The Black Death

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What is it the black death?

- A bubonic plague pandemic
- Occurred in Europe and Asia
- 1346-1353
- 75-200 million died
How did the black death start?

- Black death had arrived in Europe October 1347
- Ships from the Black Sea docked in Sicilian port
- Most on the ships were dead, those that were not were gravely sick
Symptoms

- Boils the size of eggs or apples
- Blood and pus seep from boils
- Fever
- Chills
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Aches and pains
- Swollen lymph nodes
Spreading

- Extremely contagious
- Highly efficient
- Some went to bed healthy and were dead by morning
Spreading

- Spread by a bacillus called Yersinia Pestis
- Traveled through the air
- Through infected fleas or rats
Treatments

- Bloodletting
- Boil Lancing
- Superstitious treatments
  - Burning herbs
  - Bathing in rosewater
- Affected animals as well
- Some left the cities entirely
Believed ideas

- Because of the lack of science many associated it with divine punishment
- Punishment for their sins against god
- Only way to surpass this was to purge their society of troublemakers
- Thousands of Jews massacred
- Some turned towards themselves
Decline of the Black Death

- It may have been completely gone, but it was slowed
- Sailors were put into isolation for 30 days
- Later changed to 40 and called quarantine
Timeline -1346

- Strain emerges in Mongolia
- Mongols carry west to Black Sea
- Fights erupt against Italian merchants and group of Muslims
- Catapults launch infected bodies over walls
Timeline - May 1347

- Both sides of previous siege suffered heavy casualties
- Survivors escape by sea
- Bodies left to be fed on by feral animals
- Ship arrives in Constantinople
- Loses 90% of population to plague
Timeline - October 1347

- Ship Lands in sicily
- Plague kills 50% of population
- Moves to Messina
- Fleeing people spread plague to main italy
- One third of the population dies from plague
Timeline - November 1347

- Spreads to France
- Quickly spreads through the country
- Many of the infected pass
Timeline- January 1348

- Different strain enters Europe
- Italy faces second strain while fighting the first
- Spreads through Europe
- Cyprus is hit by natural disasters and plague
- Venice attempts to fight off the plague
- Kills 60% of Venice population
Timeline - April 1348

- Plague causes many to blame Jewish people
- Many Massacres on Jewish communities
- First one taking place in Provence
- Taking 40 Jewish lives
Timeline- June 1348

- Plague enters England
- Spreads through towns
- Some try to escape inland only spreading it farther
Effects after the Plague

- Trade diminished
- Wars were temporarily abandoned
- Labourers died
- Surviving Labourers gained better wages
Effects on Government

- Wealthy landowners were depleted due to less labourers
- Physical and verbal assaults on royalty and church
- Most government officials succumb to the plague and died
- Government fell apart
- Foreign sovereigns took power which lead to parties
Effects on Catholic church

- Weakened faith in church
- Clergy could do nothing to stop the plague
- Priests died to plague
- God was deaf to the cries and prayers of the people
Works Cited

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