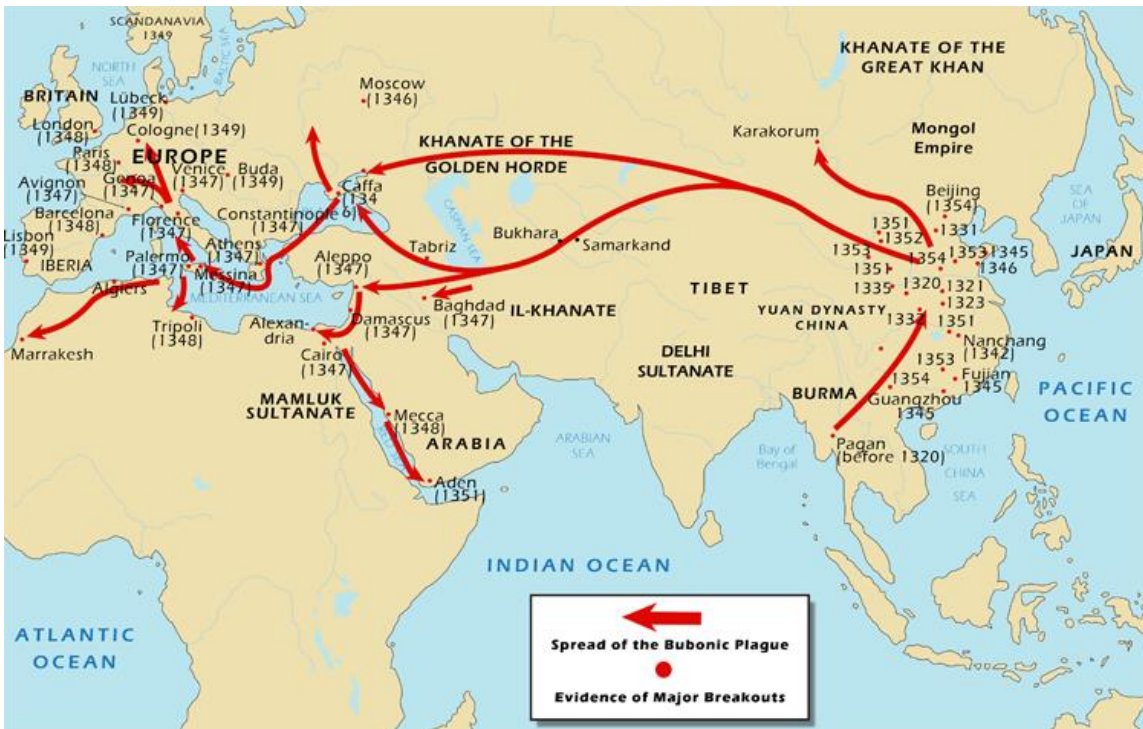


Map of medieval trade routes through the Middle East



Map of the spread of the Black Death (most serious outbreak – 14th century)

Questions on “Contagion, Quarantines, and Cures

Act 1:

1. Compare the two maps. Is there a correlation between trade and the spread of disease? Why do you think this is true?

2. What did people know about the plague in late medieval and early modern times? What DIDN'T they know?

3. Why would the Ottomans (and other governments of that time) consider the plague to be a “political” problem? Why do you think it is a matter of controlling the population?

4. Why would the Ottomans (and other people) consider it a “religious” problem?

5. Why would the Ottomans have included a Christian leader in their discussion?

6. What did the Ottomans know about medicine?

7. Who was Sabuncuoğlu, and why was his work important?

8. What role could women play in medicine?

Act 2:

1. What did the Ottomans discover (by the 18th century) that prevented smallpox?
2. How did they do “ingrafting,” and what was the effect?
3. How was the Ottoman method of preventing smallpox different from a vaccine (developed later)?
4. What are the 3 types of medical care that Midhat describes?
5. Why did the Ottomans put hospitals in the middle of the city? What advantages (and problems) could this cause?
6. How was music therapy used in Ottoman hospitals?
7. What other methods did Ottomans use to treat patients?
8. Who received medical care, and where/how did they receive it?
9. How was medical care in the Ottoman Empire different from that in the West at the same time? What did the Ottomans know that Europeans didn't and vice versa?

Act 3:

1. What were International Sanitary Conferences, and why were they held?
2. Why did the Ottomans dislike the conferences?
3. What diseases were endemic in the Ottoman Empire, and which ones weren't? Why?
4. What methods did the Ottomans use by the late 19th century to try to control the spread of disease?
5. What were some factors that caused cholera to spread from one place to another in the Ottoman Empire?

Questions for Thought – Choose one of these questions and write a one-paragraph essay response on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How did Ottoman efforts to control disease change over the course of the centuries? What factors led to these changes?
2. By the end of the Ottoman Empire, public health had changed from an internal concern of the empire to an international problem. Why did that change occur, and in what ways is that increasingly true in more modern times?