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| Causes | * Plague bacteria that caused infection throughout the body
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| Transmission | * Transported from Asia on trade ships
* Fleas on the back of rats on ships carried the bacteria
* The plague moved quickly through crowded, unsanitary cities
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| Effects | * Massive numbers of Death
* People who could afford to move away from cities moved
* Jews were blamed and persecuted
* People became desperate, turning to things such as prayer, fire, bleeding, and flagellants
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| Social Impact | * Significant decline in the population of Europe
* Children became orphaned
* Sinful behavior and crime increased
* Feudal system of society changed allowing peasants to increase their social status in medieval society
* Rise of the Renaissance which allowed people to question everything and no longer accept their place in life according to birth status.
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| Political Impact | * Many local leaders would have died
* Increased political and social unrest (the peasant revolts)
* Decline in the power in the authority of the Catholic Church (people began to doubt the church)
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| Economic Impact | * Decline in trade because of fear of the plague
* Rise in wages because of a severe shortage of workers to the job of many
* Rise in the cost of goods and services
* Rise in the standard of living for ordinary people (the peasants could demand higher wages now and could afford to buy their own land and no longer have to be stuck working someone else’s land)
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