

Michael MacDonald &
Terence R. Murphy
SLEEPLESS SOULS
Suicide in Early Modern England



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Sleepless Souls Suicide In Early Modern England

J Elliott



Sleepless Souls Suicide In Early Modern England:

Sleepless Souls Michael MacDonald, Terence R. Murphy, 1990 *Sleepless Souls* is a social and cultural history of suicide in early modern England. Self murder was regarded as a heinous crime in Tudor and Stuart England and was subject to savage punishments. Those who committed suicide had their property forfeited to the crown and their bodies were denied Christian burial and desecrated. In Georgian England suicide was in practice de criminalized, tolerated and even sentimentalized. Michael MacDonald and Terence R. Murphy, using a wide variety of contemporary sources especially local records, trace the causes of this dramatic change in attitude. They analyse suicide within its contemporary context relating shifts in opinion and practice to the complex framework of life in early modern England. Political events, religious changes, philosophical fashions, conflicts between centre and localities and differing class interests all played their part. The authors focus on the trauma of death by suicide, uncovering the forces that were reshaping the mental outlook of different English classes and social groups. Their detailed and scholarly exploration of the crime of self murder thus provides a history of social and cultural change in English society over three centuries.

Sleepless Souls Michael MacDonald, Terence R. Murphy, 1993 *Sleepless Souls* Michael MacDonald, Terence R. Murphy, 2023 Suicide was regarded as a heinous crime in Tudor and Stuart England; it was in practice de criminalized, tolerated and even sentimentalized in Georgian England. The authors trace the causes of this dramatic change in attitude. *The History of Suicide in England, 1650-1850, Part I Vol 1* Mark Robson, Paul S. Seaver, Kelly McGuire, Jeffrey Merrick, Daryl Lee, 2024-08-01 This two part eight volume reset edition draws together a range of sources from the early modern era through to the industrial age to show the changes and continuities in responses to the social, political, legal and spiritual problems that self murder posed.

The State and Social Change in Early Modern England, 1550-1640 S. Hindle, 2000-03-02 This is a study of the social and cultural implications of the growth of governance in England in the century after 1550. It is principally concerned with the role played by the middling sort in social and political regulation, especially through the use of the law. It discusses the evolution of public policy in the context of contemporary understandings of economic change and analyses litigation, arbitration, social welfare, criminal justice, moral regulation and parochial analyses of administration as manifestations of the increasing role of the state in early modern England.

Suicide by Proxy in Early Modern Germany Kathy Stuart, 2023-07-24 Suicide by proxy became a major societal problem after 1650. Suicidal people committed capital crimes with the explicit goal of earning their executions as a short cut to their salvation. Desiring to die repentantly at the hands of divinely instituted government perpetrators hoped to escape eternal damnation that befell direct suicides. Kathy Stuart shows how this crime emerged as an unintended consequence of aggressive social disciplining campaigns by confessional states. Paradoxically, suicide by proxy exposed the limits of early modern state power as governments struggled unsuccessfully to suppress the tactic. Some perpetrators committed arson or blasphemy or confessed to long past crimes, usually infanticide or bestiality. Most frequently, however, they

murdered young children believing that their innocent victims would also enter paradise The crime had cross confessional appeal as illustrated in case studies of Lutheran Hamburg and Catholic Vienna

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