The New Old World: Expropriation of the Commons
Expropriation:

--source of the original accumulation of capital

--force that transformed land and labor into commodities
Middle Ages (1200-late 1400s)

--lords abolished armies
--dissolved feudal retinues
--closed monasteries
--rooted out itinerant friars and beggars
Enclosure of arable lands:
--evicting smallholders
--throwing thousands of men and women off the land
Results:
--land, credit, or occupation
--new proletarians
--labor and criminal code
--vagabondage and physical violence

Under Henry VIII (1509-1547):

Under Edward VI (1547-1553):

Under Elizabeth I (1558-1603):

Chief Justice of the King’s Bench from 1592-1607:

“all wandring [sic] persons and common Labourers being persons able in bodye [sic] using løytering and refusing to worke for such reasonable wages as is taxed or comonly given in such Parts where such persons do or shall happen to dwell or abide, not having lyving otherwyse to maynteye themselves,” shall fall into the category of “sturdy rogue and beggar.”
Popham’s classification of the rebels:

--chapmen, tinkers, peddlers, the men and of “little transactions”

--the discharged or wounded and the “pretended” discharged and wounded; soldiers, sailors

--procurers and pardoners

--the entertainers of the day—the jugglers, fencers, minstrels, keepers of dancing bears, athletes

--“crafty Scyence” such as palmistry or physiognomy, fortune-tellers and “persons calling themselves Schollers”

--“prison without walls”

From 1497 through the early 1600s: series of rebellions

Levellers: those who took direct action to remove enclosures

--“swarmes of idle persons” who had once been sustained by the commons.
Solicitor General Francis Bacon

--philosopher who advocated inductive reasoning and scientific experimentation
--the “seed of peril and tumult in a state”
--Bacon tried Raleigh in 1618 and the was the first to inform him of his death sentence

--An Advertisement Touching an Holy War, 1622

--the only “chance of healing the growing breach was to engage the country in some popular quarrel abroad”

--death sentence against those:
  --unavowed by God
  --those who had defaced natural reason
  --were neither nations in right nor nations in name, “but multitudes only, and swarms of people”

--West Indians, Canaanites; pirates; land rovers; assassins
Monsters:
--folklore:
--learned physicians:
Diego Velasquez to Cortés: look for men with great flat ears and dogs’ faces
--undertook labors of expropriation
--built the ports and the ships
--provided the seafarers for Atlantic commerce
--maintained the households
Expropriation and the obliterating of the common *habitus*:
--clear-cut woods, drained the marshes, reclaimed the fens (wetlands)

--draining of the fens:
--commoning economy of fishing, fowling, reed curing, and peat digging turned into a capitalist economy of sheep raising

Resistance:
--"battle of the fens," 1605
--between capital owners
--terms of battle: murder, sabotage, village burning, protracted litigation and pamphleteering