

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	30
Gender	Female
Occupation	Nun
Location	She lives Paris, France at the nunnery
Religion	Catholic
How are they different from the narrative in other sources?	Alexandra vonravite is a woman and a Nun at the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris, who vowed to live an ascetic life of chastity in order to honor her god.
How are they an under-reported story?	Alexandra was accused of being a “corrupted christain” who had been induced by the Jews to carry out poisoning deeds. She was never allowed to share her side of the story.

Reporting During the Black Death

Interview: Please put in as a question and answer format

Reporter: So Ms. vonravite how is being a nun during a pandemic different from a relatively normal day?

Alexandra: On a normal day, we did our individual tasks and were joined only for services. The sisters and I stayed in the nunneries, sharing accommodations, meals and chapel duties. There wasn't much time to oneself then, But now we were constantly on our feet, on the move, helping and getting things done, trying to save lives for the great or good.

Reporter Ivory : What were the beliefs of the church at the time of the crisis?

Alexandra : Well Ms. Ivory at that time the church was a very powerful place, and the plague was believed to be the wrath of God punishing us for the sins we have committed. Everyone's opinion was based on a religious belief, or their basic medical knowledge, but none of it helped to stop the spread of disease or save the ones who were infected.

You see, the sisters and I were out risking our lives for the poor, and as contagious as the plague was, some of them even died. At that time that was the main cause of death for the nuns at the chapel.

Reporter : So what is your opinion on your role as a nun in the pandemic?

Alexandra : To be honest, I sleep like an infant knowing that I at least tried, even if I didn't save many lives. All really could do was put our faith in the church and god to heal all the sicknesses. Hope was never lost, as the plague raved and grew stronger, as god appeared deafened to our prayers, I stood strong in my faith.

I can't really say the same for many, because the once unified Christain community started to shatter, They lost their faith in god and decided they would take matters into their own hands.

Reporter : What exactly were the accusations/charges against you?

Alexandra: **awkward laugh* weeeIIII, firstly I was accused of poisoning rivers and wells, and secondly, of betraying my faith, which was simply illogical, accused of being a, and i quote " *Corrupted Christain, turned by the jews to pure evil, a witch.* "They say I was paid by french enemy to poison the country I have grown in, and found my faith. Ridiculous. I am sentenced to execution *Torn by red hot pincers, disembowelled, hands cut off, and then incinerated.**

Reporter: Did anyone ever tell you why you were being accused?

Alexandra:No, I was never told why I was being accused, or sentenced to DEATH, but I think I have an idea of what it could be. You see I am a very caring person, I love helping people, and I'm also a nurse. I help anyone and everyone that I can, so when an injured jew was brought to my attention my first instinct was to help them. I never told this person who I was, and I've never mentioned this story, so someone must have witnessed the scene and told me to the church.

Reporting During the Black Death

Reporter: How exactly are jews viewed in the church?

Alexandra: In the church, it is not said aloud, but one can feel it in the air when jews are mentioned that there is disgust, hatred, and malice lurking behind sealed lips. I personally don't feel that it is necessary to hate a religion you don't understand fully, but the ones that get to make the rules are powerful, higher class, Men. A simple nun, as myself, has no place to make decisions or rules on who we except in the church and who we don't, I just have to follow them.

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