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Poll Tax and Peasant Anger



In the late 14th century, England was grappling with the aftermath of the _____ Death, which had drastically reduced the population. This led to a severe labor shortage, causing wages to rise as _____ became more in demand. In response, the government attempted to suppress these wage increases through the _____ of laws. However, the final straw came with the introduction of a new form of taxation known as the poll tax. This _____ was unique because it was charged per head, meaning every adult, regardless of their income or social _____, had to pay an equal amount. The government insisted this tax was necessary to fund ongoing military campaigns in _____, but it placed an unfair burden on the poorest members of society. The tax was levied three times between 1377 and 1381, each _____ increasing in amount. The third poll tax, in particular, demanded a significant sum from every _____, which led to widespread anger and resentment.

In Essex and Kent, the frustration boiled over into outright rebellion. Leaders like Wat _____ and John Ball emerged, advocating for the rights of the common people and demanding an end to the _____ tax. Their calls for justice resonated with many, and soon a large group of rebels marched towards _____. Their demands were not just for the abolition of the poll tax but also for broader social reforms. The revolt was a direct _____ to the authority of King Richard II and his government. Although the Peasants' _____ was ultimately suppressed, it highlighted the deep divisions within English society and the unsustainable _____ of the poll tax. This event is seen as a significant turning point in English history, demonstrating the _____ of the common people to challenge their rulers and paving the way for future _____.

challenge

status

reforms

nature

France

individual

Black

poll

implementation

London

Revolt

power

Tyler

time

workers

tax