

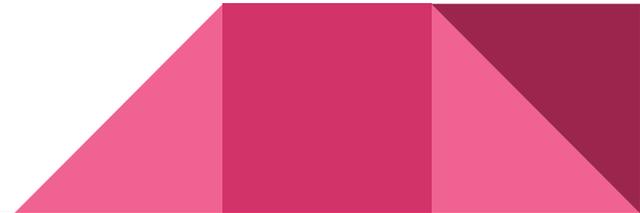
# Unit 1: Renaissance and Ming Dynasty



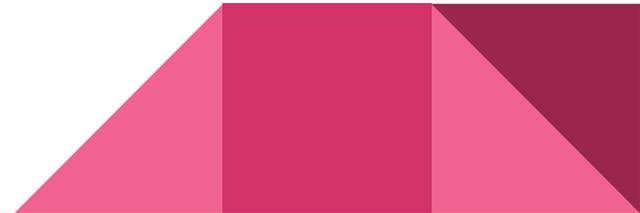
Day 1

Starter

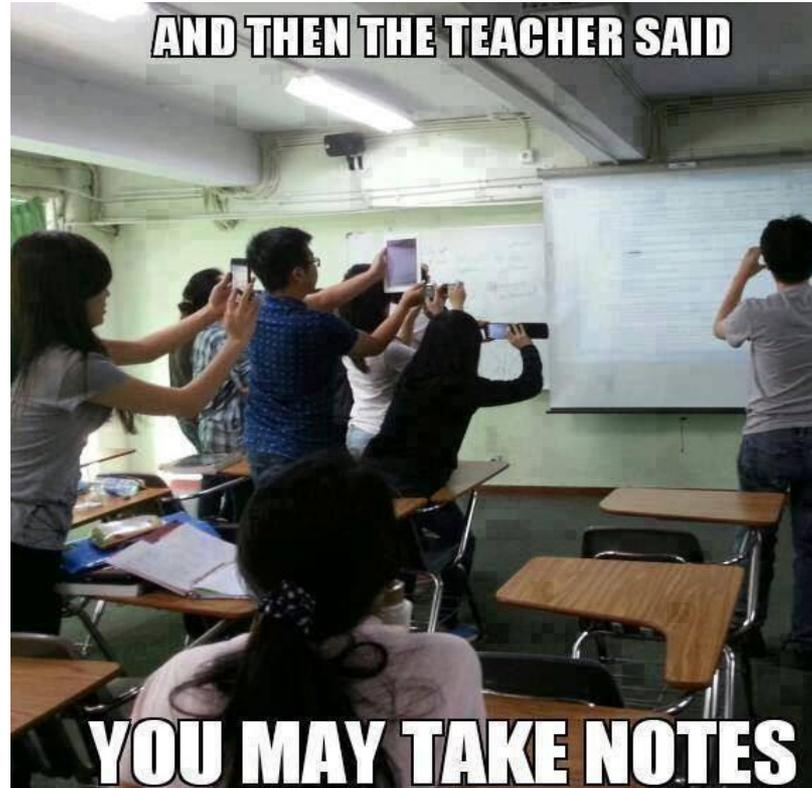
**What do you know about the black plague?**



# Note Taking



# This is not note taking...1



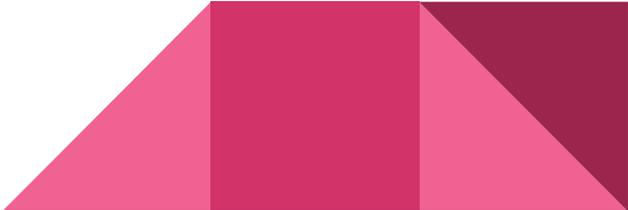




# Origins

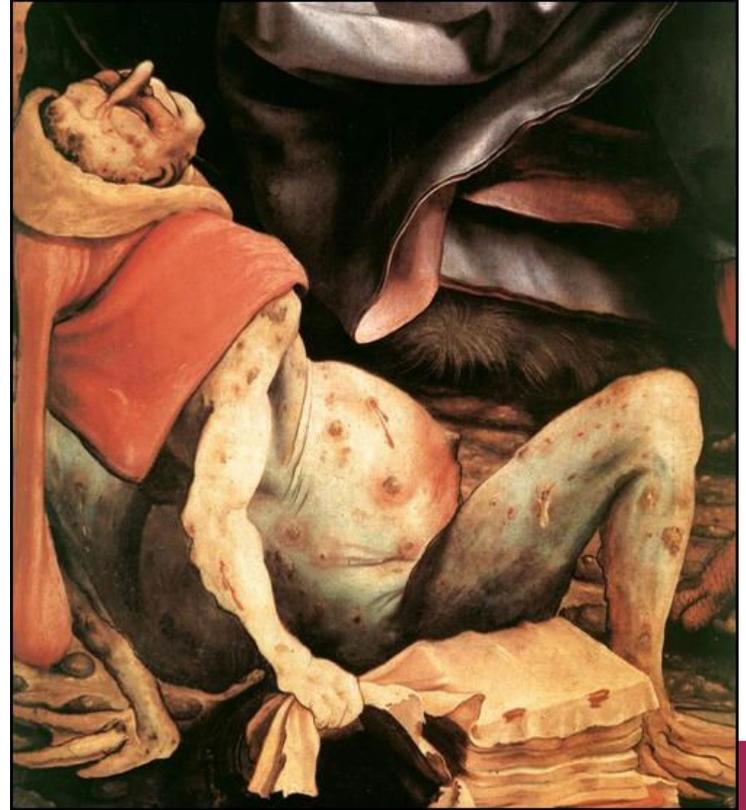
- In 1346 plague struck the Mongol armies as they were laying siege to a Black Sea port
  - According to legend, Mongol soldiers catapulted the bodies of those who died of the plague over the city walls thus spreading the disease to their enemies.
  - Infected rats and fleas made their way onto ships leaving the port for Europe.
  - As sailors voyaged to their destinations in the Mediterranean Sea, they were bitten by flea during the journey thus spreading the disease to humans.
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# The Plague Arrives

- Arrived in England during the summer of 1348
  - The following autumn it spread quickly through the Southwest.
  - Spread quickly during the winter of 1348-1349 to the north of England
  - By 1350, nearly the whole of Britain was infected with the plague
  - End of 1351 nearly 25 million people died of the plague
  - The plague affected all social classes, from peasants to royalty.
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# Symptoms

- Symptoms of bubonic plague include: fever, gangrene, chills, cramps, seizures, and painful swelling of the lymph glands called buboes.
- Most people who contracted the plague died within days.



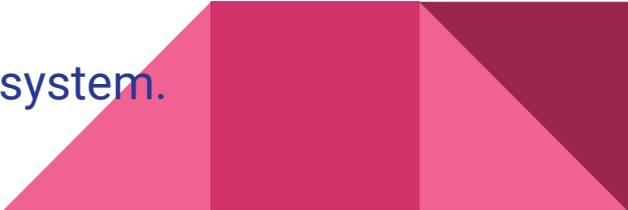
# DISEASE

CCWH  
203

DISEASE IN HUMAN HISTORY



# Effect of the Black death

- Europe's economy took a major hit because a substantial portion of its working class died of plague. Those who survived had marketable skills and demanded higher pay.
  - Land was bought by those with money and created a new and more efficient system of labor that required fewer workers.
  - Europe's feudalistic society would be altered as a result of the millions who died during the 4-year epidemic, allowing peasants to move into the cities and fill manufacturing positions left unoccupied from the the death of workers.
  - These things combined essentially ended the feudal system.
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# Flagellation

- Across the world, people struggled to make sense of the pandemic. To give just one example, flagellation, a religious practice of whipping oneself for penance, grew in popularity during the Black Death.

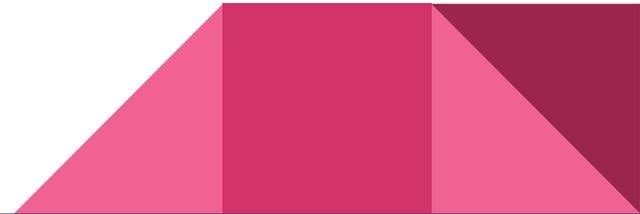


Central Historical Question:

How did people in the 14th century understand the black death?



# Sourcing



# Close Reading



# Corroboration



**Document A: University of Paris Medical Report (Modified)**

*The passage below is an excerpt from "The Report of the Paris Medical Faculty," issued in October 1348. In the report, medical faculty at the University of Paris describe what they believed were the origins of the bubonic plague and provide advice on how to avoid contracting the plague.*

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We, the Members of the College of Physicians of Paris, . . . intend to make known the causes of this plague.

We declare as follows: It is known that in India, and the area of the Great Sea, the constellations which combated the rays of the sun . . . **exerted** their power especially against the sea, . . . and the waters of the ocean arose in the form of vapor. The waters were in some parts so corrupted that the fish died. This vapor spread itself through the air in many places on earth. . . . On all the islands and adjoining countries to which the corrupted sea-wind extends, . . . if the inhabitants of those parts do not take the following advice we announce to them inevitable death—except if the grace of Christ preserve their lives.

Every one of you should protect himself from the air; **wormwood** and chamomile should be burnt in great quantity in the market places and in the houses. . . . Cold, moist, watery food is in general harmful. Going out at night, and even until three o'clock in the morning, is dangerous on account of the dew. . . . Fasting is injurious and so is anxiety of mind, anger, and **immoderate** drinking and bathing. . . . Everyone should remember this, but especially those who reside on the coast, or upon an island into which the poisonous wind has penetrated.

*Source: The Report of the Paris Medical Faculty, October 1348.*

**Vocabulary**

**exert:** apply force

**wormwood:** a fragrant plant

**immoderate:** excessive

## Document B: Ibn al-Wardi (Modified)

*The passage below is an excerpt from Ibn al-Wardi's "An Essay on the Report of the Pestilence." Ibn al-Wardi was an Arab writer, philosopher, and historian who was alive in the Middle East during the plague. Here, he describes the effects of the plague on the city of Aleppo in Syria. In 1349, al-Wardi died from the plague.*

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The plague began in the land of darkness. China was not preserved from it. The plague infected the Indians in India, the Sind, the Persians, and the Crimea. The plague destroyed mankind in Cairo. It stilled all movement in Alexandria.

Then, the plague turned to Upper Egypt. The plague attacked Gaza, trapped Sidon, and Beirut. Next, it directed its shooting arrows to Damascus. There the plague sat like a lion on a throne and swayed with power, killing daily one thousand or more and destroying the population.

Oh God, it is acting by Your command. Lift this from us. It happens where You wish; keep the plague from us.

The plague caused the people of Aleppo the same disturbance. Oh, if you could see the nobles of Aleppo studying their books of medicine. They follow its remedies by eating dried and sour foods. The buboes which disturb men's lives are smeared with Armenian clay. Each man treated their health to make life more comfortable. They perfumed their homes with **camphor**, flowers, and **sandal**. They wore ruby rings and put onions, vinegar, and sardines together with the daily meal.

We ask God's forgiveness for our bad souls; the plague is surely part of His punishment. Some said: the air's corruption kills. I said: the love of corruption kills.

**Source:** *Ibn al-Wardi, "An Essay on the Report of the Pestilence," 1348.*

### Vocabulary

**camphor:** a fragrant wax  
**sandal:** a fragrant wood

# SUMMARIZE NOTES

