

Aim: Why was the Black Plague a turning point in European History?

Do Now: Define plague.

What is a plague? Would AIDS be considered a plague in the world today?

Notes

I. Two Kinds of Plague

1. Bubonic Plague:

- a. Swollen Lymph nodes
- b. High Fever
- c. Blotches on the Skin
- d. Caused death

2. Pneumonic Plague

- a. More Serious and Fatal
- b. attacked the lungs
- c. Spread through the air, coughing and sneezing

II. Birth of the Plague

- a. The Plague began in China in 1331
- b. Carried by rats and transported by flea bites
- c. The plague moved along the caravan routes toward the West.
- d. By 1345 the plague was in Russia.

III. The Plague Spread West

1. By 1347 it was in Constantinople.
2. It hit Alexandria and Cairo in 1348,
3. The disease traveled by ship as readily as by land
4. In 1347, the plague had hit Sicily.

IV. The Plague

- Many were infected.
- They were treated like animals.
- Corpses were removed quickly
- Most people were afraid to touch or even be near plague victims
- To avoid getting sick they wore protective clothing

V. Consequences of the Plague

1. Political

- a. Feudal governments were weakened
- b. Lords were powerless
- c. No cure for the Plague

2. Economic

- a. Labor shortages, large portion of skilled workers died
- b. Increased prices for goods, labor, and food
- c. Higher taxes
- d. Hurt food production
- e. No funds to find a cure

3. Social

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- a. The Church promised cures and explanations but did not have any, many clergy fled Europe
- b. The people believed that it was religious punishment
- c. They also blamed witchcraft
- d. People also blamed Jews
 - a. Anti-Semitism: hatred of Jews
 - b. Pogroms: Violent attacks on Jews
- e. Christians believed that Jews poisoned the wells to punish the Christians.
- f. Many Christians targeted Jews and destroyed many Jewish communities

VI. The Flagellants

- a. The flagellants: bands of people who wandered through towns and countryside doing penance in public.
- b. They inflicted punishments upon themselves, to atone for the evil of the world.
- c. The flagellants killed Jews they encountered
- d. In October 1349 the pope condemned them.

VII. Art and the Plague

- a) Artists began to paint pictures of sad and dead people

Boccaccio

He was an Italian author and poet.

He wrote during the time of the Black Plague in Europe

His greatest work was the *Decameron*, a series of short Italian tales.

Overall 25 million people died from the plague in Europe, cutting the population by 1/3.