

NHD Project

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Topic: Middle Ages Women

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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CONTEXT

The Middle Ages was a time period between 450 to 1400. The Middle Ages was also known as the Dark Ages. During the Middle Ages, there was a disease named the Bubonic Plague, also known as Black Death. There was lack of government and civilization slipped back into savagery. It should be known as a Dark Age because Europe went through a time of lawlessness, and Europe suffered a great decline.

SUMMARY

Throughout history, women were expected to adhere to specific roles, mostly to do with the home. However, the relationship of power and rights between men and women is always changing. Some women in the Middle Ages, specifically later between the 11th and 15th centuries, ran businesses and became skillfull craftswomen. Meanwhile other women had to give up their freedom and become possessions of their husbands.

THEME

The triumph for women in the Middle Ages was how powerful women were able to overcome their roles and lead riots and revolts. Some women were able to do this, because they were powerful unmarried, independent women who were not forced into being possessions like slaves or prisoners to their spouses. Lastly, because of this triumph, some women were able to keep their independence.

THESIS STATEMENT

Independent women of the Middle Ages, like widows and women without husbands, were able to make their own wills and run businesses to become skillful craftswomen, while married women were forced into an arrangement that resulted in brutal treatment by spouses and a loss of freedom.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

Middle Ages women were considered a triumph because widows and unmarried women were able to own their own land, run businesses, become skillful craftswomen, and write their own wills. According to "Medieval women" by author Helicon, "In towns, sole women ran businesses and became skilled craftswomen. In country, powerful women could become leaders of the community, and on occasion they led revolts and riots. Women worked as blacksmiths, weavers, innkeepers, shoemakers, and even as merchants. They shared most of the farming tasks with the men." This evidence supports the claim because it proves the freedom sole women had. In conclusion, single Middle Ages women are considered a triumph because they weren't being imprisoned by their husbands.

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

Despite that triumph, Middle Ages women were considered a tragedy because of the brutal treatment from their spouses.

According to credo source article "women, Medieval" by Helicon, "A husband was allowed to beat his wife if he believed she was at fault—for instance, if he blamed her for bearing a mentally disabled child." This evidence supports the claim because it shows the freedom women did not have. In conclusion, Middle Ages women were a tragedy because of their being held captive like slaves or prisoners as stated by a Middle Ages woman.

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

Furthermore, Middle Ages women were considered a tragedy because they were forced to give up their freedoms and rights when married. According to "Medieval women" by Helicon, "when a women married, she forfeited her land and rights to her husband." This evidence supports my claim because it proves how women had to give up their rights and freedom once married. In conclusion, Middle Ages women were considered a tragedy because of their having to give up their independence and become their husbands possessions in law.

CONCLUSION

Middle Ages women were triumphant in progress made running businesses, but the forced institution of marriage women had to give up their freedom and become wives, they were possessions like slaves or prisoners to their husbands. The significance of this event is the progress women made over the years. This is still important even 1000 years later because without it, women wouldn't have the freedom they have today. "In the country, powerful women could become leaders of the community, and on occasion they led revolts and riots. "Even today women rise up to fight for their rights like the worldwide women's March in 2017.