

1031.

Charles Dickens once stated, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. The conditions from this quote easily describes Europe's peasant population in the time during and after the plague.

① The ~~bad~~ times start with a reduction in the food supply. It was estimated that a typical family in England needed 10-15 acres of arable land to have adequate food supply. In most families were living on far less than ten acres.

This was caused by a w/out population. With the farming and grazing techniques the land could not supply

more people. Around that time the climate started to become cooler. This led to the food shortage by making a growing season. Drift ice in the Atlantic made sea trade, and fishing difficult. Conditions became so bad, just before the plague hit, in England ~~there were~~ there were a different claims and record of cannibalism.

When the plague arrived the European population was already in a weakened state. The plague originated in the Gobi desert and came to Europe on a landing in Sicily. When the ship arrived in the Sicily

most of the sailors were
and close to death. The
rats, fleas and germs to
the sailors all made it
the mainland. This was
October of 1347 and
the end of the year the
/ plague had ravaged
all of Italy. It reached
England in early 1348
and had devastating effects
/ there as it did in mainland
Europe. The plague killed
/ 30-40% of the European
In addition to the plague
is believed that anthrax
/ the cattle population for
many lives in rural England.
This hypothesis is thrown
around because many

"plague victims" did not show the telltale signs of the plague like swelling or color change.

Other outbreaks followed major cities in 1361, 1368, etc. The disease spread fast in cities for many reasons. The crowded conditions, lack of sewage system, and the dead were left in the street. In many cities the dead the living were of the population because the plague often claimed 50% of a town's population.

It also had a great effect on the church as well. Many villages were totally abandoned. The village

✓ priest would usually die from the plague since he was usually around most of the dead. It is estimated that half of the English clergy died from the plague. It took ~~20~~ around 20 years for England's population to return to its pre-highs. It probably took Europe a similar amount of time to recover from the devastating effects.

While the plague is often called the bubonic plague, that is not what usually claimed people's lives. The Bubonic strain caused swelling in the groin or armpit. It also caused

nice
purple patches to develop on
victim's skin. The Pneumonic
caused the most deaths.
often turned blue and
blood during their final
which caused the disease
go airborne. The septemic
was rare but it was
by a direct flea bite
three were deadly.

The science of medicine
was very poor at that
One of the leading medical
universities in Paris blamed
Plague on the alignment of
Saturn, Jupiter and Mars in the
sign of aquarius. At the
university used astrology to
the cause of the plague.
The plague finally

subsided due to many reasons. Homes became more sanitation less permeable to disease in
/ they were made of brick
wood. Quarantine regulations
/ were often imposed but
enforced, when the plague
to subside those who
under quarantine stayed in
Quarantine, ~~with~~ the
/ rats that carried the disease
were replaced by brown
as the dominant species,
unknown to society at the
/ people began to build an
immunity. Though rice germinated
The plague cut down
the supply of food and
the cost of farm produce
/ skyrocketed and wages of

in a 10 year period, Lord
/ forced to give tenants better
rent to keep them on
fields, Landless men were
to accept work offered
/ This was in a decree by
government that also set
prices and wages. In
/ the law had little effect
anything.

excellent
detail

The plague caused a
/ from a barter to coin
system of exchange. The
system changed from barter
/ to an owner/renter system
is still in place today. The
carts took the place of ox
/ carts and horses began
be used. These technological
/ gains let peasants sell

surplus of the market.
/ they could begin to earn money. The increased pay left some peasants enter free middle class. Lords were forced to eliminate manorial obligation and to pay their field workers. / Also rented their demesne or their own property to peasants.

Some lords tried to force peasants to accept their previous role but it led to a revolt in 1381. The crop rotation led to diversity and made a profit from more crops. Grazing was just farming come into the plague survivors.

had a better everything
diet, clothing, homes, food
and work had were a
better after the plague
didn't have to perform
services. A man of a
class could buy land &
pass it on to his son
his son could call it
own. It was a perpe-
lease

One of the
very few to
include comments
about E. Europe

Eastern Europe did not
experience the same rapid
conditions as Western Europe
did. They were not hit
hard by the plague so
peasants had less leverage
against their lords. The
east sold their grain to
west so they still

a food shortage, The
gave out government jobs
return for more political
power.

In the west the
of labor went almost
to everyone had a job,
women. The standard of
went up when more
luxury goods were available.
The people could also
jobs. They were not
into one social structure
their entire life.

The life of the
was no longer as good
The increased labor was
not offset by increased
The land dropped in value
Their power over their

and it's workers was
less. Not only that but
/ plague claimed nobles and
nobles, so while the life
far better for peasants &
townspeople, nobles did
have the pit of having
the same degree as the
did before the plague. 1-

Superior