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| **Warfare and conflict**Frequent wars (like the Wars of the Roses) left people displaced, injured, or desperate – all of which could lead to crime. | **Poverty**Many people in the medieval period were extremely poor and struggled to survive. Some stole just to feed their families. |
| **Lack of Jobs**Most people worked on the land, but there weren’t always enough jobs. Unemployed people often wandered from village to village looking for work – sometimes turning to crime. | **Harsh Winters**Cold weather made life harder. Roads froze, animals died, and people couldn’t farm – making survival even more difficult. |
| **Food Shortages**Bad harvests and famine meant there often wasn’t enough food. Hunger could drive people to steal from markets or farms. | **High Taxes**Kings and lords often charged high taxes to fund wars or build castles. People who couldn’t pay were punished or left desperate. |
| **Unfair Laws**Some laws only protected the rich. For example, poaching animals from a noble’s land was a serious crime – even if it was just to feed your family. | **Revenge and Feuds**Family feuds and local arguments sometimes led to violence or murder, especially when there was no police force to stop it. |
| **No Police Force**There were no proper police in medieval times. People often had to catch criminals themselves or rely on local village watchmen. | **Strict Social Laws**People were expected to "know their place." Those who spoke out against the church or the king could be punished harshly. |

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| **Most** Likely to Cause Crime |
| **Least** Likely to Cause Crime |