

Why did the Peasant's revolt and what were the consequences of it?



Aim: To understand the causes and events of the 'Peasant's Revolt'. Furthermore, connecting the context in 1381 to the consequences of the Black Death

SOURCE ONE

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

SOURCE TWO

Who? What? Where? When? Why?



Causes of the Peasant's Revolt

<p>In 1351 a new law was passed called the Statute of Labourers which said that people had to work for the same wages they had been getting in 1347</p>	<p>England had been at war with France for nearly 50 years. Since 1369 the war had been going badly and was costing a lot of money.</p>
<p>The Statute of Labourers said that people were not allowed to move to a new Lord for more money unless they had completed a year's work with the existing Lord.</p>	<p>Some people thought the King's Uncle, John of Gaunt, planned to seize the throne for himself.</p>
<p>The Poll Taxes were a way of raising money to pay for the war against France. In 1377 everyone over the age of 15 had to pay a groat (4d). In 1379 they asked for another groat from everyone (more if you were rich) and in 1380 they asked for another groat from everyone!</p>	<p>In 1377 John of Gaunt had threatened to suspend the privileges of the City of London in a dispute over religion.</p>
<p>In 1381 Commissioners were sent around the country to make sure everyone had paid their Poll Tax.</p>	<p>If you were rich, or had powerful friends, it was easy to get away with many crimes - even if the law found you guilty you might still be able to get a pardon from the King.</p>
<p>In 1363 Sumptuary Laws were made which limited the kinds of clothes and accessories that people were allowed to wear - depending on their status.</p>	<p>A priest called John Bull said that if Adam and Eve were the parents of everyone, as the Bible said, how come some people were now Lords and some serfs? He was even put in prison for saying this.</p>

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It is common in England for the Lords to have great privileges over the peasants, whom they keep in bondage; that is to say, they are bound by law and custom to plough the lands of the Lords, to harvest the grain, to carry it home to the barn, to thresh and winnow it: they are also bound to harvest the hay and carry it home. All these services they have to perform for their lords, and more. The bishops and the Lords are thus served.

The evil-minded peasants began to rebel, saying, they were too severely oppressed; that at the beginning of the world there were no slaves, and that no one ought to be treated as such, unless he had committed treason against his lord, as Lucifer had done against God. But they had done no such thing, for they were neither angels nor spirits, but men made after the same likeness as their Lords, who treated them as beasts. This they would no longer bear, but had decided to be free, and if they laboured or did any other works for their Lords, they would be paid for it.

A crazy priest in the county of Kent, called John Bull who, for his absurd preaching, had been put in the prison of the Archbishop of Canterbury three times, was greatly to blame in spreading those ideas. Every Sunday after mass, as the people were coming out of the church, he preached to them in the market places and would gather a crowd around him; to whom he would say:

"My good friends, things cannot go on well in England, nor will they, until everything is held in common; when there shall be neither peasant nor lord, and all privileges abolished; when the lords shall be no more the masters than ourselves. How ill have they used us! and for what reason do they hold us in bondage? Are we not all descended from the same parents, Adam and Eve? And what can they show, or what reasons give, why they should be the masters rather than us?"

Froissart's Chronicle

MY FACT FILE

This tells me why the protesters thought they should be free.

This tells me how the protesters wanted to make themselves free.

This tells me what Froissart thought about the protesters' ideas.

