

Jonas Trofort

Professor O'Hara

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In the last decade we have had 2 epidemics that have turned into pandemics. They are the Ebola Virus in 2013 and the Corona Virus in 2019 till now. I will be focusing on the Corona Virus since that pandemic is recent and still being battled with today. Corona Virus emerged in Wuhan, China and has since spread like wildfire all over the world. Since December 31st China reported to the WHO about its spread, shortly after in the month of January, many other countries confirmed cases of CoronaVirus.

The spread of disease in today's industrial/global world differs from the networks which spread in the early Agrarian world as shown in chapter 2. One way the spread of disease happened in the Agrarian era was by different regions coming into contact with one another through trade, migration, or the movement of armies. This differs from the CoronaVirus pandemic because "lockdown policies led to supply chain disruption by increasing trade costs and delaying or entirely prohibiting border clearance" (Brookings, 2021). There was not a very little chance one could spread the virus through trade since everything was being disinfected prior to shipment and/or being delayed or halted.

Another difference between the way the spread of disease happened in the Agrarian era and from the CoronaVirus pandemic of 2019 is that "the patterns of history have been affected by climate diseases, especially diseases that made the tropics a difficult place for outsiders to penetrate until the late 19th century" (p. 51). With CoronaVirus, in the beginning stages, it was thought that it ran rampant within the cold, winter months more than the hot, summer months.

Now we are seeing that COVID-19 has spiked over the summer of 2022 increasing the number of deaths by this disease. “Although COVID-19 fatalities remain much lower than during the peak of last winter’s Omicron surge, deaths among people 65 and older spiked over the summer, more than doubling between April and July 2022, finds a new KFF analysis. The number of deaths topped more than 11,000 people 65 and older in both July and August” (KFF, 2022). This shows us that climate does not play a huge role in the transmission of disease since evidence supports its spike in all seasons.

A similarity of the spread of disease in the early Agrarian era and now is that “Epidemics often broke out when usually large crowds gathered for periods of time” (p. 50). This is true because we were able to see how large crowds led to more CoronaVirus cases and deaths. This led to a worldwide lockdown, social distancing, and no gatherings with more than 10 people.

Works Cited

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