

## Lecture 22: *The Calamities of the Fourteenth Century*

### *I. The Four Horsemen: Changed Landscape of the 14th Century*

- A. The Great Famine – *Magna Fames*, 1315-1322
- B. The Hundred Years' War, 1337-1453
- C. Peasant Rebellions

### *II. The Black Death – the Fourth Horseman*

- A. Trade Networks and the Spread of Disease
- B. The Disease (*Yersinia Pestis*) and its Biology
- C. Responses to the Plague

### *III. The Plague Cycle and Its Consequences*

- Black Death (as pandemic), 1347-1351
- Plague Cycle continues through the mid- 17th Century
- Demography and Mental Shift:
  - \*\* signals break between medieval and early modern (Renaissance and Tudor England) civilizations

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### *The Four Horsemen: Changed Landscape of the 14th Century*

The Great Famine – *Magna Fames*, 1315-1322 = 14 continuous bad harvests

- Rainy winters, summers of drought
- Great Murrain = the great dying of animals among herds and flocks
- Northern Europe 1/10 of population dies of starvation

The Hundred Years' War, 1337-1453

-- began as succession dispute between France and England for who would control the French throne

Peasant Rebellions

- Flanders: Peasant Revolt of 1323-28
- Jacquerie in Paris, 1358
- English Peasants' Revolt, 1381

Black Death = the Bubonic Plague

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### *The Black Death – the Fourth Horseman*

Trade Networks and the Spread of Disease

-- trade from the east, through Black Sea ports to Genoa (Italy) into the west beginning 1347.

The Disease (*Yersinia Pestis*) and its Biology

- **Bubonic** (buboes – swellings) Plague, also **pneumonic** (lungs, airborne) and **septicemic** (blood) forms

Responses to the Plague

- Considered to be Divine Wrath
- Search for scapegoats: persecutions of Jews and Lepers
- Fear and Penitence: The Flagellant Movement

**\*\*Plague Cycle** = decades of devastation upon the populations of Europe. Begins 1347-1351 and continues until 1600s.