The Lollards and the Peasants' Revolt



| In the late 14th century, England was a nation under | Economic hardship |
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| and the aftermath of the | Death had led to widespread social unrest. It |
| was during this period that the | , followers of John Wycliffe, began to |
| emerge as a significant religious movement. Wycliffe | e, a at Oxford, |
| criticized the wealth and power of the Church, advoc | ating for a return to the scriptures as the sole |
| for Christian life. The Lo | ollards believed in the importance of |
| in the vernacular, so that | t every Christian could read the Bible for |
| themselves. This idea was revolutionary and | to the established Church, |
| which held Latin as the language of religious texts. | |
| The Lollards also supported the idea of a | that was free from worldly |
| possessions, arguing that the clergy should lead by | example and live in |
| This belief resonated with the peasants, who saw the church's wealth as a stark contrast to their | |
| own dire In 1381, when the Peasants' Revolt erupted over high | |
| and social inequality, the Lollards found common cause with the | |
| Although not all particip | pants in the revolt were Lollards, the |
| movement's of social an | d ecclesiastical reform undoubtedly influenced |
| the | |
| John Ball, a Lollard priest, became one of the most prominent leaders of the revolt. He famously | |
| questioned the social, as | king "When Adam delved and Eve span, who was |
| then the?" This rhetoric | fueled the peasants' demands for a fairer |
| system. Ultimately, the | was suppressed, but the Lollard influence |
| persisted. They laid the groundwork for future | in England, challenging |
| the authority of the Church and advocating for a more personal, direct relationship with the | |
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| order uprising theologian Lollards rebels revolt taxes threatening Black | |
| reformations divine gentleman scripture tension church conditions | |
| [poverty] [ideals] [authority] | |