Map 3  Certain peasant revolts and urban riots

Thus the ministries of Richelieu and Mazarin were marked by a wave of popular rebellions that had serious implications for the conduct of the long war against Spain. These rebellions defy any simple explanation. In 1948 the Russian Marxist historian Boris Porchnev asserted that they were not directed against the monarchy itself, but against the dominant social classes. The rebellions, in his view, demonstrated an early form of class conflict, and were initiated by the lower classes in the towns and countryside. They were destined to failure because class consciousness had not developed sufficiently. The alliance of the crown with the dominant social groups – clergy, nobility and office-holders – also proved too powerful.

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