of as a site of spectacle during the Middle Ages, the term was more closely connected with immodest behavior and lurid forms of festive culture. Clerics were not opposed to liturgical representations in churches, but they strove ardently to suppress May games, ludi, festivals, and liturgical parodies. Medieval drama, then, stemmed from a more vernacular tradition than previously acknowledged—one developed by England's laity outside the boundaries of clerical rule.

medieval and early modern times: *The Medieval and Early Modern World* Bonnie G. Smith, Donald R. Kelley, 2005 Consists of primary source material and an index to the other six titles in the series.

medieval and early modern times: *Handbook to Life in Medieval and Early Modern Japan* William E. Deal, 2007 This book is an introduction the Japanese history, culture, and society from 1185 - the beginning of the Kamakura period - through the end of the Edo period in 1868.

medieval and early modern times: *Poison, Medicine, and Disease in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe* Frederick W Gibbs, 2018-07-20 This book presents a uniquely broad and pioneering history of premodern toxicology by exploring how late medieval and early modern (c. 1200-1600) physicians discussed the relationship between poison, medicine, and disease. Drawing from a wide range of medical and natural philosophical texts—with an emphasis on treatises that focused on poison, pharmacotherapeutics, plague, and the nature of disease—this study brings to light premodern physicians' debates about the potential existence, nature, and properties of a category of substance theoretically harmful to the human body in even the smallest amount. Focusing on the category of poison (venenum) rather than on specific drugs reframes and remixes the standard histories of toxicology, pharmacology, and etiology, as well as shows how these aspects of medicine (although not yet formalized as independent disciplines) interacted with and shaped one another.

Physicians argued, for instance, about what properties might distinguish poison from other substances, how poison injured the human body, the nature of poisonous bodies, and the role of poison in spreading, and to some extent defining, disease. The way physicians debated these questions shows that poison was far from an obvious and uncontested category of substance, and their effort to understand it sheds new light on the relationship between natural philosophy and medicine in the late medieval and early modern periods.

medieval and early modern times: *Dealing With The Dead*, 2017-12-18 Death was a constant, visible presence in medieval and renaissance Europe. Yet, the acknowledgement of death did not necessarily amount to an acceptance of its finality. Whether they were commoners, clergy, aristocrats, or kings, the dead continued to function literally as integrated members of their communities long after they were laid to rest in their graves. From stories of revenants bringing pleas from Purgatory to the living, to the practical uses and regulation of burial space; from the tradition of the *ars moriendi*, to the depiction of death on the stage; and from the making of martyrs, to funerals for the rich and poor, this volume examines how communities dealt with their dead as continual, albeit non-living members. Contributors are Jill Clements, Libby Escobedo, Hilary Fox, Sonsoles Garcia, Stephen Gordon, Melissa Herman, Mary Leech, Nikki Malain, Kathryn Maud, Justin Noetzel, Anthony Perron, Martina Saltamacchia, Thea Tomaini, Wendy Turner, and Christina Welch

medieval and early modern times: Forms of Individuality and Literacy in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods Franz-Josef Arlinghaus, 2015 'Individuality' is one of the central categories of modern society. Can the roots of modern individuality be found in pre-modern times? Or is our way of thinking about ourselves a very recent phenomenon? This book takes a theoretical approach to the problem, derived from Niklas Luhmann's system theory, in which different forms of individuality are linked to different structures of society in modern and pre-modern times. The papers in this volume approach this problem by discussing a broad variety of medieval and early modern sources, including charters and seals, letters, and naming-practices in a late medieval town. Self-representation is also considered, in 'housebooks' and drawings. Textual studies include autobiography in German Humanism, and concepts of individuality and gender in late medieval literary texts.

medieval and early modern times: Technology of the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds Emily Sebastian, 2015-12-15 While the medieval period is often written off as a backward and benighted era, it was, in fact, marked by advances in wind and water power, agriculture, navigation, timekeeping, and military technology. The invention of the printing press near the end of the Middle Ages ushered in the early modern period. The achievements of this era—in particular the fabrication of scientific instruments, the development of commerce, rising urbanization, and the invention of the steam engine—laid the groundwork for the Industrial Revolution. Readers will be engrossed by this information-packed title and come away with a real understanding of how technology develops over time, building, by fits and spurts, on the technology already in use.

medieval and early modern times: Bodily and Spiritual Hygiene in Medieval and Early Modern Literature Albrecht Classen, 2017-03-20 While most people today take hygiene and medicine for granted, they both have had their own history. We can gain deep insights into the pre-modern world by studying its health-care system, its approaches to medicine, and concept of hygiene. Already the early Middle Ages witnessed great interest in bathing (hot and cold), swimming, and good personal hygiene. Medical activities grew over time, but even early medieval monks were already great experts in treating the sick. The contributions examine literary, medical, historical texts and images and probe the information we can glean from them. The interdisciplinary approach of this volume makes it possible to view this large field in a complex and diversified manner, taking into account both early medieval and early modern treatises on medicine, water, bathing, and health. Such a cultural-historical perspective creates a most valuable bridge connecting literary and scientific documents under the umbrella of the history of mentality and history of everyday life. The volume does not aim at idealizing the past, but it definitely intends to deconstruct modern myths about the 'dirty' and 'unhealthy' Middle Ages and early modern age.

medieval and early modern times: Alcohol, Sex and Gender in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe L. Martin, 2001-01-19 This book examines drinking and attitudes to alcohol consumption in late medieval and early modern England, France, and Italy, especially as they related to sexual and violent behavior and to gender relations. According to widespread beliefs, the consumption of alcohol led to increased sexual activity among both men and women, and it also led to disorderly conduct among women and violent conduct among men. Dr Lynn shows how alcohol was a fundamental part of the diets of most people, including women, resulting in daily drinking of large amounts of ale, beer, or wine. This study offers an intimate insight into both the altered states induced by alcohol, and, by opposition, into normal relations in family, community, and society.

medieval and early modern times: The Fight for Status and Privilege in Late Medieval and Early Modern Castile, 1465-1598 Michael J. Crawford, 2020-05-01 In *The Fight for Status and Privilege in Late Medieval and Early Modern Castile, 1465-1598*, Michael Crawford investigates conflicts about and resistance to the status of hidalgo, conventionally understood as the lowest, most heavily populated rank in the Castilian nobility. It is generally accepted that legal privileges were based on status and class in this premodern society. Crawford presents and explains the contentious realities and limitations of such legal privileges, particularly the conventional claim of hidalgo exemption from taxation. He focuses on efforts to claim these privileges as well as opposing efforts to limit and manage them. Although historians of Spain acknowledge such conflicts, especially lawsuits associated with this status, none have focused a study on this extraordinarily widespread phenomenon. This book analyzes the inevitable contradictions inherent in negotiation for and the implementation of privilege, scrutinizing the many jurisdictions that intervened in these struggles and debates, including the crown, judiciary, city council, and financial authorities. Ultimately, this analysis imparts important insights about the nature of sixteenth-century Castilian society with wide-ranging implications about the relationship between social status and legal privileges in the early modern period as a whole.

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