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Research and Writing Assignment 1- Spread of Diseases

Coronavirus was a big pandemic that took over a large part of everyones life and spread so quickly and uncontrollably, much like many of the diseases in the early Agrarian world. Covid-19 began in December 2019 when several patients in China's Hubei Province in Wuhan, China, experienced symptoms of an atypical illness that was not manageable by standard treatments. With travel still being in effect, coronavirus spread to surrounding countries of Thailand, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, eventually reaching all other countries, including the United States. The first positive case in the US was noted in Washington state on January 20, 2020. In February 2020, this disease's cases began to multiply worldwide, with Europe becoming a global Covid-19 hotspot. In March, the US became the new hotspot, and on March 11, 2020, "...after more than 118,000 cases in 114 countries and 4,291 deaths, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic" (*CDC's Museum COVID-19 Timeline)*.

Covid-19 spread in many ways, just like various diseases in the early Agrarian world. There are many similarities and differences that I found between the spread of disease in the early Agrarian era and the spread of disease in today's world. The spread of bacteria was one of the similarities in the fast spread of disease during these times. The difference was that bacteria mostly came from water and agricultural objects on farms in the past. Today, things like public transportation, money, door handle, and everything around us carries bacteria. Viruses, such as

Covid-19, spread from people's mouths or noses when they cough, sneeze, speak, and breathe onto everyday used objects.

Crowd diseases were mentioned a lot during this chapter, and most crowd diseases prospered from prolonged contact with other animal species. Before, domesticated animals like herds and flocks brought different diseases to their keepers, mutating within humans to be transmitted and cause an epidemic. Similarly, according to the Bat Conservation Trust, "COVID-19 was a zoonosis, a human disease of animal origin, likely of ancestral origins in a bat species, creating a mutation and causing a pandemic."

Crowd diseases in the past often occurred in places of higher population. Compared to COVID-19, big cities like New York and Los Angeles suffered the most, with a higher number of cases because of the stronger possibility of exposure. The text also states that in Agrarian Era populations, epidemics often broke out when huge crowds gathered for periods of time. This is similar to what the CDC recommended of not gathering in big groups during and even when the pandemic was dying down. The text also states that regional development, when different regions came in contact through trade, migration, or the movement of armies, led to crowd disease. Similarly, Covid-19 spread through travel, so airports and borders were closed and prohibited during the pandemic.

It is fascinating to see how diseases spread has mostly stayed the same today compared to the early Agrarian era. It is a good reminder that things like bacteria in what we touch, contact with certain animal species, being in a large group of people, and even traveling can lead to the spread of any illness, as shown in almost every disease outbreak in history.

Work Cited

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