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Church Repression of Ritual Magic

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Throughout the Middle Ages, Europeans practiced magical acts that could be perceived as being outside the realm of Christianity. The individuals who practiced ritual magic were members of the lower clergy and academia. They used ritual magic as a way to live out their fantasies and unfulfilled life goals. The Catholic Church at first tolerated these magical acts, but later in the Middle Ages, the Church cracked down on magic. Although there were theological reasons for seeking to eradicate magic from society, the primary motive for the Church's crackdown was a means to unify a divided Church by using a vulnerable outside enemy—ritual magic.