

Aseel Hindi

HIS 113: World Civilization

13 April 2023

Research and Writing

Two modern disruptions of society that have had a significant impact on the world are the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, specifically around 2019-2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health crisis caused by the novel coronavirus. The pandemic disrupted daily life in almost every country in the world, causing "widespread illness, death, and economic hardship." Governments around the world implemented lockdowns, social distancing measures, and travel restrictions in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus. The pandemic has also highlighted "inequalities and disparities in access to healthcare and resources." The Black Lives Matter movement is a social justice movement that seeks to address systemic racism and police brutality against black people in the United States. The movement gained significant momentum in 2020 following the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, by a police officer in Minneapolis. Protests and demonstrations took place in cities across the United States and around the world, calling for a change and an end to police brutality against black people.

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic was mixed. In some countries, there was a strong sense of national unity as people came together to support one another and follow public health guidelines. However, in other countries, "there was division and conflict over issues such as mask-wearing and vaccine mandates." Social media played a significant role in the response to the pandemic with misinformation and conspiracy theories spreading rapidly. The pandemic also highlighted the role of technology in keeping people connected, with video meetings and virtual events becoming the new norm. The response to the BLM movement was also mixed. Many people came together in solidarity with the movement, attending protests and demonstrations and sharing messages of support on social media.

However, there was also a backlash against the movement, with some people criticizing the protests and using racist language to denigrate the movement and its supporters. Social media played a significant role in amplifying the voices of BLM supporters and spreading information about the movement and its goals. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted “existing political and ideological divisions in America.” There were significant differences in the way that people responded to the pandemic depending on their political affiliation and beliefs. The pandemic also highlighted the importance of public health and healthcare access as critical components of a functioning society.

References:

Textbook

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/13388/black-lives-matter-protests-social-distancing-and-covid-19>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7717330/>

https://www.gavi.org/uaccineswork/equality-global-poverty-how-covid-19-affecting-societies-and-economies?gclid=CjwKCAjw3POhBhBQEiwAqTCuBLXbn65DfKxZ5PQM48P2hNwC-h4DZAYjcX7T06OaxbsTQJVVTMSAyRoCnooQAuD_BwE