Daily Life in Early Modern Society

| Discussion topics | Documents | Reading |

DISCUSSION TOPICS AND ESSAY QUESTIONS

**a) Rural society**
- Were the changes in agrarian society in this period to the advantage of landowners or of peasants?
- Were social relations in the countryside characterised by conflict or cooperation?
- In which ways did peasants 'matter' in early modern Europe?

**b) Urban society**
- How were early modern towns governed?
- Why did some towns flourish in this period while others stagnated?
- In which ways was 'urban life' fundamentally different from 'rural life' in this period?

**c) Material Culture**
- To what extent was early modern Europe a 'consumer society'?
- How did the material culture of social groups differ?

DOCUMENTS

**NOTE:** Some resources are accessible only on-campus at the University of Warwick or via off-campus proxies or the athens service.

**External Links**
- Social History Primary Sources (in German)
- Virtual Norfolk
- La Couturiere Parisienne (Fashion Through the Ages)
- Enclosure essay, S. Hindle
- Maps of Amsterdam
- Urban Society, Virtual Norfolk
- The Early Modern City
- Dartford 1500-1800
- John Rocque's map of London (1746)
- Reconstruction of Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth Castle
- British Museum objects database
- Trade products in early modern history
- Trade ephemera: a nation of shopkeepers
- V&A medieval and renaissance objects
- Historic Food

**Texts**

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<tr>
<th>RURAL SOCIETY</th>
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<tr>
<td>The 'Twelve Articles' of the German Peasants (1525)</td>
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<td>Social Conditions in 17th Century France (c.1650)</td>
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<td>Abraham Cowley, Of Agriculture (1650)</td>
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**Images**

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<td>Peasants by the Hearth (1560s)</td>
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<td>David Kellners, Berg und Saltwercks Buch (1702)</td>
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<td>Pieter Bruegel the Elder, The Peasant Wedding (c.1568)</td>
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<td>Pieter Bruegel the Elder, The Peasant Dance (1568)</td>
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<td>Map of the scale of the Peasants' War (1525)</td>
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**Urban Society**

| THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON: article in the 'London Gazette' (3-10 September 1666) |
| Concerning the Polity and Government of the Praiseworthy City of Nuremberg (1516) |
| John Stow, Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster (1603) |

**Material Culture**

| DAME MARY LISTER'S HOUSEHOLD BOOK |

**External Links**

- Virtual Norfolk
- The Early Modern City
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Extracts from a letter to Elizabeth I describing pageants performed at Kenilworth castle by Renaissance Festival Books and Inventory of Humphrey Hutchings (1713)

'Migration and the Early Modern English Town' (TLTP courseware tutorial)

Material Culture
- Men and women’s work clothing
- Miniature religious triptych (1726-50)
- Artificial hand (16th century)
- Portrait bust of Philibert of Savoy (1501)
- 16th century Welsh mug
- Verge watch (1718-1750)

Secondary Literature:

a) Rural Society
- W. Abel, Agricultural Fluctuations in Europe (1980), esp. part II
- M. Bush, ‘Tenant right and the peasantry of Europe under the old regime’, in his Social Orders and Social Classes in Europe since 1500 (1992)
- " (ed.), Serfdom and Slavery (1996), esp. chs 13, 15
- W. Hagen, Ordinary Prussians: Brandenburg Junkers and villagers, 1500-1840 (2002)
- T. Harris, The politics of the excluded, c. 1500-1850 (2001)
- " , European Society, chaps. 4, 6
- W. Rössner, Peasants in the Middle Ages (1992)
- T. Ruiz, Spanish Society 1400-1600 (2001)
- " (ed.), The Peasantries of Europe (1998)

b) Urban Society
- P. Clark & P. Slack (eds), Crisis and Order in English Towns
1500-1700 (1972)


- A. Cunningham & O. Grell (eds.), *Health care and poor relief in Protestant Europe, 1500-1700* (1997)


- E.A. Wrigley, ‘Urban growth in early modern Europe’, *Scottish Economic and Social History* 12 (1992) SLC

**c) Material Culture**


- M. Ajmar-Wollheim & F. Dennis (eds), *At Home in Renaissance Italy* (2006)


- D. Roche, *A History of Everyday Things: The Birth of*
Consumption in France, 1600-1800 (2000)