Not all individuals during the Middle Ages practiced Christianity however. In this age of turmoil, much of Europe's citizenry practiced various pagan religions, or peculiar blends of Christianity and local superstition.

When the millennium came about in the year 1000, many believed that the end of the world was near, and committed suicide in mass rituals.

Mass religious hysteria also arose when, beginning in 1347, over 20 million people (1/3rd of Europe's total population) died due to the black or bubonic plague.

The massive 100 Years War between England and France, in which Joan of Arc was born, was to be a fitting end to this low period in the history of humanity, one in which civilization struggled simply to survive.