

BLGMUN'25



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## **Agenda Item: Black Death**

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## **Letter from Secretary-General**

Dear Delegates,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to BLGMUN'25, the first official MUN at our school. My name is Serra Yırtıcı and I'm the Secretary General of the BLGMUN'25. I'm an 11'th grader at Özel Artı Fen Bilgi High Schools.

Undoubtedly, you will enjoy your time in and out of sessions with our excellent Chairboard and organization team as everyone has been working with great affordance. I'm looking forward to hearing about all of your remarkable negotiations and creative solutions in the commit.

Additionally, I can not thank Arda enough for spending his precious time and phenomenal energy helping us take BLGMUN'25 to the next level by designing this committee, writing this study guide, managing the procedure perfectly, and much more... I can assure you; that you are in safe hands since your USG has everything planned for you!

To those who are participating in a MUN conference for the first time, I understand fully how it can feel nerve-wracking sometimes. However, I encourage you to speak up when you get the opportunity to, as this is your only chance to participate in BLGMUN'25. We have all been first-timers at some point and I'm no exception. Therefore, I advise you to remain calm and make the most out of your experience at BLGMUN'25.

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely

## **Letter from Under-Secretary-General**

Distinguished Delegates,

Firstly welcome you all to the greatest MUN of all time which is BLGMUN'25. I'm your Under Secretary General Arda Söylemez. I'm in eleventh grade in Özel Artı Fen Bilgi High School. It's an honor to be a part of BLGMUN'25. This year we decided to do an MUN in our school which will be the greatest and all that's left is to live these 3 days.

It was a very entertaining process to start and develop this committee with my Secretary General Serra. I need to thank her for her great afford for this MUN with everything.

This committee includes lots of fun and also it contains so much information about current and past epidemics. When I thought Black Death for the first time I said it to my friends and they were like yes we MUST do this committee and this is where it came from.

As the BLGMUN'25 family, we knew that every step we took would be worth it and that this conference would go to great heights.

Best Regards

## **1. Introduction of the Committee**

This committee includes the events that took place during the Black Death that started in 1346. With many events that will take place in the committee, this special committee will take the participants to the time when the plague started and make them experience the hardships of that period. The delegates in this special committee will be priests, scientists or neutral group members. At the same time, the delegates will evaluate the events they have experienced and will experience and decide on the final situation. Since the committee is a special committee, its procedure is different from other committees. This difference reflects the time when the Black Death occurred and shows the difficulties that people experienced during this event. The committee will move forward with the decisions that the delegates will make and the solution suggestions they will give.

### **1.1 The Purpose of the Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to help participants perceive future and past events. This committee will develop people's immediate thinking skills, even if it appears as a plague, and will turn them into citizens who will play an important role for their nations in future crises such as plague. At the same time, when it comes to plague, all epidemics come to mind. The recent Covid-19 outbreak is an example of this situation, and will enable participants to make ethical decisions in these and similar events.

## **2. Keywords**

**Plague:** Plague is a bacterial infection transmitted mainly through fleas and has serious consequences that can lead to death within a very short time.

**Church:** Places of worship in the Middle Ages, containing clergy to whom the people and nations listened.

**Epidemic:** An epidemic is the rapid spread of an infectious illness to a large number of people in a given population over a short period of time

**Scientist:** Scientists are people who try to systematically obtain information about variables in the universe by using scientific data acquisition methods.

**Priest:** These are people who work in churches or other places of worship.

**Serfdom:** A serf was a peasant who worked for a landowner on inherited land in medieval Europe. Serfdom was a system very similar to slavery.

**Jewish:** Jews or the Jewish nation are an ethno-religious group and nation descended from the Israelites and Hebrews of historical Israel and Judah.

### **3. Process of this Committee**

#### **3.1 Rules of Procedure**

First of all, since this committee is a special committee, it has a different functioning style compared to other committees. The delegates are divided into three different groups. These groups are called scientists, priests and neutral group members. All three groups will have separate goals, but they are looking for a solution to the plague in common. These rules of procedure have been prepared to ensure that the Special 2 committee operates in a fair and constructive manner. All rules are for each delegate to participate effectively.

The committee will generally operate with a moderated caucus or semi-moderated caucus. The given motions must be related to the Problems To Be Solved part in the study guide or to the upcoming crisis. During a crisis, instead of a moderated caucus, a semi-moderated caucus should be given, which will allow faster decisions to be made.

The Political Declaration will be written in this committee. The political declaration is a text that is not legally binding but expresses the general intentions and commitments of the committee. This Declaration provides a common area where both scientists and priests can contribute. It provides an environment that encourages scientists and priests to seek consensus. It is a format where everyone can contribute and can adapt to crises. The topics discussed in the committee will be written in the form of articles. The articles should include both problems and solutions. If more than one political declaration is made, these declarations will first be presented to the committee and then each individual in the committee will vote on the declarations. The acceptance criterion will be provided by a majority vote.

Apart from these, the procedure will be carried out normally, as in the General Assembly committees. Everyone should prepare an opening speech before coming to the conference appropriate to their role.

#### **3.2 The Priests**

Our first group of delegates, The Priests, focuses on the spiritual needs of society and the search for faith-based solutions regarding the pandemic. They follow a policy of increasing the participation of the public in religious rituals. They try to direct the neutral group to the religious solution side with their faith-based ideas. This group, which advocates meeting the spiritual needs of the people, prioritizes preserving the moral and religious order of society. They see the epidemic as "God's punishment" and defend this idea. They should advocate that the people should find salvation through religious rituals and repentance.

The aim of the priests is to increase the spiritual resilience of the society. At the same time, they can examine the solutions given by the scientists within the religious framework and correct their solutions in accordance with the religion.

They must continue to function by preventing the public from becoming overly fearful of

religion and at the same time ensuring that people do not drift away from religion.

### **3.3 The Scientists**

Scientists represent the side that finds rational and scientific methods to combat the epidemic. They explain the causes of the epidemic based on historical, political or scientific reasons. However, they cannot include in their speech the causes of the disease that were previously found (such as that the disease is caused by the *Yersinia pestis* bacteria). They should explain their solutions in a way that is appropriate to the situation at that time.

They provide evidence-based recommendations to explain the causes of the epidemic, its effects, and how it can be controlled. They should prioritize public health and hygiene in their solution proposals. They should focus on issues such as quarantine practices or the biological spread of plague. They offer concrete strategies that can be implemented, such as medical treatment methods and drug development.

They should continue their efforts to reduce the prejudices and lack of trust in scientific methods of the people of that period.

### **3.4 The Neutral Group**

Neutral delegates mediate between scientists and religious figures. They develop suggestions that will serve the common good of all parties with an impartial perspective. They offer practical solutions by focusing on economic, social and commercial effects. While producing solutions, they interpret the ideas of both parties OBJECTIVELY and contribute to a solution proposal accordingly. They focus on the daily needs of the people. The neutral group includes people from the public of that time. Therefore, they should speak with the way of thinking of the people of that time.

This group has a huge impact on the Declaration. It determines which side they will choose according to their advantages or whether common ground can be found. This side must ask questions and ensure that both sides reach an agreement, or if the two sides cannot reach an agreement, they will ultimately vote on a declaration and choose which side they believe.

### **3.5 Timeline**

The Timeline provides committee members with a clear framework to understand the historical context and ground their discussions. It includes the spread of the Black Death, major events, and critical developments of the period.

#### ***1320: First signs in Central Asia***

The plague, which scientists think was spread through rodents, has begun to show its first symptoms.

#### ***1346: The epidemic in Crimea***

Plague broke out in the Mongol Empire. Genoese ships were infected with the disease and as a result, the plague spread to Europe via the Black Sea.

### ***1347: Plague is spreading in Europe***

The plague, known as the Black Death, definitely entered the European continent via Sicily. It spread rapidly in large port cities such as Venice and Marseille.

### ***1348: Plague is at its PEAK***

The disease affects England, Spain, France, and Italy. Deaths rise rapidly, with approximately 30% of the population lost.

### ***1348: Religious Reactions***

The Flagellant movement (self-flagellation religious groups) emerges. Many see the plague as punishment from God.

### ***1348: Scientific Reactions***

Some doctors claimed that the plague was spread by dirty and bad air and tried to prevent the spread of the disease with primitive methods such as fumigation of rooms.

### ***1349: Trade Collapse***

To prevent the spread of the plague, many trade routes are closed. Workers, such as farmers, are not happy with this situation and want it resolved immediately.

### ***1349: Jewish Protests***

In some regions, Jews were seen as the cause of the plague and were protested. (Explained in detail in the section The Reasons of the Spread of Plague.)

## **4. Introduction of the Topic**

### **4.1 What is Plague?**

The word plague is the general name given to infectious diseases caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. Plague has been a well-known disease since ancient times. Historical and scientific research argues that the plague first appeared in the Early Bronze Age around 3000 BC. There are also historians who think that this epidemic may be related to the "Neolithic Decline." The Black Plague, which began in the Middle Ages in 1347, is commonly known as the "Black Death". The plague epidemic was responsible for the loss of one-third of Europe's population at the time. It is estimated that it caused the deaths of between 75 and 200 million people in Eurasia and North Africa. It was defined as the deadliest disease humanity had ever seen in Europe between 1346 and 1353. Plague is a bacterial infection that is mainly transmitted by fleas and can lead to death in a very short time, with serious consequences. The origin of the plague is controversial. Although it is estimated that the pandemic originated in either Central Asia or East Asia, its first definite appearance was in Crimea in 1347. It was most likely carried from Crimea by fleas traveling on Genoese ships and living on black rats. It spread from the Mediterranean Basin, via Constantinople, Sicily, and the Italian Peninsula to Africa, Western Asia, and the rest of Europe. The Black Death was particularly infectious from person to person and spread rapidly. The Black Death was the second worst natural disaster in Europe in the late Middle Ages, after the Great Famine.

## 4.2 The Reasons For the Spread of the Plague

First of all, there are many early theories about the spread of the plague. The most common of these theories is that God punished people and this disease was seen as a "Punishment" given to people by God, along with the views of the church. According to the priest, the people of that period behaved inhumanely, forgot about God, forgot to love and respect those around them and thought that they had to suffer for this.

Another theory is that there are other religions besides Christianity. The Jews are at the forefront of these religions. It was claimed that the Jews poisoned the water on a day when people who drank water from the well in the city died. This claim first emerged in Southern France. But it was not only seen in Southern France. This incident started to spread throughout Europe in a very short time. As the incident grew, the accusations of the Jews increased. This incident caused no one to drink water from wells anymore. Everyone started to drink only natural water such as accumulated rainwater. However, since this could not be offered as a solution to anyone, in the 14th century, the idea of massacring the Jews was put forward by the popes as a solution to this problem. Now, people have killed more than 50 thousand Jews. People who saw Jews in their cities or villages went crazy and united with guns or torches to kill the Jews. Jews who could no longer withstand all the pressure burned themselves in the city squares because of too much pressure on them from the church and all the people in the cities. The church, disturbed by the fact that so many people were killing themselves because of the church itself and worried that people would distance themselves from the church, told the Jews that they could live on the condition that they were baptized.

A scientific theory that scientists saw at the time was that reptiles such as fleas and mice, who left their places to find water and food due to drought and thirst, began to migrate to places where people were more crowded and could provide more food. In the continuation of this migration, these animals, carrying a type of bacteria, entered people's living spaces and spread these bacteria to water sources and food supplies, increasing the speed of the epidemic.





### **4.3 Explanation About Types of Plague**

Plague can show itself to people in three ways. These are defined as bubonic plague, septicemic plague and pneumonic plague. All three types of plague have caused large numbers of people to die and are all very dangerous. None of them should be taken lightly.

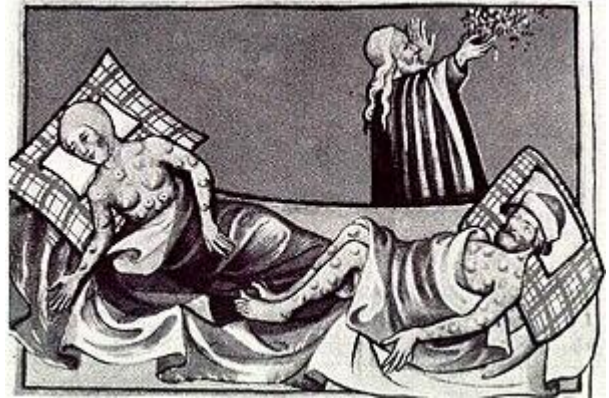
The most common type of plague among these three types is bubonic plague. The most common plague cases during the Black Death period were caused by bubonic plague. *Yersinia Pestis*, a type of enterobacteria, causes this plague. Contrary to popular belief, bubonic plague does not spread through rats but through fleas. When fleas bite people or come into contact with a wound, the bacteria spread and the plague-carrying bacteria come into contact with the tissue. Once these bacteria enter the body cells, they enter the fluid between the tissue and the cell, called the interstitial fluid, and from there they spread throughout the body. The spreading process takes 3 to 8 days to show its effects. Blisters form on the body as a result of the fluid being expelled, and these blisters are called buboes, which is the root of the word bubonic. Just like acne, if these bubbles are popped, the infection spreads more quickly throughout the body and causes a worse period of illness, and the bacteria can enter the bloodstream and turn into septicemic plague, or they can pass into the lungs and become pneumonic plague.

The second type of plague is septicemic plague. As mentioned briefly in the previous paragraph, it occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream. Its spreading speed is very fast, so it can enter almost any part of the body. In septicemic plague, since these bacteria are in the bloodstream, they can form a blood clot anywhere in the body and the blood can clot. The clotting blood can cause tissue death at the site of the event and cause the tissue to turn black. Disseminated intravascular coagulation causes the body's clotting resources to deplete, so the human body can no longer control bleeding. Therefore, bleeding in the internal organs or on the external surface of the body is fatal. At the same time, this condition causes coughing up blood, vomiting blood, and rashes on the body. Blisters resembling insect bites form on the human body and they look like acne.

Thirdly and lastly, there is pneumonic plague. This type of plague is generally transmitted through the airways. As stated at the end of the second paragraph, it occurs when bacteria pass into the lungs. Pneumonic plague causes people to constantly sneeze and cough. This is such a severe and continuous cough that people have stomach aches from coughing. The bacteria that spread from person to person due to coughing and sneezing also allow them to enter the bodies of other people. The effects of pneumonic plague are shorter than other plagues because it spreads more quickly from person to person. This period is sometimes between 2 and 4 days, and sometimes it can show itself in 5 to 6 hours. It is a type of plague that causes death very quickly. If treatment is not started with early diagnosis, it kills the person within 1 week. The early diagnosis period can sometimes take longer because it is confused with normal respiratory tract diseases. However, the early diagnosis period should be 5 hours or less. If left untreated, death is inevitable and the death rate is approximately 100%.

#### 4.4 What are the Symptoms of Plague

The symptoms of the plague vary depending on where it settles in the body. Therefore, it is a topic related to the previously mentioned types of plague. Let's start with the Bubonic Plague. Some of the symptoms of bubonic plague are the same as most diseases. However, it also shows interesting symptoms specific to plague. First, the most common and understandable symptom is swelling of the lymph nodes. The lymph nodes swell and become painful. The swelling is usually seen as red or black under the skin. It occurs especially in areas such as the armpit, groin and neck. In addition, sudden onset fever and chills are also seen. Muscle pain, general feeling of illness, muscle pain are also among the symptoms. At the same time, severe headache and nausea accompanied by vomiting are also symptoms.



Septicemic plague, on the other hand, has symptoms similar to bubonic plague, but also has its own symptoms. Similar symptoms include sudden fever, headache, vomiting, and a general feeling of illness. Its own symptoms include diarrhea and abdominal pain. The most important part is the bleeding, especially in places like the nose and mouth, and the formation of blisters under the skin. At the same time, the fingertips, nose, or other body parts turn black, gangrene occurs, and fatal shocks are among the symptoms of this plague.

The symptoms of pneumonic plague are similar to those of airborne diseases, but are much more deadly. In addition to symptoms of other plagues such as sudden fever, chills, and vomiting, there is severe chest pain and shortness of breath. It also has symptoms such as frothy and bloody sputum and vomiting of blood. Early diagnosis is necessary because of rapidly progressing lung failure, weakness and abdominal pain caused by coughing.

#### 4.5 Quotes from Patients of the Plague

Everyone knows that the plague is a very deadly disease and one that causes great suffering to patients. Therefore, hearing about the plague from those who lived through it and from the people of that time will allow us to empathize and process the events in a more understandable way. Here are some examples of quotes from patients or people who lived in that time:

**"Each person thought only of themselves and tried to save their loved ones. Parents abandoned their children, and people avoided helping each other."**

- *Giovanni Boccaccio, Decameron*

**"When they grew tired of carrying so many corpses, the gravediggers would simply throw the bodies into a pit and cover them with dirt. Then they would return and fill the**

**pit again with more bodies."**

- *Giovanni Boccaccio, Decameron*

**"The streets of London echoed with cries every night: 'Bring out your dead!' People would secretly leave their dead in the streets under the cover of darkness and flee."**

- *Samuel Pepys' Diary, 1665 Great Plague of London*

**"Believing it to be God's wrath, people sought forgiveness for their sins by joining the Flagellants, groups who marched through cities, whipping themselves while praying."**

- \*Johannes Nohl, *The Black Death: A Chronicle of the Plague*

**"We stopped ringing the bells. When the bells tolled every hour announcing death, people had completely lost hope. Now, the silence weighs even heavier."**

- *A priest from Florence, 1348 Plague (recorded in chronicles)*

**"Our homes have become graveyards. Many shared the same room with the dead before succumbing themselves."**

- *Marchionne di Coppo Stefani, Cronaca Fiorentina (The Chronicle of Florence)*

**"No one mourned the dead, for the living were paralyzed by fear. There were no tears, no lamenting at funerals."**

- *Giovanni Boccaccio, Decameron*

**"Entire villages were wiped out. Survivors abandoned their lands; there were no farmers, no workers left. The fields were overrun with weeds."**

- *Jean de Venette, 14th-century French chronicler*

**"Doctors were helpless. No medicine, no herbs, no prayers were effective. We could only watch the disease unfold."**

- \*Marchionne di Coppo Stefani, *Cronaca Fiorentina*

**"A mother would bury her child without shedding a single tear. Love had vanished under the shadow of fear."**

- *An anonymous writer in the Florence Chronicles*

**"The streets were silent. People stopped leaving their homes. Markets and squares became ghostly empty."**

- \*Johannes Nohl, *The Black Death: A Chronicle of the Plague*

## **5.The Effect of the Plague on the People**

### **5.1 The Connection Between Religions and Plague**

Since the causes of the plague were not found for a long time, many religious influences came into play. People's evaluations of the plague, which almost destroyed most of humanity, pushed the problem to conclusions where religious influences were at the center, rather than finding medical solutions to the plague.

Of course, these events are even more complicated. People saw the plague as a divine punishment and, under pressure from the church, they participated more in religious ceremonies, prayers and rituals in order to be saved from this plague. In addition, with these events, "flagellant" groups and some religious movements, especially those with the aim of punishing themselves, spread rapidly. The flagellant groups mentioned punished themselves with whips and waited for their sins to be purified.

However, since the spread of the epidemic was not stopped by these religious factors, the authority of the church over Europe decreased to a significant level. This situation is one of the important factors that prepared the ground for the Reformation movements. At the same time, in the paragraph mentioned theories, minority communities such as the Jews were seen as responsible for the plague and lynched, and religious intolerance increased.

### **5.2 The Social Impact on the People**

The social impact of the plague was quite comprehensive and transformative on the people. It caused a complete rewriting of the Middle Ages. The most obvious effect of its social impact was the serious loss and change in the population. Almost all of the villages and cities were evacuated or abandoned. This caused great damage to the economy, trade and agriculture. The decrease in the number of people able to work allowed the surviving workers to demand higher wages and this balance of economic power accelerated the weakening of the feudal system. Landowners had difficulty in cultivating their lands as before due to the limited labor force and this situation made it necessary to offer better conditions in relations with the peasants or to free the serfs. As a result, the serfdom system began to weaken in many regions.

The plague epidemic also caused shocking changes in social hierarchies. The fact that people from all walks of life were affected equally raised doubts about the importance of concepts such as wealth or nobility. The economic empowerment of the survivors from the lower classes transformed perceptions of social status and increased class conflicts. During this period, migration from rural areas to cities accelerated; survivors began to move in search of more opportunities due to the abandoned or decreasing population. In addition, a period began in which solidarity between communities decreased and individualism came to the fore. People had to cut off their social ties to protect themselves from the disease, and this weakened the sense of social unity.

In addition, the plague outbreak led to increased unrest, accusations, and divisions in communities. Minority groups, especially Jews, were targeted as responsible for the outbreak and faced tragic events such as lynching or exile. This led to increased religious and ethnically based tensions. On the other hand, the ineffectiveness of official authorities and religious leaders during the outbreak has shaken the trust in central authorities in communities. But religious leaders have managed to keep this situation under control for now.

### **5.3 The Psychological Impact of Plague**

The psychological impact of the plague was at a very serious and deep level inside individuals and societies. The sudden, uncontrollable presence of death in life forced people to confront existential questions relating to the meaning of life and death. This ever-present confrontation with death engendered mass fears, anxiety, helplessness, loneliness, and feelings of guilt.

One of the major psychological impacts was the fear of sudden death. The sudden loss of loved ones, family, and neighbors contributed to emotional weakness among people and caused trauma within society. The inevitability of death and its unstoppable nature created a feeling of helpless surrender. This kind of fear expressed itself differently: some people turned to religion, praying for consolation and divine intervention, while others became withdrawn, isolating themselves from society.

Another effect is the increase in guilt. Some people see the plague as a punishment from God, thinking that all of the people are being punished for their actions. This has caused people to constantly question their own behavior, and many people to go mad. At the same time, people who cannot cope with the guilt of not being able to save the people they care about have attempted suicide, proving that the plague is not only physically harmful, but also psychologically harmful.

### **6. Delegates**

There are 8 countries in this committee and each country has 1 priest, 1 scientist and 1 neutral group member. Each delegate must prepare speeches that are appropriate to their country's policy and their role and act appropriately for their role. Below are the roles and names of each country's delegates. The delegates are completely fictional and are not taken from real life. They were designed for this committee. They are just inspired by real events. Neutral Group members' jobs are written in front of their names and they should prepare their speeches according to that job.

#### **1- Holy Roman Empire (HRE)**

The Holy Roman Empire was heavily affected by the plague because it was spread over many different parts of Europe. The plague spread widely in the Holy Roman Empire. Lords and emperors dealt with the plague in their own ways.

**Pope Aethelwulf:** He thinks that the plague is a punishment from God and that the black cats are responsible for the spread of the plague and need to kill them.

**Scientist Gerhard:** He argues that the plague was a highly contagious disease and that it was caused by scientific reasons.

**Farmer Aurora:** She does not want to turn a blind eye to the difficulties that farmers like himself experience and argues that a solution must be found immediately on behalf of the people.

## **2- Kingdom of France**

The plague hit cities and rural areas hard in France. Almost half of the population of France's major cities lost their lives.

**Bishop Pierre:** Bishop Pierre is the religious leader of the area in which he lives and the local authority of the Church. He supports people in proposing solutions in accordance with God's teachings.

**Nurse Jean:** Nurse Jean is a healthcare professional who works as an assistant in a doctor's clinic during the Black Death, and she tries to raise awareness of the plague.

**Villager Jacques:** Jacques, who lives in a village in one of the major cities of France, lost his entire family to the plague. He wants his village, which is in decline, to recover and his collapsed psychology to recover.

## **3- Kingdom of England**

The Black Death reached England in 1348. The death rates were very high in the cities and also increasing in the rural areas. With the lack of labor, agriculture and the economy in England also suffered.

**Bishop Thomas:** Bishop Thomas is the religious leader of the area in which he lives and the local authority of the Church. He is defending that the plague is a punishment for people from God because of their bad behavior.

**Doctor Roger:** He is a doctor who has his own office. He always puts a bird mask on his face and thinks that plague is not a punishment from God. For him plague is a scientific result.

**Villager Olivia:** She is a mother who lost her child during the plague and she needs help with her psychology. She wants a solution to be found for her treatment.

## **4- Byzantine Empire**

The Byzantine Empire felt the effects of the plague earlier than other European countries. The epidemic had a devastating effect, especially in important cities such as Constantinople. The weak military structure and economy also began to collapse.

**Pope Alexios:** Although the Byzantine Empire was affiliated with the Orthodox Church, it was decided to cooperate with the Catholics to prevent the spread of the plague. Pope Alexios thinks that plague comes from Jewish people and they have to kill them.

**Nurse Anastasia:** Nurse Anastasia is a healthcare professional who works as an assistant in a doctor's clinic during the Black Death. She works for the people who are sick and poor.

**Trader Maria:** She attended this meeting in order to fix the economy of Byzantium, which had collapsed due to the plague.

### **5- Republic of Venice**

Venice was hit particularly hard by the plague because it was an important trade center. The plague, which was carried to Venice by ships, paralyzed many ports, and the loss of population caused significant disruptions to trade.

**Sister Isabella:** Sister Isabella has the right to speak on this committee with the special permission of the Pope of Venice and has the authority to speak on his behalf. She also thinks that the Plague was caused by religious reasons.

**Doctor Giovanni:** He is a Doctor in the Republic of Venice and thinks that every person should stay at home because the spread of plague is a serious scientific problem.

**Trader Antonio:** When trade in the ports collapsed due to the plague, he wanted to take a hand in this business. His income was ruined and he was in financial trouble.

### **6- Kingdom of Castile**

Castile was among the most deadly plagues in the Iberian Peninsula. Mortality rates were high in the cities and the rural areas were severely damaged, leading to increased social unrest and a decline in agriculture.

**Pope Joan:** He is a pope in the Kingdom of Castile and a respectable pope. He thinks that everyone should pray for their well-being. According to him, since Jewish people are the cause of the plague, he sees them as an inferior group.

**Nurse Elena:** Nurse Elena is a healthcare professional who works as an assistant in a doctor's clinic during the Black Death. She helps the old people for their health and wellbeing.

**Farmer Maya:** She is a farmer who is upset about the high death rates and tries to grow healthy food. She tries to prevent the plague from infecting them by staying away from her family.

### **7- Kingdom of Aragon**

In the Kingdom of Aragon, port cities were severely affected by the plague. High population losses in port cities caused trade to suffer. Mediterranean trade was disrupted. Social and economic instability increased.

**Sister Cristina:** Sister Cristina has the right to speak on this committee with the special permission of the Pope of Aragon. She thinks that the plague can be defeated by praying.

**Scientist Luis:** He tries to raise public awareness for plague and plagues spread. He thinks that everyone should be in their home in order to prevent the plague from spreading.

**Trader Zoya:** Trader Zoya is a trader in the Kingdom of Aragon. She tries to develop Mediterranean trade for her country.

### 8- Kingdom of Norway

The Black Death reached Norway by sea. One third of the population in Norway was wiped out. Many villages were abandoned due to the loss of population. Fishing and agricultural activities in rural areas decreased.

**Pope Olaf:** He is a Pope in the Kingdom of Norway and a very well-known pope in his country. Thinks that people should pray for the plague and it is a god's wrath.

**Nurse Nora:** She tries to raise public awareness about health and medicine and argues that the plague is related to science.

**Farmer Anders:** He is a farmer who wants an immediate solution to the disappearing agricultural lands in his country and who can do anything for his state.



1346 1347 1348 1349 1350 1351 1352 1353

--- Approximate border between the Principality of Kiev and the Golden Horde - passage prohibited for Christians.

Land trade routes

Maritime trade routes



## 7. Problems To Be Solved

The plague epidemic has shaken people's psychological and social solidarity feelings. This situation has a negative effect on the people. For this reason,

**1) In order to keep the morale and mental health of the people high, methods that can be applied in plague conditions must be found.**

The plague not only affects human life but also the economy. Especially due to agriculture and trade, farmers, merchants and tradesmen could not continue their work due to the plague. As a result, both social hunger and order problems can occur. Therefore,

**2) In order to ensure the continuity of agriculture and trade, solutions must be found on behalf of society.**

During the plague period, people were both afraid and unwilling to communicate with each other. This caused people to have difficulty speaking. Because of that,

**3) A solution must be found to improve people's communication with each other.**

In the 14th century, people had very limited access to technology. Therefore, medical practices were based on the works of ancient writers such as Galen and Hippocrates. For example, doctors wore masks similar to bird masks to prevent the spread of the disease and their own infection. Therefore,

**4) Technological and sociological developments should be suggested to increase the resistance of society to the epidemic.**

During the plague period, many schools and places of learning were closed. Since technology was not as advanced as it is today, the education and learning of children and other people stopped. Therefore,

**5) A system must be found where the education of young people and children can continue.**

Superstitions had a huge impact during the Black Death. Some communities blamed certain groups (people they called witches or Jews) while others blamed animals like black cats.

Superstitions are spiritual things that religious people believe in a lot. So, in this case,

**6) A conclusion should be drawn and a solution should be found regarding superstitions.**

There is great uncertainty and disagreement about treating plague patients. While scientists advocate quarantining patients and applying certain medical methods, some religious scholars believe that the disease is a divine test and that healing should be achieved through spiritual purification. Among the people, there are those who trust both traditional healers and the church. So,

**7) Conclude what treatment process should be applied to an individual who has contracted plague.**

The rapid spread of the plague across Europe affected not only individuals but also state armies. The plague reduced the fighting capacity of the people in the army and also eliminated their motivation. Will countries be defenseless in this process? Therefore, **8) Countries need to find a solution to protect their military armies.**

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