

## Week #2 Research Paper

Infectious diseases have been present throughout recorded history; they first affected humans during the Hunter-Gatherer Era and escalated in severity as society evolved into the Agrarian Era. Due to frequent contact with domesticated animals that harbored communicable diseases and densely populated dwelling areas, communicable diseases were disseminated more rapidly in cultures throughout the Agrarian Era. There are distinct differences and resemblances between how the pandemics of the agrarian world and those of the present world society have affected human health, the spread of disease, and remedies.

Despite the centuries that have passed between today's Covid-19 worldwide breakout and the Bubonic Plague of the thirteenth century, there are similar patterns in the spreading of these diseases and responses that included societal and cultural changes. During the Bubonic Plague, the Agrarian World was not familiar with bacteria as compared to medical knowledge present during Covid-19, however the people recognised that the Bubonic plague tended to flow through the air and then attempted to treat it with aromatics and vinegar. Similar isolation practices that were implemented during the Bubonic Plague were also used for the Covid-19 pandemic, such as travel restriction and city/state level isolation but were not enforced at the same level as today's near global lockdown response to Covid-19.

Compared to Covid-19, which has a low attack rate and a clinical severity that primarily affects the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions, the Bubonic Plague was highly contagious and infected people of all ages. Overcrowding, poor housing, proximity to fleas and animal reservoirs were the risk factors for the Bubonic Plague, whereas notable risk factors for Covid-19 mainly focused on large cities with international travel hubs that contributed to the unprecedented speed of global disease spread. Today's Covid-19 pandemic had scientific and medical advancements that have made it possible for humans to diagnose and treat disease in ways that were inconceivable in the Agrarian Era.

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