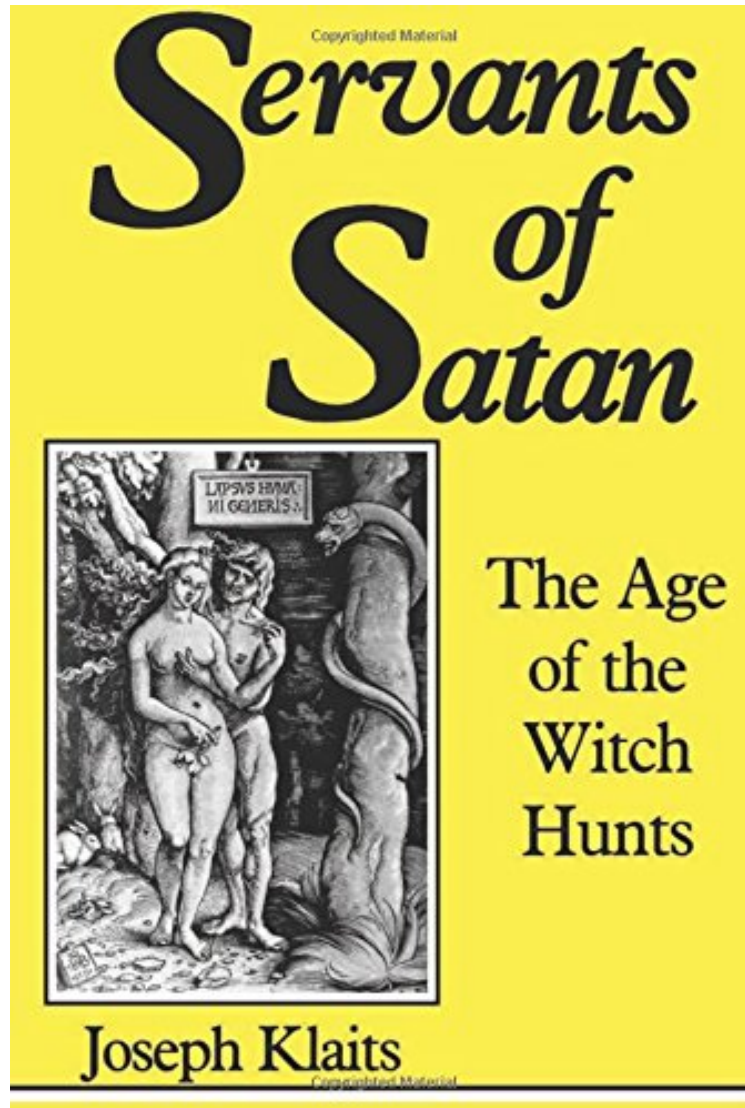


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Joseph Klaitis

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Joseph Klaitis : Servants of Satan: The Age of the Witch Hunts (Midland Book, Mb 422) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Servants of Satan: The Age of the Witch Hunts (Midland Book, Mb 422):

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and later decline of the witch phenomenon and the social and cultural conditions that allowed that to prosper in different nations. I can recommend this to anyone who is curious about the origins of this phenomenon and what drives people to embrace it. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. witch craze persecutions By lance s kuntzman what a great scholarly monograph! this book covers the misogyny, legal, religious and social underpinnings of the witch craze from 1450-1700 it covers europe and salem here in the old usa... finally, it provides insightful primary source documentation of witch craft trials. hope you read it! 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Best book on its subject I know of By Schmerguls This book considers the general course and significance of the witch hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries. I admit my interest in the subject stems from the fact that my nine times great grandmother was the defendant in a witch trial in 16th century Germany. in which she was ably defended and was vindicated. The introduction to this fine volume reads in part: "The bleak terrain of the witch trials is both forbidding and depressing. Their vast scale must daunt any writer who hopes to explain the dynamics and significance of witch hunting, while the story of the trials also is bound to provoke discouraging conclusions about the human potential for inhumanity. Yet the witch craze's prominence in the history of the period necessitates the broadest possible treatment, not only chronologically and spatially but also conceptually. Our current knowledge of political institutions, social structure, and patterns of thought should be brought to bear when placing witch hunts in their historical context." The book succeeds admirably in carrying out the announced aim. It is the best treatment of the subject I know of.

This is the first book to consider the general course and significance of the European witch craze of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries since H.R. Trevor-Roper's classic and pioneering study appeared some fifteen years ago. Drawing upon the advances in historical and social-science scholarship of the past decade and a half, Joseph Klaitz integrates the recent appreciations of witchcraft in regional studies, the history of popular culture, anthropology, sociology, and psychology to better illuminate the place of witch hunting in the context of social, political, economic and religious change. In all, Klaitz has done a good job. Avoiding the scandalous and sensational, he has maintained throughout, with sensitivity and economy, an awareness of the uniqueness of the theories and persecutions that have fascinated scholars now for two decades and are unlikely to lose their appeal in the foreseeable future." American Historical Review This is a commendable synthesis whose time has come.... fascinating... " The Sixteenth Century Journal... comprehensive and clearly written... An excellent book... " Choice Impeccable research and interpretation stand behind this scholarly but not stultifying account... " Booklist A good, solid, general treatment... " Erik Midelfort Servants of Satan is a well written, easy to read book, and the bibliography is a good source of secondary materials for further reading." Journal of American Folklore

"In all, Klaitz has done a good job. Avoiding the scandalous and sensational, he has maintained throughout, with sensitivity and economy, an awareness of the uniqueness of the theories and persecutions that have fascinated scholars now for two decades and are unlikely to lose their appeal in the foreseeable future." American Historical "This is a commendable synthesis whose time has come... Fascinating ... " The Sixteenth Century Journal " ... Comprehensive and clearly written ... An excellent book ... " Choice "Impeccable research and interpretation stand behind this scholarly but not stultifying account ... " Booklist "A good, solid, general treatment ... " Erik Midelfort "Servants of Satan is a well written, easy to read book, and the bibliography is a good source of secondary materials for further reading." Journal of American Folklore About the Author Joseph Klaitz is Associate Professor of History at Oakland University. He is the author of Printed Propaganda under Louis XIV and many articles on early modern European history, and coeditor of Animals and Man in Historical Perspective.