What caused the Salem witch crisis of 1692?

The Salem witch crisis was caused by religious beliefs. People in Salem believed all of their problems were caused by the Devil. When young girls became ill, doctors in Salem did not understand what was causing the symptoms. As a result, they jumped to the conclusion that they were being affected by witches who had made agreements with the Devil. In *A Discourse on Witchcraft,* Cotton Mather stated that witchcraft was mentioned in the Bible, therefore it must exist. Also, people in Salem Village were paying taxes to people in the town of Salem and did not like it, so they probably wanted to accuse people in town of witchcraft to get back at them.

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