

# Economics impact of the Black Death

## Second Progress Report

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**Introduction** (have not been written yet)

## The Black Death

Due to a very high rate of fatality, Black death is considered to be one of the deadliest pandemics in human history. Over 75-200 million life had been terminated in Eurasia and North Africa during that time, from 1347 to 1351. The pandemic is believed to be the result of a serious bacterial infection, caused by the bacterium “*Yersinia pestis*”, which transmitted via fleas feeding on infected animals. The Plague was initiated in Constantinople before it spreaded across Europe. The symptoms are swellings, fever, fatigue, and vomiting, and the symptoms steadily develop for 2-7 days after a person gets infected. Antibiotics were the most effective treatment given in the early stage of infection.

## The origin of the black death

The Black Death is the result of the unification of Eurasia, which is a part of Globalisation. Most pandemic initiated from wars or trade; however, this case is initiated from the trade when the ship full of Genoese showed up at the pier with cargos and the new deadly disease.

Reference:

Carlos Álvarez-Nogal, Leandro Prados de la Escosura, and Carlos Santiago-Caballero (2020), “Economic Effects of the Black Death: Spain in European Perspective”, Instituto Figuerola de Historia y ciencias sociales, ISSN: 2341-2542

## The spread of the black death

Rats were accused of spreading the black death. The disease can be easily contagious by just a simple touching. Due to the fact that Black Death is terribly efficient and promptly spread around, a healthy person who went to bed at night could be passed away the next morning.

1. The plague seems to have started in China in the 1330s.
2. In 1347, armies attacking the town of Caffa in the Crimea, catapulted dead bodies into the town. Italian merchants took the plague with them to Sicily in October 1347.
3. In June 1348 Black Death arrived at Melcombe Regis (in Dorset). By the end of the year it had spread throughout the south of England.
4. During 1349, the plague spread into Wales, Ireland and the north of England.

5. The Scots – thinking that God was punishing the English – invaded the north of England, where their army caught the plague. In 1350, therefore, the plague spread through Scotland.
6. The first plague died out in 1350.
7. The plague returned between 1361 and 1364, and five more times before 1405. These plagues mainly killed children, who had no resistance to the disease

Reference:

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (2020), “Black Death pandemic, medieval Europe”, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Black-Death>

History.com Editors (2010), “Black Death”, <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/black-death>

## **Black death and Labour market**

As the result of the first truly global pandemic in human history, there are sudden drop in the number of populations since the plague killed almost one-third of the European at that time. We decide to divide into two sub-topics which are

### **Mortality and labour supply**

Reference:

David Rout, “The economic impact of the Black Death”, University of Richmond: Economic history association, <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/the-economic-impact-of-the-black-death/>

### **Wages, rents, and peasants**

Reference:

Remi Jedwab, Noel D. Johnson, and Mark Koyama (2020), “The Economic impact of the Black Death”, Institute for International Economic Policy 1957 E St. NW Suite 502, The George Washington University: IIEP-WP-2020-14.

## **The rise of peasant**

After the plague strike, the peasants have more bargaining power and demand more wages. As a result, some landowners must do agriculture on their own since most of them struggle to pay the high wages that the labour demands. Later, some of the state set wage limit regulations but it did not seem to work. We decide to divide this topic into two sub-topics which are listed below.

-Financial problems for the noble

-Quality of life for peasants

References:

Samuel Cohn (2007), “After the Black Death: Labour Legislation and Attitudes Towards Labour in Late Medieval Western Europe”, Vol. 60, No. 3 (Aug. 2007), pp. 457-485, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4502106>.

**Short-run economic effect** (have not been written yet)

**Long-run economic effect** (have not been written yet)