

## Research & writing assignment

In the early Agrarian era, disease spread primarily through close contact between individuals and communities and through the movement of goods and people. This is similar to how disease spreads in today's world through human-to-human transmission and the movement of people and goods.

I chose influenza. The influenza epidemic of 1919, also known as the Spanish Flu, was a global pandemic that affected an estimated one-third of the world's population. It is believed to have originated in military training camps in the United States and quickly spread to Europe and other parts of the world. The virus was highly contagious and had a high mortality rate, particularly among young, healthy adults. It is estimated that 20 and 50 million people died from the pandemic. The outbreak occurred at the end of World War I and was exacerbated by the movement of troops and civilians during the war and the resulting overcrowding in cities and towns. The lack of understanding of the virus and the absence of effective treatments also contributed to the high death toll. The influenza epidemic of 1919 had a significant impact on global health and served as a reminder of the importance of disease surveillance and response. It also affected society and the economy as well, with businesses, schools, and other public gathering places shut down and many people becoming ill or dying. It also profoundly affected the world's overall economy and social stability. This allows diseases to spread more rapidly and widely, as seen with the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

There are some similarities between the COVID-19 pandemic and the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1919: Both were caused by highly contagious viruses and can spread rapidly through human-to-human transmission. Both have significantly impacted global health, with high cases and deaths reported, leading to widespread panic and fear among the population. Disruptions in daily life, with businesses and public gathering places shutting down and travel restrictions put in place. It had a significant economic impact, with companies shutting down and unemployment rates rising.

However, there are also some critical differences between the two pandemics: The Spanish Flu primarily affected young, healthy adults. At the same time, COVID-19 has had a more severe impact on older adults and those with underlying health conditions. The Spanish flu outbreak occurred at the end of World War I, while COVID-19 started in a Wuhan wet market in China. The Spanish flu outbreak was caused by the H1N1 virus, a type of influenza virus, while the SARS-CoV-2 virus, a kind of coronavirus, causes COVID-19. The speed of the spread of the virus has been much faster in the case of COVID-19 than in the Spanish Flu, thanks to the interconnectedness of the world and the ease of travel. Another difference is that in the early Agrarian era, most people lived in small, isolated communities, and so when an outbreak occurred, it affected a relatively small number of people. In contrast, today's population is much more concentrated in urban areas, and outbreaks can quickly affect many people.

Overall, while there are similarities in how disease spreads in the early Agrarian era and today, advances in technology and transportation have led to more tremendous potential for widespread and rapid disease transmission in today's world.

**Citation:**

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