

Reporting During the Black Death

Directions: After reading various documents from the period of the Black Death, you now have a grasp of the circumstances from the time period. While reading the documents, you should have analyzed the various sources for their content, author, purpose, impacts on the culture, and tone. In addition, you should have identified the individuals controlling the narrative, those whose voices were lost in the narrative, and also be able to identify the misinformation/rumors that surrounded the spread of the Black Death. Now, it is time for you to be the journalist. Imagine that you are a journalist from the time period. You now have the power to give voice to those who were voiceless during the period. You will do the following:

1. *Identify the demographics of the individual that you are interviewing.*
2. *Identify why they are an under-reported story during the period.*
3. *Discuss how their story is different from the narrative that is told in other sources (be sure to use evidence from the sources provided in the DBQ).*
4. *You will “conduct an interview” by writing your questions and their responses from their point of view. What would they say about this time period? What information would they want us to know? Each response must be elaborate, detailed, and take us to the events from the period. (You will write one to two paragraphs for each question (minimum of six questions)).*

Demographics of Interviewee	
Age	29
Gender	Male
Occupation	A Jewish Male who does agricultural work to provide for his family
Location	Prague, Czech Republic
Religion	Judaism
How are they different from the narrative in other sources?	She is a woman and handles a lot of the behind the scenes work so most of the things she did went unnoticed.
How are they an under-reported story?	She has a family and was constantly worried about them going out in public also the fact that her Husband was a Jew he was having a hard time being believed about

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Interview: Please put in as a question and answer format

Hi, My name is Cyrus I am 29 years old and I have a 30 year old year wife, A 11 year old daughter, a 14 year old son and a new born daughter. Q-Were you ever tortured

A-yes I was often tortured and threatened to leave. Many people wanted us to leave or just kill us because they'd said that we were the cause of the plague. I couldn't even go down to the river to get water for my family without even getting death threats. I tried to wait until it was darker outside to go out in public so I could avoid this happening and one night I was captured. When I was captured they took me away and forcefully made me bathe in things that were believed to get rid of the disease.

Q-Did you ever tried to leave and if not why did you choose to stay ?

A-I tried to leave a couple of times but it wasn't very easy considering I had a family. My wife and I recently had a child and where we live now is the disease isn't as bad as it is in many other places. I didn't want to put the rest of my family at risk but especially my newborn. If it were just me I would've left immediately but it is much harder trying to travel with a family. Also since I am a Jew many places did want my family and I there because they believed we were the reason the plague was spreading so dramatically.

Q-What do you think this was like for your family?

A-I think my family was very worried for me and for their selves. My wife had told many many times that she wanted to leave whenever it was possible but many places didn't want us there. My children had also told my wife and I how scared they were to go out in public. Although things were very hard on me they were also very hard on all of my family simply just due to the fact that we are Jews. Thought out all of the struggles of this my family and I never gave up and we fought threw this together.

Q-How did this affect your job

A-When this plague became such a big deal and everyone thought Jews spread it the most people started to distance themselves. Many people didn't want to pick their crops where I got mine from because they thought that I'd infected them. Many people also didn't want to get dairy and different food products from animals that I'd used. Over all people didn't want me around and they didn't want to get any of their resources from the sources that I'd gotten mine from.

Q-How did this make you feel personally

A-Personally this made me feel really bad and view the world from a much different perspective. I don't think that this is fair to any Jews. We were already discriminated against and now this whole thing has taken everything to a whole new level. Every day I am in fear that something will happen to me or my family because people are claiming that Jews as a whole spread the plague. Many of my people were killed because it was believed that we are spreading the plague, it was spread through everyone and there was no evidence showing that we are the main cause behind the plague spreading.

Q-If you weren't a Jew how would you feel about this and how would you treat the Jews?

A-If I weren't a Jew I would've have been so harsh towards them. You can't punish a whole community of people because a couple of the are spreading the plague. Killing people should never be the first option and instead of killing them I would've tried to find a resolution to help prevent the spreading of the plague. I also would've tried to be more compassionate towards the Jews, it's not like they asked to be in that position it just happened. You should always be considerate of others feelings and situations.

Please complete the reflection on the [Google Form](#).