

### **Peasant Lives in Early Modern Europe**

1) Check your understanding of these key terms in the powerpoint commentary:

- The *Annales* school, history in the '*longue durée*', and the history of 'mentalities'
- Partible and impartible inheritance
- Manorialism
- Crop rotation, and the three-field system
- Serfs
- Communalism
- The Peasants' War (Germany, 1525)

2) Questions for thinking and writing:

- Did early modern European peasants share a broadly similar 'mentality'? If so, how would you describe it?
- What was the impact of inflation on the lives of peasants?
- What is the value for historians of early modern artistic representations of peasants?
- Were early modern peasants powerless?

3) Further reading and research:

- Explore artistic representations of early modern peasants on the website of the [National Gallery](#) in London. How do these depictions vary between periods and countries?
- Read this short historical document: '[A Rural Commune Organizes its own Affairs' – Ingenried \(Bavaria\) \(1549\)](#)'. What insight does it offer into German village life in the sixteenth century?
- Read Stephen Hindle's short article '[Enclosure and Resistance in Oxfordshire: A Tradition of Disorder?](#)' How does this example help you answer the final question above about peasants and power?
- Advanced: Read Caroline Castiglione's article '[Adversarial Literacy: How Peasant Politics Influenced Noble Governing of the Roman Countryside During the Early Modern Period](#)' (American Historical Review 109 [2004] – free JSTOR account required for access). What does Castiglione mean by 'adversarial literacy', and how does this offer a useful perspective on the question of peasants' power?