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The Peasants' Revolt and Taxes



During the 14th century, England was _____ by a monarchy that relied heavily on taxes to fund wars and maintain its court. In 1381, a series of heavy taxes were imposed on the _____, which had already been decimated by the Black Death. Among the most controversial was the poll tax, which required every _____ to pay a fixed sum regardless of their income or wealth. This was especially burdensome for the _____, who made up the majority of the population and were already struggling with poor _____ and high rents. The discontent brewed for years, but the situation escalated when tax collectors began to enforce the third _____ within a decade. In Essex, resistance against these collectors turned violent, and what began as isolated incidents quickly spread into a full-blown _____. The rebels, led by figures like Wat Tyler and John Ball, sought not just the removal of the poll tax but also wider social _____. Their march to London was a demonstration of their frustration and anger. They demanded to meet King _____ to present their grievances directly. The king's initial response was to negotiate, but these talks soon broke down. In a dramatic _____ at Smithfield, Wat Tyler was killed, and the revolt was ultimately crushed by the royal forces.

Despite its failure to achieve immediate _____, the Peasants' Revolt had a lasting impact on England. It highlighted the unsustainability of oppressive taxation and contributed to the eventual _____ of the poll tax. Moreover, it marked the beginning of a slow but steady shift towards more equitable _____ of taxation and governance. The revolt remains a powerful symbol of resistance against unjust authority and the _____ of fair taxation in society.

importance

Richard II

objectives

confrontation

reforms

governed

harvests

adult

revolt

population

peasants

forms

abolishment

poll tax