

The Causes and Effects of the Black Death in Europe

I. Causes of the Black Death

- a. The Crusades sparked trade and a merchant middle class begins trading goods between the Middle East and Europe
- b. Bubonic plague was carried by fleas and rats in ships and cargo on trade routes
- c. Spread from Asia to the Middle East and then to Europe

2. II. Europe's reaction to the Plague

- a. People turned to magic and witchcraft to explain the plague
- b. People fled cities or hid in their homes
- c. Christians blamed the Jews

3. III. Effects of the Black Death

- a. 1/3 of Europe's population died
- b. Food production declined
- c. Inflation
- d. Peasant revolts were common