

MONTSÉGUR: A « CATHAR CITADEL »



Puilaurens



Quéribus



Peyrepertuse



Puivert



MAP OF THE CATHAR COUNTRY



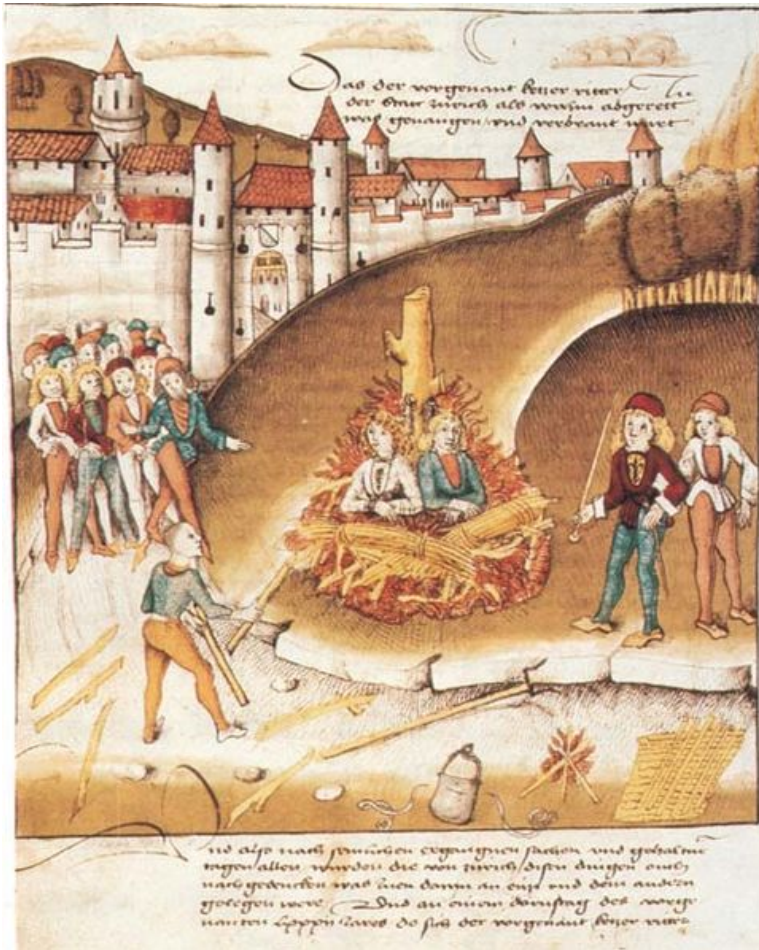
Robert Moore, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society*, Oxford, Blackwell, 2007.

Socially sanctioned violence directed through established governmental, judicial and social institutions against groups of people defined by general characteristics such as race (Jews), religion or way of life (sodomites / gays).

Which often led to their execution on the stake

Esop gut geseit und hant gestaffet





Burning of the knight
Hohenburg and his
valet, Zurich, 1482

Evolution of the target groups from the 13th to the 17th century:

Cathars

Knights Templars

Joan of Arc

The witch-hunt

Demoniacs

1208. Murder of Pierre de Castelnau, legate of pope Innocent III.

1209-1229 : military campaign led by Simon de Montfort

1233. Inquisitorial campaign : Pope Gregory IX gave Dominicans (the order founded by St. Dominic in 1217) the primary charter to act as Inquisitors, joined shortly after by the Franciscans



Dualism or Manicheism : the world is the creation of Evil, everything material is corrupt. God rules the invisible, the spiritual

Pope Innocent III excommunicating the Cathars Massacre by the crusaders



Massacre of Béziers, July 1209

“Kill them all, God will know his own”

Attributed to the Cistercian monk Arnaut Amaury, the pontifical legate

The entire population (20000) was murdered



August 1209. Siege of Carcassonne





The people of Carcassonne were told that they had to leave the town. They deserted their city keeping just their shirt with them.

“Not even the value of a button were they allowed to take with them” told a chronicler.



In April 1210, a procession of about 100 men arrived from the fortified town of Bram, twenty-five miles away, that had yielded to Simon de Montfort.

They had been blinded, and each man's nose and upper lip sliced off. Their leader had been left with one eye so as to guide his companions.



Siege of the citadel of Minerve: taken in June 1210.

Everyone found in the town had to swear allegiance to the Church and abjure their beliefs. 140 refused to take the oath of allegiance.

They were tied to stakes: it was the first mass execution by fire of the Albigensian Crusade.



Other mass burnings of
Cathars:

Lavaur 400 in 1211

Cassès 600 in 1211

Montségur 220 in 1244

Agen 80 in 1249

ALBI SAINTE-CÉCILE (1282-1390)



The Knights Templars



A religious and military Order founded in the Holy Land in 1119 for the defence of the crusader states in the east.

In 1291, the Christian settlers were driven out of Palestine by the Mamelukes of Egypt, and the Templars lost their purpose.

Statement opening King Philip IV's secret orders to arrest the members of the Order of the Temple throughout the kingdom on 14 September 1307.

“A bitter thing, a lamentable thing, a thing which is horrible to contemplate, terrible to hear of, a detestable crime, an execrable evil, an abominable work, a detestable disgrace, a thing almost inhuman, indeed set apart from all humanity”.



Charges: denial of Christ, spitting on the crucifix, indecent kissing and homosexuality: stripped of their secular clothing, new members were brought naked before the senior Templar in charge of the reception, then kissed by him on the lower spine, the navel, the mouth. They were forced into carnal relations with other members of the Order without possibility of refusal.



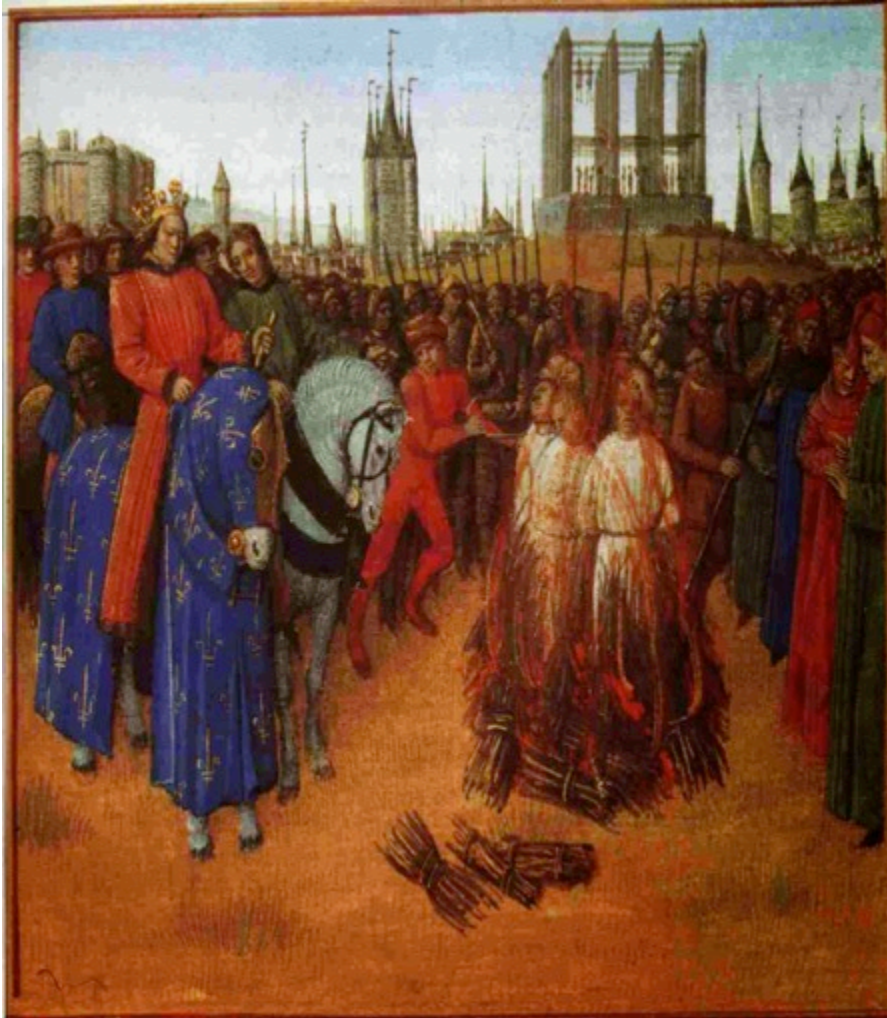
12 May 1310, 54
knights templars were
burned outside Paris

On March 22 1312, the
Order was suppressed
by the pope



March 18, 1314

Burning of Jacques
de Molay, the Grand
Master of the
Templars and
Geoffroi de Charnay,
the Preceptor of
Aquitaine.



It is said that Jacques de Molay cursed King Philip IV of France and his descendants:

"God knows who is wrong and has sinned. Soon a calamity will occur to those who have condemned us to death"



Joan of Arc

Born around 1412, in
Domrémy, north-eastern
France

Began to hear voices at age
13: St Margaret, Catherine
and Michael

April 1429, the Dauphin
provided her with a military
troop of several men





May 8, 1429 victory of
Orléans besieged by the
English

Successful military
campaign



17 July 1418, coronation
of Charles VII at Reims



23 May 1430 captured at
the siege of Compiègne
Transferred to Rouen and
held prisoner in the castle

9 January 1431 beginning
of her trial under the
Bishop of Beauvais,
Pierre Cauchon

30 May 1431 execution

Charges

Magic: seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, and talking to her saints as bodily creatures. She called them St. Michel, Catherine and Margaret when they were the demons Belial, Satan and Behemoth.

The accusations linking Joan with the devil make up more than half of the trial.

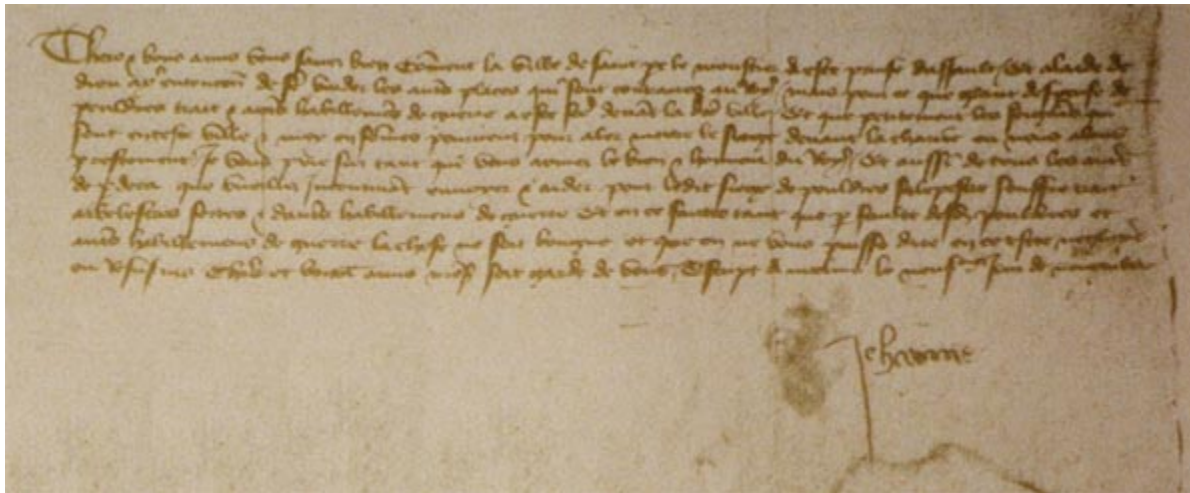
She had caused herself to be adored and venerated, which was self-deification, **idolatry**.

She went against the Church's norms for a lay person, especially for a woman. The accusation of cutting her hair and wearing men's clothes, especially receiving communion in male attire indicates how the judges were shocked by her **transvestism**.

Headstrong and arrogant with her refusal to accept the judgment and authority of the Church with her claim that she was sent by God.

“She does not submit herself to the judgment of the Church Militant, or to that of living men, but to God alone”.

That was labelled not only spiritual arrogance but **heresy**, non compliance with the Church's authority. Her pride was considered **blasphemous and demonic**.



Joan was asked to sign a formula of abjuration: she must not wear arms in the future, wear men's clothing, cut her hair short.

She was taken back to the **secular** prison where she was given a woman's dress and her head was shaved as a sign of repentance.

However she resumed male clothing and her fate was sealed.

May 30 1431



How can they treat me so cruelly that my virgin body which has never been violated will be burned in the fire?

Turning to Bishop Cauchon, she said, « Bishop, I die by you. » He responded, « Oh, Joan, you do not submit. This has happened because you did not keep your promise but relapsed. » She fired back, «Alas, if you had put me in a church prison and confided me to guards of the church, as should have been done, this would not have happened. »

Retrial of Joan of Arc

On 15 February 1450, Charles VII orders a review of the trial

1455. Pope Callixtus III orders a retrial

7 November 1455: the retrial opens at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

7 July 1456. Joan is declared innocent and her sentence annulled

16 May 1920. Joan is canonized



Francisco de Goya
(1746-1828), *Witches'
Sabbath*.

Peak of the witch-hunt
between 1450 and 1750

Around 90,000
prosecutions

Half of the people
prosecuted were
executed for a number of
45,000

Traditional sorcery



Practice of black or maleficent magic involving supernatural powers: harming or killing a person by piercing a doll made in his or her image, inflicting sickness, reciting a spell, destroying crops by causing hail, causing impotence, etc.

White magic is beneficial, the distinction between the two being often blurred



Witchcraft

Diabolism came from the literate classes of society: scholars, lawyers, judges and magistrates

The witch made a pact with the Devil and paid some sort of homage to him by kissing his buttocks



Hans Baldung Grien (1484-85 / 1545)



Thanks to the power of the Devil they would fly through the air to access to the Sabbath

They would sacrifice children to the Devil, feast on the bodies of these infants, dance naked, engage in sexual intercourse with the Devil

Malleus maleficarum (The witch hammer) 1486
Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger, Dominican
inquisitors (30000 copies until 1669)

*Why it is that women are chiefly addicted to evil
superstitions?*

Why a greater number of witches is found in the fragile female sex than among men; it is indeed a fact that it were idle to contradict, since it is accredited by actual experience. ... they are more credulous ... women are naturally more impressionable ... they have slippery tongues and are unable to conceal from their fellow-women those things which by evil arts they know ... since they are feebler both in mind and body, it is not surprising that they should come more under the spell of witchcraft.

Thompkins H. Matteson, *Examination of a witch*



The 'swimming' of Mary Sutton (1615)



The accused was bound and tossed in water which was blessed beforehand. If the bound person floated, she was considered guilty, since the water rejected her.

If she sank, she was innocent, although her life was nonetheless in danger.

Jan Luyken
1649-1712



Dutch poet,
illustrator and
engraver

Illustrated the 1685
edition of the *Martyrs
Mirror*



Demonic possession
of several nuns in an
Ursuline convent at
Loudun in France
between 1632 and
1637



Urbain Grandier, a parish priest of Loudun was targeted because of his scandalous personal life: he had impregnated the daughter of one of the town's leading officials

Under torture he confessed to having made a pact with the Devil and having caused the nuns' affliction.



Jeanne des Anges, the Mother Superior of the convent: she was reputedly possessed by seven demons, each one occupying a different part of her body and each one identified by name.

Physical symptoms of possession

Terrible convulsions

They struck their chests and backs with their heads, as if they had their neck broken, and with inconceivable rapidity

They twisted their arms at the joints of the shoulder, the elbow and the wrist two or three times round

Lying on their stomachs they joined their palms of their hands to the soles of their feet

Their tongues issued suddenly from their mouths, horribly swollen, black, hard, and covered with pimples

They threw themselves back till their heads touched their feet, and walked in this position with wonderful rapidity, and for a long time

Moral symptoms of possession

They uttered cries so horrible and so loud that nothing like it was ever heard before

They made use of expressions so indecent as to shame the most debauched of men

They exposed themselves and invited lewd behaviour from those present

They uttered maledictions against the three Divine Persons of the Trinity, oaths and blasphemous expressions

Grandier's pact with the Devil. Written backwards in Latin

“My Lord and Master Lucifer, I recognize you as my God, and promise to serve you all my life. I renounce every other God, Jesus Christ, and all other saints; the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church, its sacraments with all prayers that may be said for me; and I promise to do all the evil I can. I renounce the holy oil and the water of baptism, together with the merits of Jesus Christ and his Saints; and should I fail to serve and adore you, and do homage to you thrice daily, I abandon to you my life as your due.”



EFFIGIE DE LA CONDEMNATION DE MORT
& execution d'Urbain Grandier, Curé de l'Eglise S. Pierre du Marché de Loudun, atteint
& convaincu de Magic, sortileges & malefic... lequel a esté bruslé vif en ladite ville.



18 August 1634

Urbain Grandier's
execution

The Affair of the Poisons

Prominent individuals at the court of Louis XIV were involved

The king, fearing for his own safety and that of the royal family, appointed Nicolas de La Reynie, Lieutenant General of the Paris police, to oversee an investigation in 1679.

Three women were prominently involved : the marquise de Brinvilliers, Catherine Monvoisin, called La Voisin, and the Marquise de Montespan



Marie-Madeleine d'Auvray,
marquise de Brinvilliers

Accused of having
conspired with her lover to
poison her father in 1666
and her two brothers in
1670

Decapitated on July 16,
1676 burnt and her
ashes thrown to the wind



Just before her execution, she exclaimed: "Out of so many guilty people must I be the only one to be put to death? ... And yet half the people in town are involved in this sort of thing, and I could ruin them if I were to talk."

Her death was followed by the arrest of several alchemists, counterfeiters, and poisoners, discovering the dark side of Parisian witchcraft.

La Voisin was arrested on March 12, 1679 and burned at the stake on 22 February 1680



The Marquis de la Riviere, noted that La Voisin "was full of delicious little secrets for the ladies ... for which the gentlemen could be grateful

She could make a lady's bosom more bountiful or her mouth more diminutive, and she knew just what to do for a nice girl who had gotten herself into trouble."

Françoise Athenais de
Rochechouart de Mortemart, wife
of the Marquis de Montespan



Explicitly accused by La Voisin's
daughter that she had visited her
mother several times to purchase
her magic powders to retain the
king's love

She also accused her of having
participated in the black masses
held in 1667 and 1668, invoked
Satan to help her to obtain the
King's affection.

She also reported that three or
four infants had been sacrificed
on behalf of the Marquise.