Time: 0:00-4:49

Catastrophic Disruption

How the Printing Press Ignited Anti-Witch Hysteria in Early Modern Europe

Benjamin Jacobs

Witch Hunts: 1429-1750

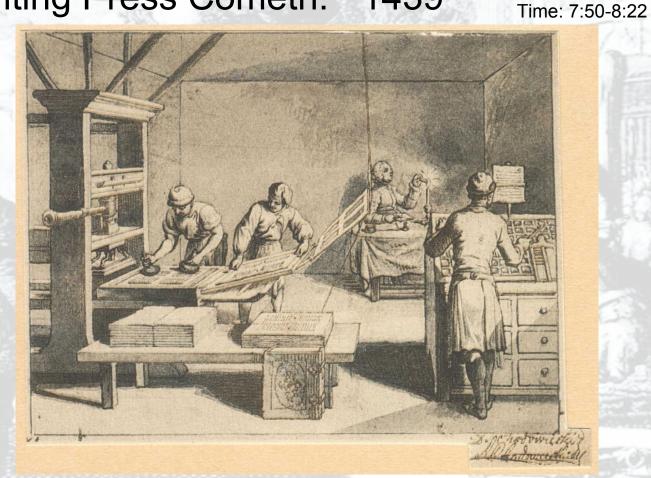
- Context: Council of Paderborn vs Basel
- ~60,000 killed
 - Many more maimed
 - Vast majority were poor women
 - Occurred in a context of political instability
- Three Periods:
 - o Early Hunts 1429-1580
 - Peak 1580-1630
 - o Decline 1630-1750
- Why?

<= Trier Witch Hunts: 1581-1593

Time: 4:49-7:50

<= "Salem" Witch Trials: 1692-3

The Printing Press Cometh: ~1439



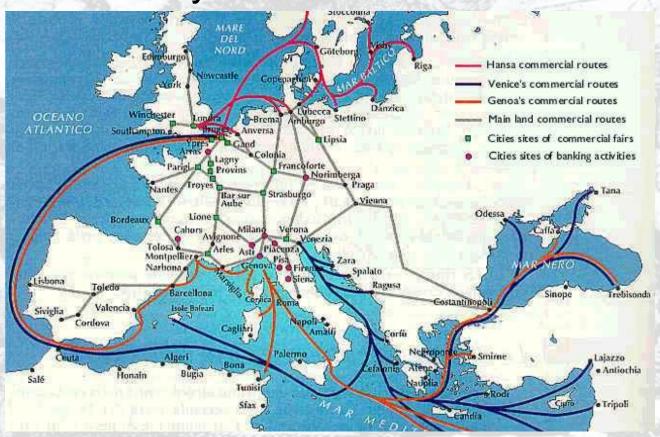
Existing "Publishing Market"

- Markets
 - The Church
 - Universities
 - Nobility/Burghers
 - o Everybody?
- Business Model
 - Gazettes, News-Sheets, Avvisi, etc
 - Distribution Networks

Time: 8:22-10:48

Time: 10:48-10:58

Medieval and Early Modern Trade Routes



Time: 10:58-11:22 New Presses: ~1439-1500



Swetz, F (1987), Capitalism and Arithmetic: The New Math of the 15th Century, La Salle, IL; Open Court

Time:11:22-12:48

The Printing Business: Early Products

- Books
 - Still Expensive
 - Existing Market
 - Capital Intensive
- Pamphlets, Broadsheets, and News-Sheets: "Safer" Investment
 - Less Capital
 - More Liquid
 - Existing Distribution Routes

Time: 12:48-16:15

The Printing Business: Market Forces

- No Policy or Market Framework
 - Low Barriers to Entry
 - Limited Censorship
 - No Copyright Protections
- Unintended Consequences
 - Need for Short Term Profits
 - Rise of "Clickbait": No Restrictions on Content
 - Ideas "Go Viral"
 - Democratization of Misinformation

The Printing Press and the Protestant Reformation

Pallional Christi unb



Chaifins.

Sho ich erver furfie habe gemaschen 8 ich ervir hen vii meyster bin/vill mehr folt yr einander wnter ench die fusse roaschen. Sieh mit habe ich ench ein ausgegung vii beyspiel geden/ wie ich ym than habe / alijo folt yr hinfur auch thuen. Wartich warlich fagt ich ench 8 mechr ift nicht mehr den seyn bare / sie ist auch nicht 8 geschiefte botte mehr da 8 yn gesande hat Wift yr dao! Gelig syt yr sio yr dao shun rerdent. Johan 13.

Antichilli.



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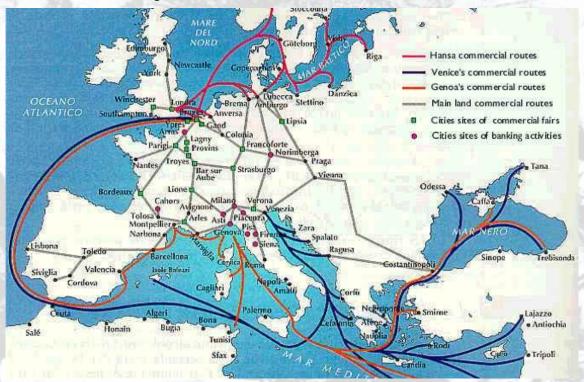


https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/taylor-reformation/2016/01/21/passional-christivnnd-antichristi/

Time: 16:15-17:51

Medieval and Early Modern Trade Routes

Time: 17:51-15:55





Printed Witch Hunting Materials

Time: 18:30-19:19

- Key Books
 - Formicarius: 1435
 - Errores Gazariorum: 1450
 - Flagellum Haereticorum Fascinariorum: 1450s
 - Ulrich Molitor's De Lamiis: 1489
 - Malleus Malificarum: 1487
 - o Daemonologie: 1597
- Fictional accounts
 - Faust
- Fictional accounts presented as fact: Pamphlets

Use of Pamphlets in Witch Hunts

Time: 19:19-20:57

- Accounts of previous witch trials
 - Grain of Truth
 - Highly Sensational
 - Embellished with Lies
 - Demonological Witches as an Opposing Force
 - Call to Action
- Pamphlets as Propaganda
 - o Conspiracy or Business?
- Created paranoid conditions needed for mass panic

Aruten Zeitung/

Berlauff/was fich him ond wider im Aranckenland/Bamberg ond Wur gourg mit den Inholden/ond denen fo fic außehr von Gelegen mugeneillig. in Tenffel ergeben/benefwürdiges jugetragen/auch wie fie juliehr ihren Lohn empfangen haben/Die man die Dorothen fingt.





S toire ein mal auffroachen/ber Nichter enfer GOtt/voor ber ?

Their gibondem machen die Sauden siche Rom, die fied mit Leif und San ?

le dem Leuffel ferpendichterigde und feder zur Stile isten und enriglied.

1 Dann fie Goergaam abstopmen fampedem Sanligiden Sent/ond niem mermede nichte fragenische feiner Marens Chechen Menfehm juver
ndem verschen fied mit Blutt und also dem in flerdem inte verspreuffelern ist nie.

17. Zinds wann fir wat officie bag niemand ju thet felphinum fie ban Rush lein bleine ond ther barnit ombyebn verwoedsfelt en bem Emffel fiber ihr ein anbem gab/consiner der ohn swelffel/winger ban anber ab

18. Was fie bermiether febelfen bes metelen mit be cheftiffe ther bes Brief in Safrer Sobe abshielt am 17 Jahren then John John Jahren pe foldber Gleffe promptet meeter man für febelben ber fie methanbaben.

16. Das Wolfer hare genommen vom abgeformen Richtwann fle fich Leur

Decline in Hunts: 1630-1750

- Centralization
 - Religious
 - Education
 - Political
- Economic Factors
 - Market Saturation
 - Maturation of "The Media"

Time: 21:56-25:31

Time: 25:31-26:10

Learning from History: How Does it Rhyme?

- New, poorly understood technological environment
- Huge growth in available information
- Things go "Viral"
- "Clickbait Headlines"
- Large scale disruption of institutions due to technological and non-technological factors
- "Democratization of Misinformation"
- "Good Ideas" win out...eventually*
 - *after 60k deaths

Good News: It is Not 1580

Use what we have learned over past 500 years to do better

Time: 26:10-28:32

- Work to present good ideas and not bad ones
- Use the market to fight our battles
- Public Policy has a role
- Avoid Self Fulfilling Prophecy

Time: 28:32-FIN

Thanks for Listening!

Any Questions?

Main sources:

- The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe Elizabeth Lewisohn Eisenstein
- The Serpent and the Lamb: Cranach, Luther, and the Making of the Reformation Steven Ozment
- Pamphlets, Propaganda and Witch- Hunting in Germany c.156o-c.1630
 Robert Walinski-Kiehl
- The Protestant Reformation, 1517-1559 Lewis Spitz