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## Research and Writing: Chapter 2

In this week's reading, the author describes how and why deadly sicknesses began to emerge within early Agrarian settlements. Reasons for their spread are easily attributed to the new systems of emerging communities: improper waste disposal, interaction with standing water from irrigation, change in diet due to new agriculture systems, frequent contact with domesticated animals, and densely packed living conditions. Viruses found in animals were – and still are – capable of mutating and becoming infectious to the human species. The viruses can become particularly transmissible within large groups of people (Morillo).

Presently, we understand much more concerning the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. Modern medicine and scientific advancements have allowed us to develop preventative hygiene methods and medicines to quickly and efficiently treat illness. However, the crowd disease phenomenon is still relevant. Diseases transferred by animal contact was a significant issue not only for the people of the Agrarian Era, but for people now!

The year of 2020 marks the worldwide announcement of a global pandemic. Many of us asked ourselves, "How did this all start?" Similarly to many diseases of Agrarian times, the pandemic was linked back to a virus belonging to animals. Initially, Covid-19 was traced back to China, and confirmed to be carried by the bats of that region. Because of certain discrepancies involving direct human-bat contact, it was later determined by the CDC that it was direct human

contact with pangolins that became the initial source of the Covid virus. The first confirmed cases of Covid all shared the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market as a common denominator (Center for Disease Control). This led scientists to believe that the market is where SARS-CoV-2 was able to mutate and attach itself to the human species. In China, both bats and pangolins are considered delicacies, which would explain how they might have been found at the Huanan Market; Trapping, handling, or consuming their meat is the likely determined cause of the virus' onset.

Once the Covid cases were confirmed in China, it was already too late to stop the spread. The same day that five cases were confirmed in Wuhan, a man from Seattle also was confirmed to have contracted Covid. From there it was virtually unstoppable, with every continent affected by the disease: The chronological spread of the disease began with China and surrounding Asian countries (Japan, Taiwan, Philippines), the United States and North America, Europe, Australia, Africa, Latin America, and finally reached Antarctica (NYU Langone News).

In comparison with Agrarian diseases, I would conclude that this pandemic was brought about and spread in similar ways. The development of vaccines and treatments were able to contribute to overall human resistance to the virus for the Covid-19 pandemic, whereas in the Agrarian Era, whole communities of people succumbed to disease for lack of treatment and medicine. Although the nature of diseases have not changed over thousands of years, humanity has been able to adjust and evolve in order to better deal with sickness.

Works Cited

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