**THE POOR DBQ**

**Good examples of contextualization (usually located in thesis/ 1st paragraph)**

“The time period between 1450 and 1648 can easily be labeled as a period of change. States and dynasties rose and fell, new lands and technologies were discovered, new religious orders were founded, and wars were fought throughout this time. With these changes came about social and economic changes. Classes shifted, the general economy rose and fell again, and many people were left poor and impoverished. Dotting the streets of major cities throughout France, England, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire were beggars, requesting alms and assistance.”

“During the time period 1450-1648, Europe consisted of many different viewpoints of the poor and homeless…At the time of most of these sources were taking place, there were many wars going on such as the Revolt in the Netherlands, the French Wars of Religion, the 30 Years’ War. Theses wars, in turn, imposed greater taxes that were used to pay for these wars and the military. Since many governments didn’t make the noble pay taxes, the government would force almost all of the heavy taxes onto the peasant leaving them with no food money or homes.”

“The treatment of peasants (the poor) have always been changing throughout time…In 1450, every country practiced Catholicism and had many beliefs on achieving salvation. (Doc 1) Throughout 1450-1648, governments have been dominated by religious monarchical rulers. (Doc 3 and 6) The upper class have always been near the top of the social order and had many privileges such as not paying taxes and able to hold town offices. (doc. 2)”

“In the time of the Renaissance (1450) to the Peace of Westphalia (1648) the society had changed because after the Reformation period, many European regions were Catholic or Protestant which could affect their attitudes and responses towards the poor because of their individual beliefs on salvation. “

“At the time of 1450-1648, attitudes and responses to the poor varied in a spectrum…these different attitudes and responses can be attributed to the varying religions (Catholicism and Protestantism), viewpoints, and historic events that occurred in Western Europe throughout this period, such as the Reformation. The large numbers of poor seeking alms can be partially attributed to the lack of social welfare in Europe.”

“From the years 1450-1648, Europe experienced several dramatic phenomena that greatly contributed to the treatment of the poor. During the time period, all of the major Renaissance changes that occurred became a stimulus for the Protestant Reformation and the religious wars that coincided with the new religious outlooks. The government was very hierarchical and there was a significant social gap between the poor and the wealthy that resulted in inequality and mistreatment. “

“In the beginning there in not such a big divide between the rich and poor in the Renaissance. Then after bullion, inflation, taxes and wars, the poor suffer the most and fall lower and are thought less of in the Enlightenment.”

“In between the time of 1450-1648, Protestantism was just beginning and the rise of this new religion started many religious wars, including the Thirty Years’ War. So because of all of the wars, the governments of different countries started taxing the middle to lower classes more to pay for the wars. Thus, raising the population of the poor.”