

The Black Death

1347 - 1351

**Bring out your
dead!**

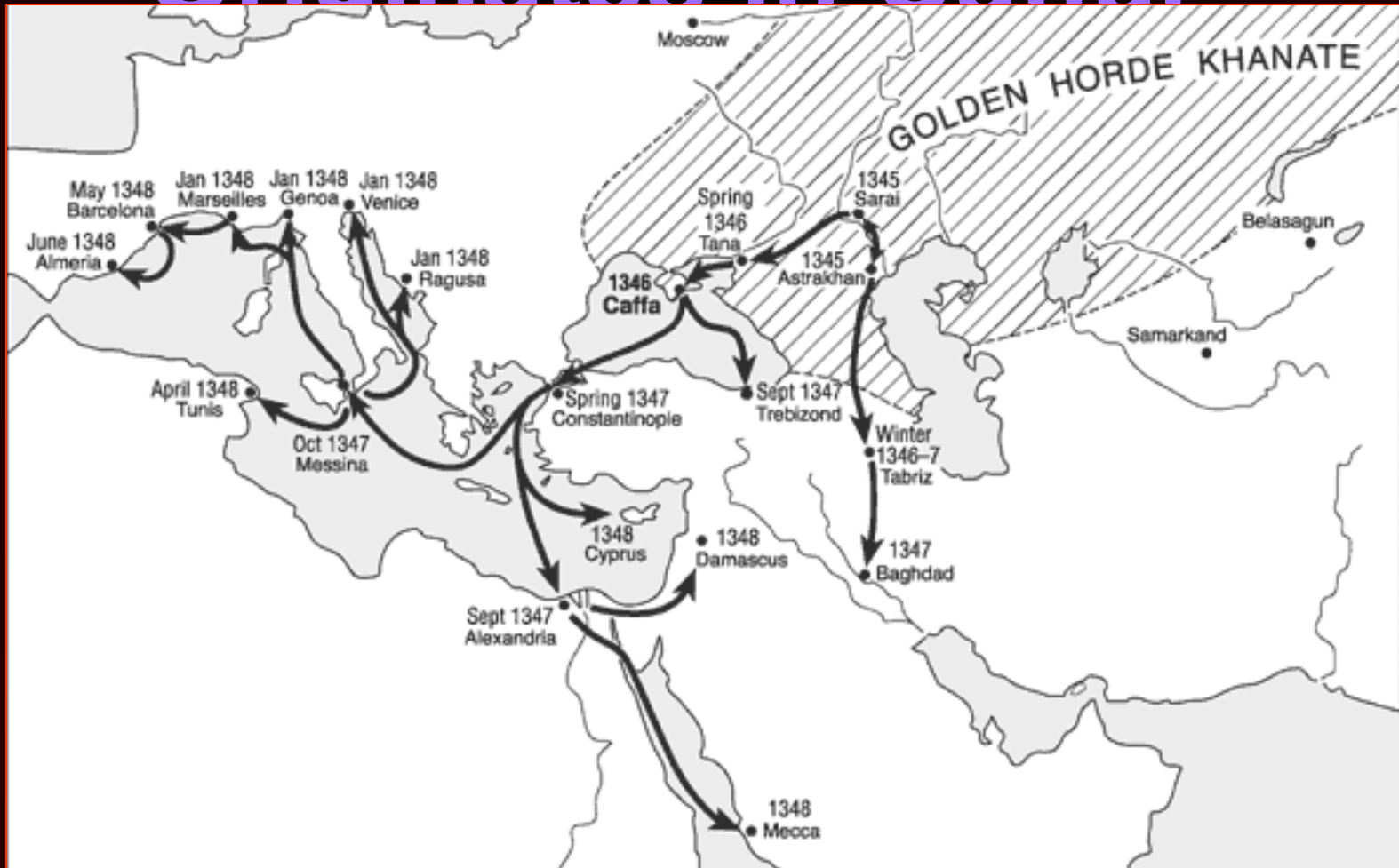


The Famine of 1315- 1317

- ☠ By 1300 Europeans were farming almost all the land they could cultivate.
- ☠ A population crisis developed.
- ☠ Climate changes in Europe produced three years of crop failures between 1315-17 because of excessive rain.
- ☠ As many as 15% of the peasants in some English villages died.
- ☠ One consequence of starvation & poverty was susceptibility to disease.



1346-1347: Plague Originates in Caffa.



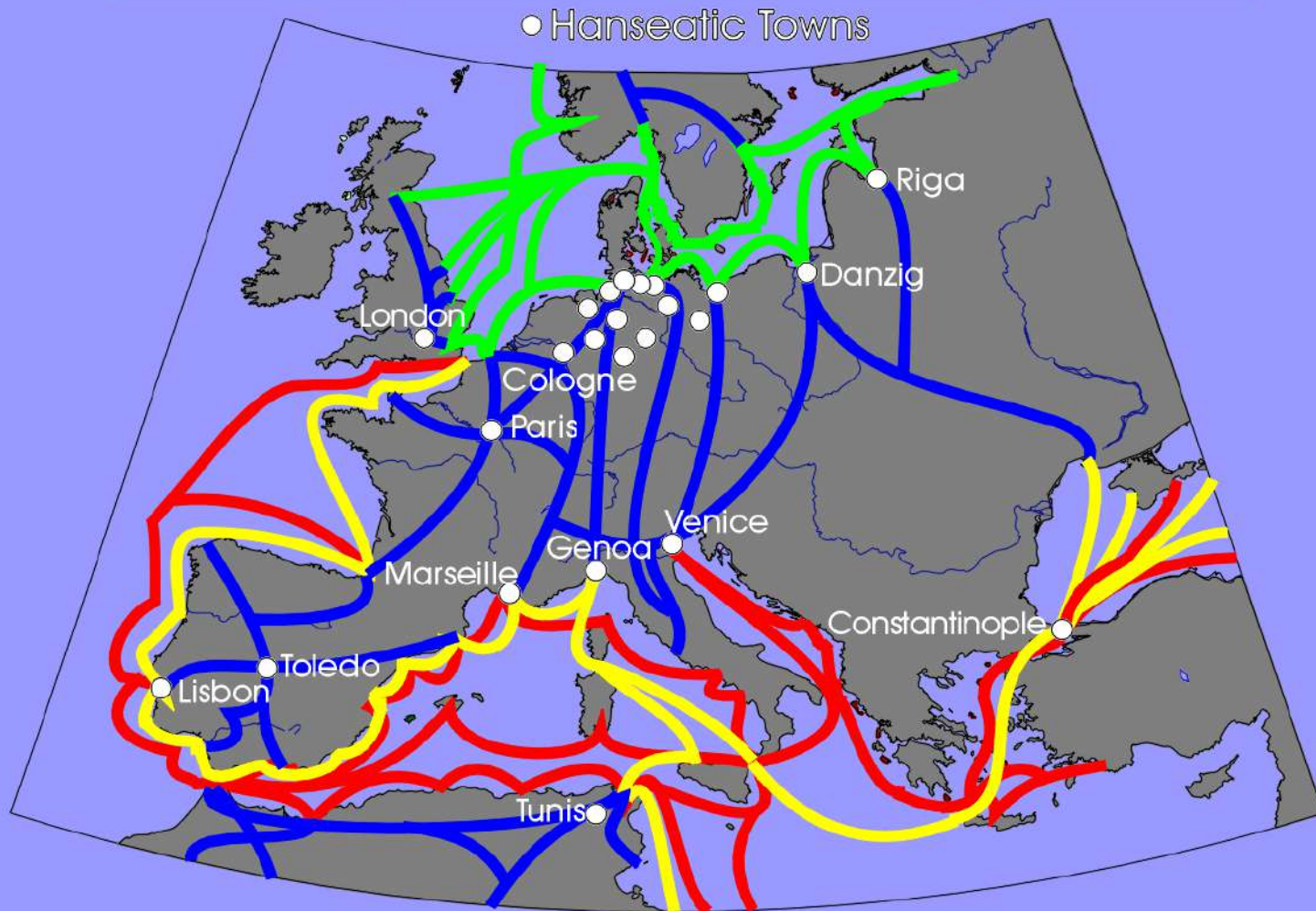
Medieval Trade Routes

Hanseatic Routes

Venetian Routes

Genoese Routes

Overland Connections



How it was Transmitted

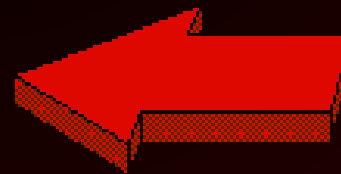
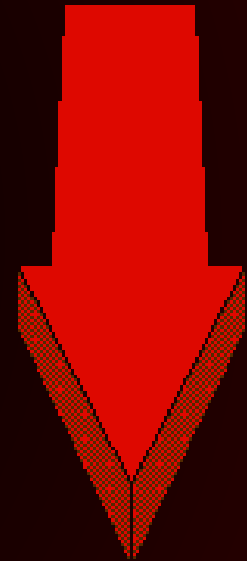
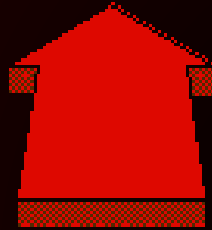
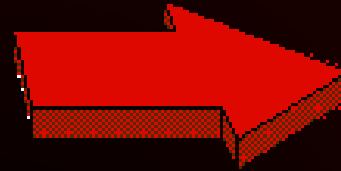
Flea drinks rat blood that carries the bacteria

Bacteria multiply in flea's gut

Human is infected

Flea bites human, regurgitates blood into open wound

Gut clogged with bacteria



The bubonic plague was the most common form of the Black Death.

- ◆ The mortality rate was 30-75%.
- ◆ The symptoms were enlarged and inflamed lymph nodes (around arm pits, neck and groin).
- ◆ The term 'bubonic' refers to the characteristic bubo or enlarged lymphatic gland.
- ◆ Victims were subject to headaches, nausea, aching joints, fever of 101-105 degrees, vomiting, and a general feeling of illness.
 - Symptoms took from 1-7 days to appear.



The pneumonic plague was the second most commonly seen form of the Black Death.



- ◆ The pneumonic plague infected the lungs.
- ◆ Symptoms took 1-7 days to appear.

- ◆ The mortality rate for the pneumonic plague was 90-95%
 - (if treated today the mortality rate would be 5-10%).





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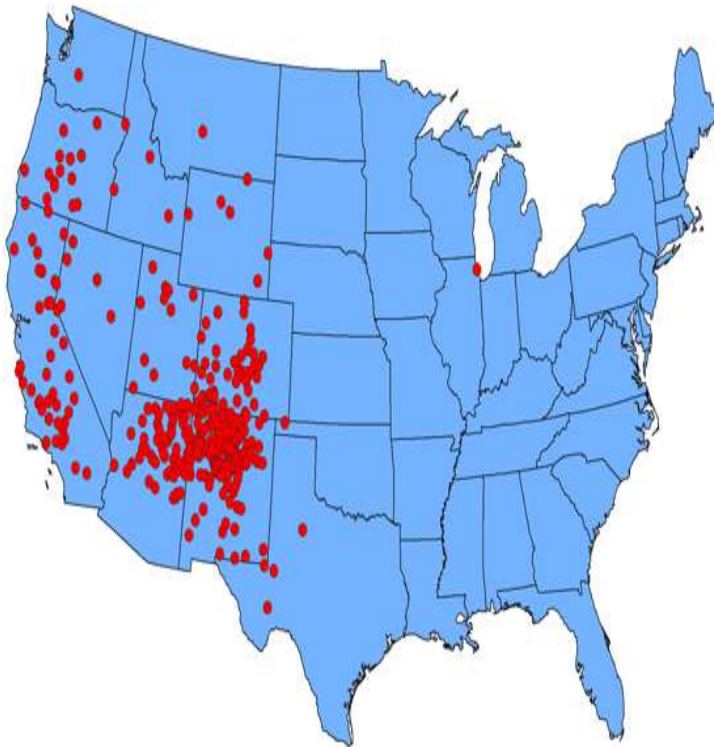
The Septicemic Plague

- ◆ The mortality was close to 100% (even today there is no treatment). Symptoms were a high fever and skin turning deep shades of purple due to DIC (disseminated intravascular coagulation).
- ◆ In its most deadly form DIC can cause a victims skin to turn dark purple.
- ◆ The black death got its name from the deep purple, almost black discoloration.
- ◆ Victims usually died the same day symptoms appeared.
- ◆ In some cities, as many as 800 people died every day.



The Bubonic Plague Lives!

Reported cases of human plague--United States, 1970-2012



1 dot placed in county of exposure for each plague case

- ◆ <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/girl-bubonic-plague-saved-quick-thinking-doctor/story?id=17170384>



Who Do You Call?

- ◆ People in the seventeenth century did not know what caused the plague and many believed it was a punishment from God.
- ◆ They did realize that coming into contact with those infected increased the risk of contracting the disease yourself.
- ◆ Cures and preventative measures were not at all effective
- ◆ Many doctors, knowing that they could do nothing for plague victims, simply didn't bother trying to treat the disease.



Others took interesting *Precautionary Measures*



Mask

Gown



Leather Hat

Glass Eye

Beak

Wooden Stick

Leather
Gloves

Full Length
Boots

Plague doctor



- ◆ The beak that was attached to the mask was stuffed with herbs, perfumes or spices
 - to purify the air that the doctor breathed when he was close to victims.

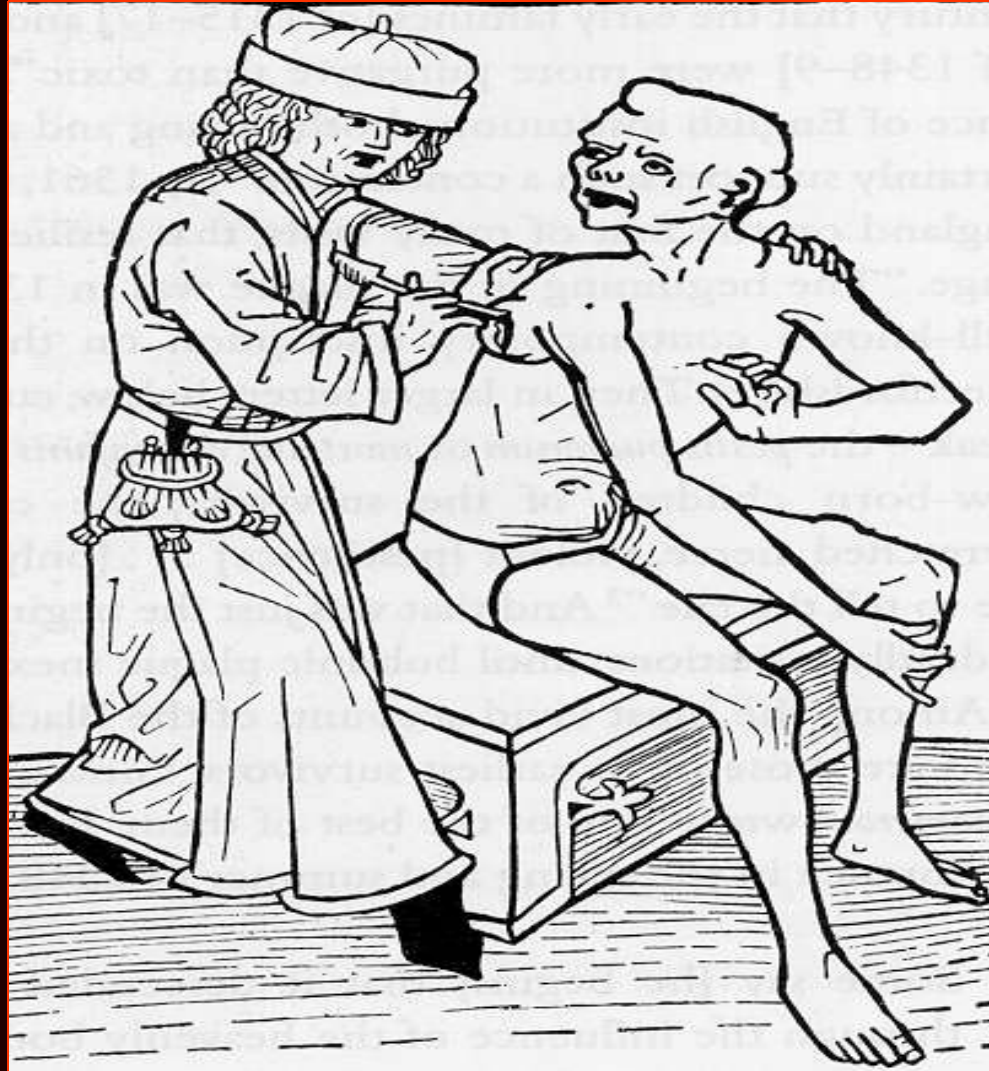
- ◆ the stick is for poking the patient and for warding off those who got too close.

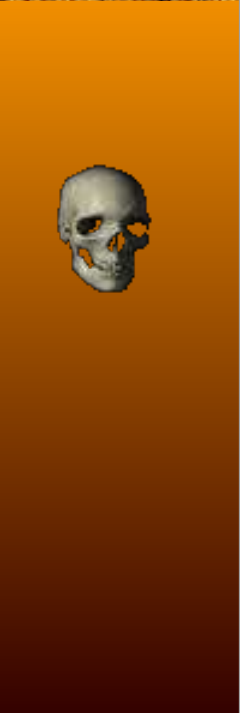
- ◆ The hat was made of leather.

- It was worn to show that the man was a doctor and also to add extra protection to the head.



Lancing a Bubo





Suggested Preventions and Cures	How they were supposed to work	What they actually did
Carry Flowers or wear a strong perfume	The smells would help to ward away the disease	Nothing
Drink hot drinks	The victim would then sweat out the disease	Nothing
Carry a lucky charm	The charm would ward off the disease	Nothing
Use leeches to bleed the victim	This would remove infected blood	Nothing
Smoke a pipe of tobacco	The smoke would ward off the disease	Nothing
Give a strong dose of laxatives	This would cause the victim to completely empty his bowels, thus removing the disease.	Strong doses of laxatives can cause death from dehydration.
Coat the victims with mercury and place them in the oven.	The combination of mercury and heat from the oven would kill off the disease.	This could actually increase the likelihood of death - mercury is poisonous and the heat from the oven caused serious burns.

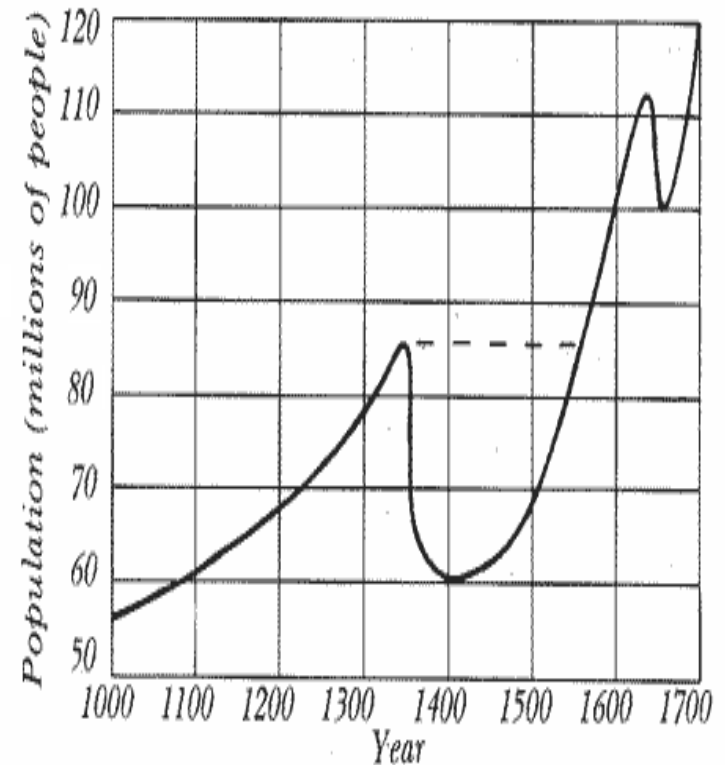
Effect on Economy

- ◆ The economy was probably hit the hardest of all the aspects of Europe.
- ◆ The biggest problem was that valuable artisan skills disappeared when large numbers of the working class died.
- ◆ Therefore, those who had skills became even more valuable than the rich people. The society structure began to change giving formally poor laborers more say.



Economic Consequences

- ◆ The economy underwent abrupt and extreme inflation.
- ◆ Since it was so difficult to procure goods through trade and to produce them, the prices of both goods produced locally and those imported from afar skyrocketed.

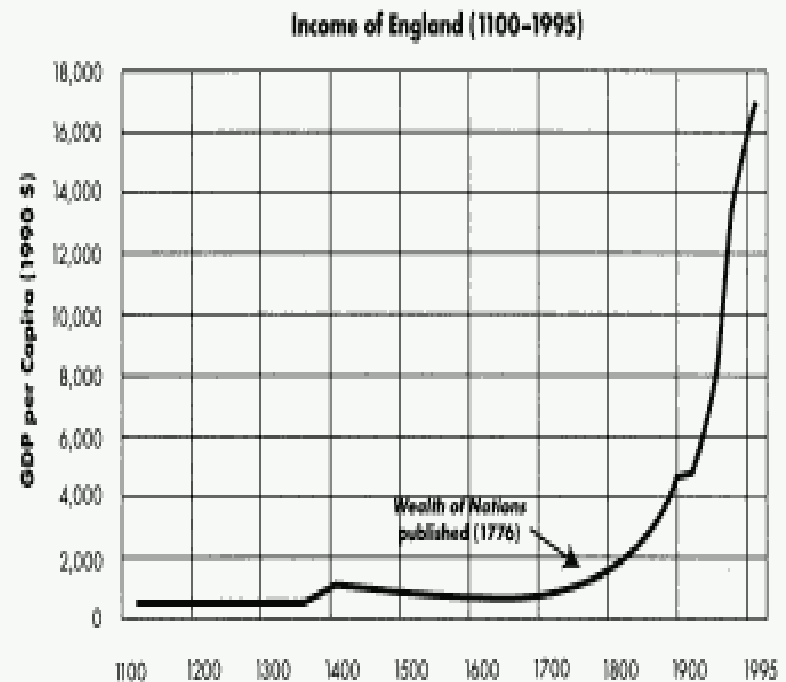


Recovery of European population following the plagues of 1347 was only two hundred years—an insignificant moment in the evolutionary time scale. (After Langer 1964; author)

Positive Effects?

- ◆ The demand for people to work the land was so high that it threatened the manorial holdings.
- ◆ Serfs were no longer tied to one master; if one left the land, another lord would instantly hire them.
- ◆ The lords had to make changes in order to make the situation more profitable for the peasants and so keep them on their land.
- ◆ In general, wages outpaced prices and the standard of living was subsequently raised.

Figure 1.1 The Rise in Real per Capita Income, United Kingdom, 1100–1995



Courtesy of Larry Wimmer, Brigham Young University.

Fashion

- ◆ As the formerly poor had more income, financial class distinctions lessened.
- ◆ Nobles wanted to show off that they are better than non-nobles.



French Response

- ◆ Increased the taille- a direct tax on the peasantry.
- ◆ The Jacquerie (1378)- a French peasant uprising occurred.



Statute of Laborers in England

- ◆ **Limited wages to pre-plague conditions.**
- ◆ **Peasants revolted.**



Medieval Church

- ◆ One of the groups that suffered the most was the Christian church.
 - It lost prestige, spiritual authority, and leadership over the people.
 - The church promised cures, treatment, and an explanation for the plague.
 - They said it was God's will, but the reason for this awful punishment was unknown.



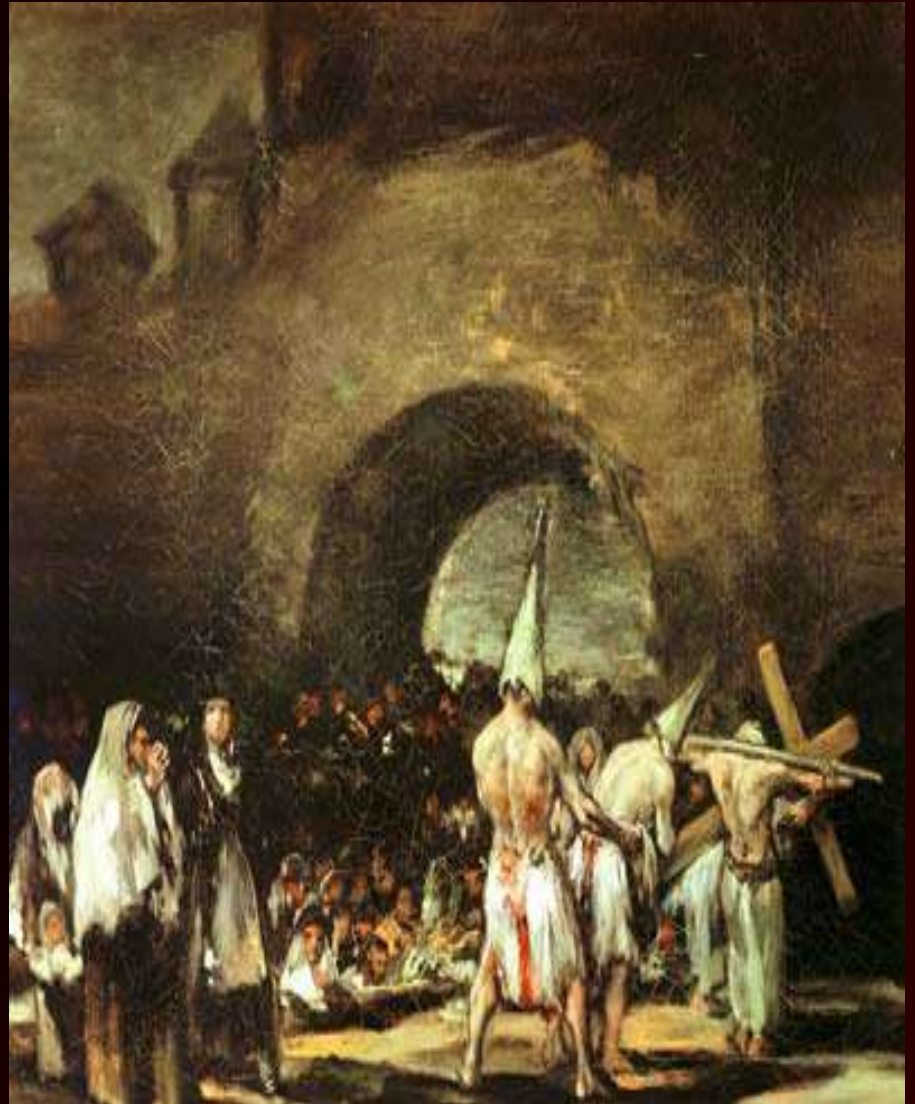
- ◆ People wanted answers, but the priests and bishops didn't have any.
 - The clergy abandoned their Christian duties and fled.
- ◆ People prayed to God and begged for forgiveness.
 - After the plague, ended angry and frustrated villagers started to revolt against the church.
 - The survivors were also enraged at doctors, who didn't cure patients, but said they could.



Scapegoats

◆ Jews were blamed for the Black Death.

◆ Pogroms led by the flagellants occurred.



Attempts to Stop the Plague

Pogroms against the Jews



"Jew" hat



"Golden Circle"
obligatory badge

People's attitudes towards music and art changed as they began to see the depression surrounding them.



The horrific nature of the Black Death was reflected in the realistic depictions of human suffering and carnage.

Most victims were interred in mass graves



Citizens of Tournai bury plague victims. These are fortunate to have coffins.



What would you do if death was imminent?



Giovanni Boccaccio

- ◆ Wrote *Decameron* in 1353.
- ◆ Some sought more temperate life, others engaged in sexual promiscuity, others fled the countries or lived in solitude.





Music



- ◆ Before the Black Death, music was happy and frequently heard.
- ◆ During the Black Death music was played very grimly or never played at all.
- ◆ The somber change in art and music demonstrated the grim reality of the world around them.



You have been singing about the
Black Death your whole lives!



The symptoms of the plague included a
rosy red rash in the shape of a ring on the
skin



(Ring around the rosy).



Pockets and pouches were filled with sweet smelling herbs (or posies) which were carried due to the belief that the disease was transmitted by bad smells.



The term "Ashes Ashes" refers to the cremation of the dead bodies!



The death rate was over 60% and the plague was only halted by the Great Fire of London in 1666 which killed the rats which carried the disease which was transmitting via water sources.



The Plague

*** Watch the video, and
complete the Black Death
worksheet

Class Work:

**** Complete questions 10-14 on the Chapter 9 study guide, using pages 292-298. ****

