Other peasant uprisings: German peasant’s war

[German Peasants' War - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Peasants%27_War)

Online museum final artilce

**Start**

13th century was a century that was good and flourishing all over the world and for England too.

It was a period of stronger centralization, urbanization etc.

14th century was is generally agreed upon to be much much worse for the British as a whole.

It shows how internal turmoil can have huge effects on the war effort

… because subsequently, the parliament shied away from raising taxes

**Lead up**

It is important to realize that there were several sorts of farmers and farmland

* There were the free serfs
* Unfree serfs: had to work on their lord’s lands for a period each year or a couple days per week (while week may be anachronistic).
* Some were somewhat free: they accepted limitations to their freedom in return for their tenure agreement for their farmland.

Population growth had led to pressure on the available farmland, expanding the power of the landowners. They could demand more servitude from their farmers. Also, because farmers couldn’t just run away and find some other place to work as a free or semi-free serf (a thing that some did).

* But this ended with the black plague. Some estimations are that 50% of the british population died, others say 1/3 of it died.

The authorities / government tried to respond to the chaos of the situation through the ordinance of laborers in 1349 and statue of laborers in 1351 (same rules but stricter punishment than 1349). These attempted to fix wages at pre-plague levels, making it a crime to refuse work or to break an existing contract, imposing fines on those who transgressed.

… you can say that the farmers felt usurped from this.

In 1361 the legislation was even strengthened.

Statute Concerning Diet and Apparel 1363

* Disallowing the richer peasantry from buying the same things as the elite could

Then came 3 poll taxes from 1379

The royal council appointed new commissioners in March 1381 to interrogate local village and town officials in an attempt to find those who were refusing to comply

* The extraordinary powers and interference of these teams of investigators in local communities raised tensions even more

1380:

Concerns were raised about these changes in society.[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-63) [William Langland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Langland) wrote the poem [*Piers Plowman*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piers_Plowman) in the years before 1380, praising peasants who respected the law and worked hard for their lords, but complaining about greedy, travelling labourers demanding higher wages.[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-64)

**Predecessor**

1377: great rumour

*Domus Dei = house of god.*

* In 1085 *the king sent his agents to survey every shire in England, to list his holdings and calculate the dues owed to him* 
  + The survey's main purpose was to determine what taxes had been owed during the reign of King [Edward the Confessor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_the_Confessor), thereby allowing William to reassert the rights of the Crown and assess where power lay after a wholesale redistribution of land following the [Norman Conquest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norman_Conquest).
* But then came the [Return of Owners of Land, 1873 - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Return_of_Owners_of_Land,_1873) -> which is also sometimes called ‘the modern’ domesday
  + It arose from the desire of the Victorian governing landed classes, many of whom sat in the house of lords, to counter risihng public clamour (encouraged by the press) about what was considered the monopoly of the land.

**In London**

Attacked jails

Burned law books in the temple as well as the buildings there

… not only that they also destroyed loan official documents (as in the book source it said) – that way exempting he outstanding loans of the rich to the poor – there was no evidence

Destroyed savoy palace

Interesting q was it an early protestant reformation?

* Even one before jan hus

Starting with Thomas baker’s lands, who refused the taxpayer that they would pay taxes this time -> they were then punished but then a revolt broke out

The Kentish rebellion had amassed in several counties and then moved forward to London.

They met up in blackheathe, where john ball gave a famous sermon: copy past that sermon!

**Primary sources**

Anonimalle chronicle

The king and a spokesman for the rebellion met at mile end to negotiate surrender

**For my own knowledge:** Resistance in the provinces was also complicated by English law, which stated that only the King could summon local militias or lawfully execute rebels and criminals, leaving many local lords unwilling to attempt to suppress the uprisings on their own authority.[[103]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-110)

Interesting how convenient the killing of watt tyler at a negotiation was

* The rebels dispersed

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malthusianism> - overpopulation

* Scholars such as [David Herlihy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Herlihy) and [Michael Postan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Postan) use the term [Malthusian limit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malthusian_catastrophe) to express and explain some tragedies as resulting from overpopulation. In his 1798 *Essay on the Principle of Population*, from crises of the late middle ages wiki article

Hilton in 1973’s account reflected the earlier uprising in England to the concurrent peasants uprisings of the time – see Wikipedia peasans revolt and [Popular revolts in late-medieval Europe - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_revolts_in_late-medieval_Europe)

Basically the people were mad at 40 or more years of further enslave / encroachment

It is interesting that in the rebellion in London, they went after foreigners,, and flamish people in particular.

**Aftermath:**

Interpretations of the revolt have changed over the years. 17th-century historians, such as John Smyth, established the idea that the revolt had marked the end of unfree labour and serfdom in England.[[276]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-Hilton1987P2-291) 19th-century historians such as [William Stubbs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Stubbs) and [Thorold Rogers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thorold_Rogers) reinforced this conclusion, Stubbs describing it as "one of the most portentous events in the whole of our history".[[276]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-Hilton1987P2-291) In the 20th century, this interpretation was increasingly challenged by historians such as [May McKisack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_McKisack), Michael Postan and Richard Dobson, who revised the impact of the revolt on further political and economic events in England.[[287]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-302) Mid-20th century [Marxist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxist_historiography) historians were both interested in, and generally sympathetic to, the rebel cause, a trend culminating in Hilton's 1973 account of the uprising, set against the wider context of [peasant revolts across Europe during the period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Popular_revolts_in_late-medieval_Europe).[[288]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-303) The Peasants' Revolt has received more academic attention than any other medieval revolt, and this research has been interdisciplinary, involving historians, literary scholars and international collaboration.[[289]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-304)

The There were no further attempts by Parliament to impose a poll tax or to reform England's fiscal system.[[246]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-260) The Commons instead concluded at the end of 1381 that the military effort on the Continent should be "carefully but substantially reduced".[[247]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-261) Unable to raise fresh taxes, the government had to curtail its foreign policy and military expeditions and began to examine the options for peace.[[248]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-262) The institution of [serfdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serfdom) declined after 1381, but primarily for economic rather than political reasons.[[249]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-263) Rural wages continued to increase, and lords increasingly sold their serfs' freedom in exchange for cash, or converted traditional forms of tenure to new [leasehold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leasehold) arrangements.[[250]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-264) During the 15th century serfdom vanished in England.[[245]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasants%27_Revolt#cite_note-Dyer_2009_291-259)