

Planned essay titles:

Essay I - Critique of *Malleus Maleficarum* by Heinrich Kramer, its negative influence on the culture of XV-XVII century Europe, based on the 1928 translation by Montague Summers.

Essay II - Witch Hunts in the XV-XVII centuries, with a focus on the Reformation and Counter-Reformation of the Church as well as the areas of England and Scotland.

Essays Plan:

The essays should complement each other. Essay one should serve as a general introduction to the subject of the witch trials, heavily influenced by *Malleus Maleficarum*. It is necessary to focus on the period during which the book *Hammer of Witches* (1487) was written, as well as spread and gained power. The book was officially authorised by the Pope as a justification for the torture and torment done to women. It is necessary to point out the types of torture used by the Inquisition, the territories where it had influence, as well as the ones where the Inquisition did not exist, yet witch hunts occurred. It would be beneficial to include maps reflecting this. It should be considered how the treatise influenced the witch hunt phenomenon as well as whether its creation and distribution had an impact on the deaths of thousands of innocent people - it would be helpful to include statistics but also to refer to their validity.

The essays should refer to the period of the Reformation, as well as the Counter-Reformation - including the main decisions made during the Council of Trent. It is a time of strong religious divisions between groups that held generally similar ideas.

In England, it was the time of Catholic oppression, where each one of them could potentially be accused of devil worship, even though the papal Inquisition had no influence there. The essay should include the name of **Matthew Hopkins**. In Continental Europe, the oppression was mostly focused on the new religious factions. Furthermore magic became a justification of poverty and misfortune, public witch persecutions and executions were a desired entertainment throughout Europe.

It is necessary to refer to the similarities between the oppression of Jews in Spain and the **auto-da-fé**.

It is possible to include the *Demonology* by King James I.

The types of tortures, which were a myth and never existed, would serve as an interesting fact and their inclusion would enrich the essay. The essay should further discuss the subjects of the witchcraft phenomenon, fictional trials, **rules of torture**, as well as rare cases of well and believably documented hard-to-explain phenomena which occurred during the witch hunts or their executions, which can, in turn, may lead to a conclusion that **sometimes magic could have been real**.

The essays should allow the reader to see the tragedy of the situation, which could be further achieved by providing quotations from books or films telling the stories of people who lived in those times, it may potentially increase the literary value of the essays. It may be particularly important to include the description of eating food or drinking in a scold's bridle as provided by **Kathryn Harrison**.

Both of these essays should be concluded with a severe critique of the influence Heinrich Kramer's treatise had on society in those times, as well as the phenomena of cruel persecutions generally called witch trials, including and basing this on **academic sources** will be necessary. The addition of citations from works of those times would be beneficial as well.

Both works would benefit from including prints, pictures and graphics, predominantly those depicting **burning on the stake, witch's bridle and aspergillum**.

Bibliografia:

Malleus Maleficarum- Montague Summers Translation

The malleus maleficarum and the construction of witchcraft: theology and popular belief

Bergin, Joseph ; Broedel, Hans ; Roberts, Penny ; Naphy, William G

Manchester: Manchester University Press

A Thousand Orange Trees by Kathryn Harrison

The History Of Torture by Brian Innes

The Spanish Inquisition by John Edwards

One of the books made by Matthew Hopkins

Some critical work about Matthew Hopkins

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Malleus-maleficarum>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Matthew-Hopkins-WitchFinder-General/>

<https://astrahistoria.pl/czarownictwo-epoce-tudorow/>

<https://www.history.co.uk/articles/the-life-of-matthew-hopkins-the-opportunistic-witchfinder-general>

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