

MMW 13, Lecture 10



Today's lecture

*Afro-Eurasia and
Americas: Expanding Horizons of
Cross-Cultural Interaction (The
Case of Hemispheric Pandemics)
Traditions & Encounters, pp. 435-
458.*

Kevin Reilly, *Worlds of History*, vol.
1. pp.447-481.

Midterm

Tuesday MAY 6

Guideline

In class examination:

I. Structure:

- 1. 20 Multiple choice questions
(3 points each) [60]

-
- 2. Essay: you will choose 4 out of 10 questions
(10 points each) [40]
 -

II. Key concepts

For example:

- “Southernization”
- “Scholasticism” & “University”
- “kinship system”
- “Significance of Mongols for Eurasian Integration”
- “Song modernity”
- “Courtly love”
- “Black Death”
- “European banking system in Medieval period”
- “decay theory”

III. Names

- For example
- Itutmish (1211-1236)
 - Marco Polo
 - Thomas Aquinas
 - Osman I

Karakorum

IV. Dates

- For example
 - 1279 Song defeated by the Mongols
 - 1258?
 - 1453
 - Fall of Hangzhou by Mongols

Will NOT be included in the midterm

The Americas and Oceania

1) *Traditions & Encounters*, pp. 415-433.

Will not be included

- *Early Modern Interconnected Global* (1500-1800 C.E.)

Traditions & Encounters, pp. 462-491.

Kevin Reilly, *Worlds of History*, **vol.2**, Ma Huan, "On Calicut, India, 1433," pp. 573-580; "Journal of the First Voyage of Vasco da Gama, 1498," pp. 580-588.

- <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/1421-the-year-china-discovered-america/>

1403-1433



- Zheng He

1. Sino-Arab trade (14th century) and Chinese control over the Indian Ocean basin

2. Rise of “universal maps”:
“To proceed all the way to the end of the earth to collect tribute from the barbarians beyond the seas”





Maps

- Muhammad al-Idrisi (1154)



Nicolas de Fer (1698)



Long-distance travel and trade

- By 1000 an expansive maritime trade, partly due to improved naval technology (Eastern Hemisphere), and economic developments (urbanization)
- Indian Ocean basin became the heart of the maritime trade network
- Network knowledge of map making

Spices



Mapping and Imagining the world



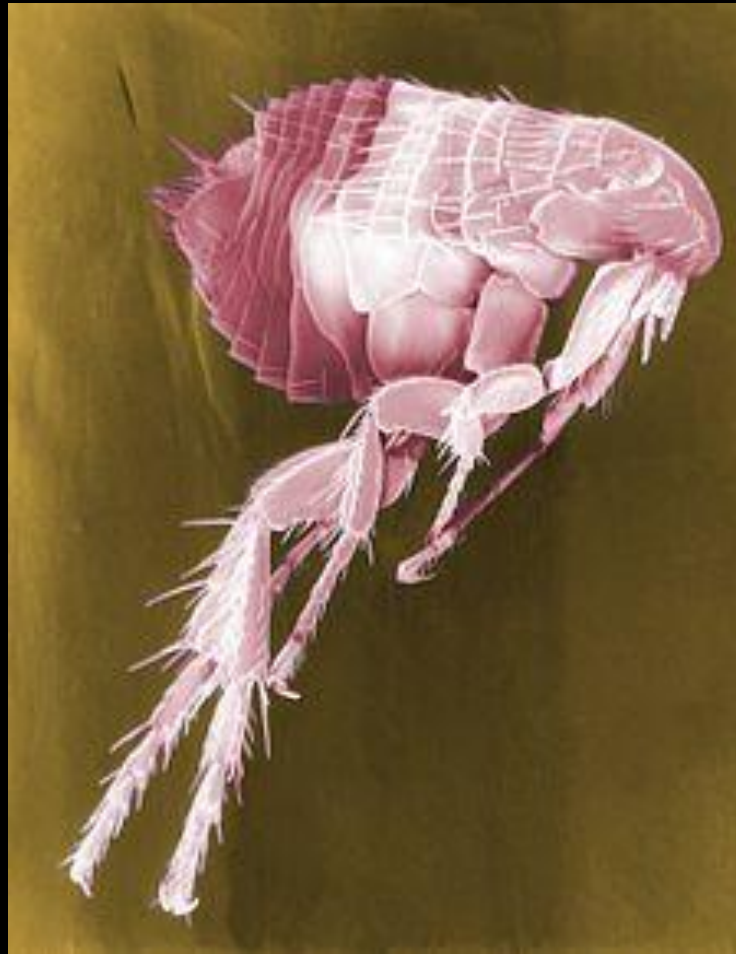


What also travelled was

- Epidemic of bubonic plague
bacterium *Yersinia pestis*
“Bubonic”: groin
Enlarged lymphatic glands



Flees



Rodents



Circulated among



Pandemic

- Epidemic of infectious disease
- 1300 climate change

Wet: therefore an increase of fleas and rats.

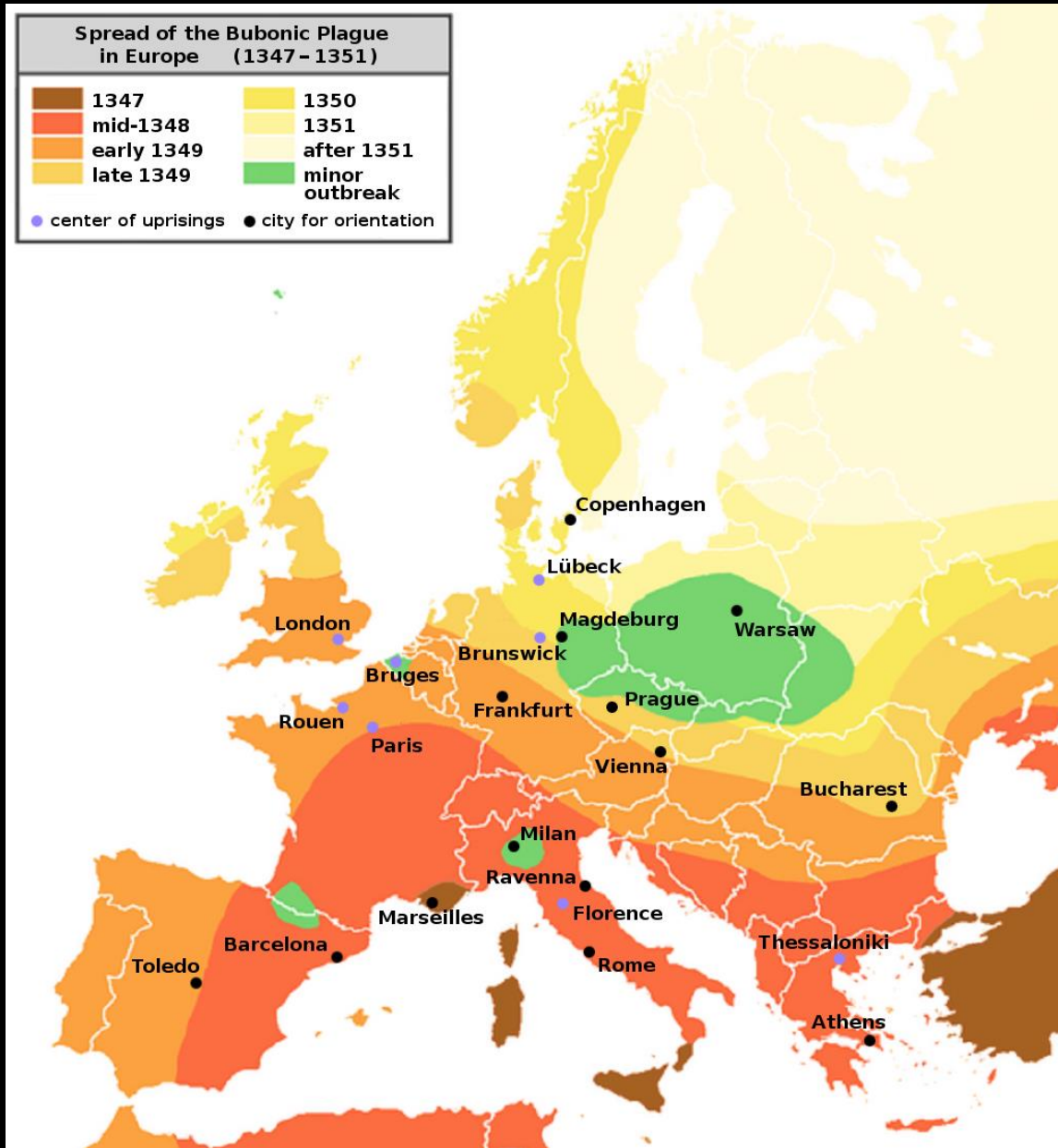


Spread and Impact

- Mongol military campaigns; silk road; trade.
- 1330s plague erupted in southwestern China, Yunnan region.
- 1331: 90% of the population in northeastern China is killed off.
- 1340s spread to Central Asia, Crimea and later western Europe (1348).



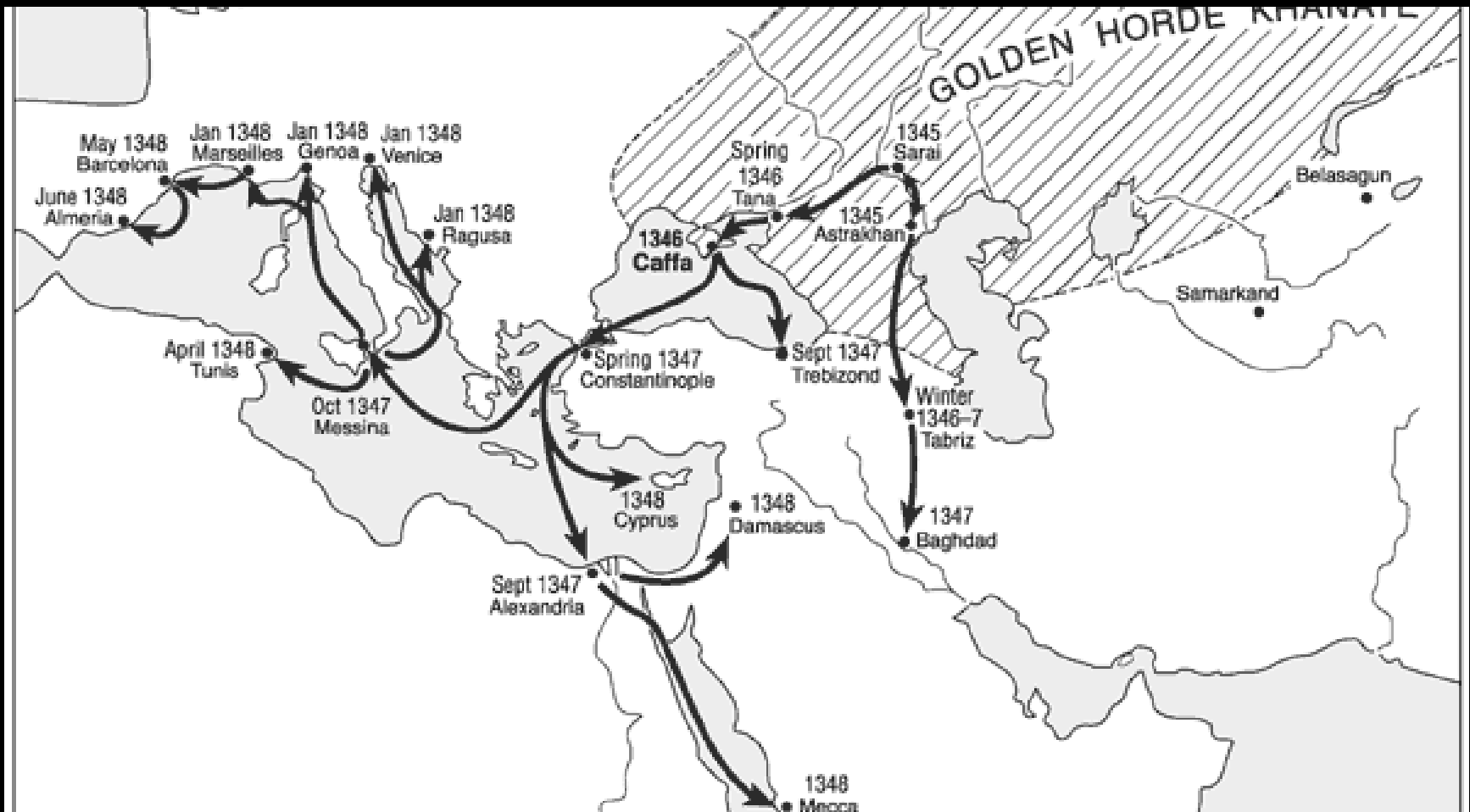
Spread of the Bubonic Plague
in Europe (1347-1351)



Greenland



Caffa, Genoese trading colony (1346)



Caffa (1346)

- catapulted the infected corpses over the city wall

First germ
Biological
warfare



Messina, Sicily



“Black Death”

1346-

53



Francesco Petrararch (1304-1374)

- “Incredulous, unable to imagine the empty houses, abandoned towns, the squalid countryside, the fields littered with dead, the dreadful silent solitude which seemed to hang over the whole world. Physicians were useless, philosophers could only shrug their shoulders and look wise.”



1411



Streets



Florence

Piazza Signoria





Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375)

- “where an issue of blood from the nose was a manifest sign of inevitable death; but in men and women alike it first betrayed itself by the emergence of certain tumors in the groin or the armpits, some of which grew as large as a common apple, others as an egg, some more, some less..

Black Death Consequences

- 1) Disrupted the complex system of transregional trade and interaction that had expanded in the 13th and 14th centuries.
- 2) Agricultural and industrial production declined
- 3) Population decline, but quick recovery
- 4) Economic, Cultural, religious

Economy:

Land and Cities

- Eastern Europe: serfdom expanded, peasants became more dependent on the land because of stringency of laws
- Western Europe: Cities abandoned, more movement among people between lands
- Decline of land led to more fertile lands to be available
- While shortage of labor led to higher demand for labor and more competition among landowners to find workers
- Gave more opportunities for peasants to work on different lands, huge loss to feudalism

More rebellions against landowners for more rights

Example: 1358 Peasantry rebellion in northern France

1381 English peasant rebellions

Death personified

- New attitude toward death:
- mortality is ever present
- Death unifies us all
- *Danse Macabre* 1493



Plague doctor costume



Apocalypse



Flagellants





Hedonism



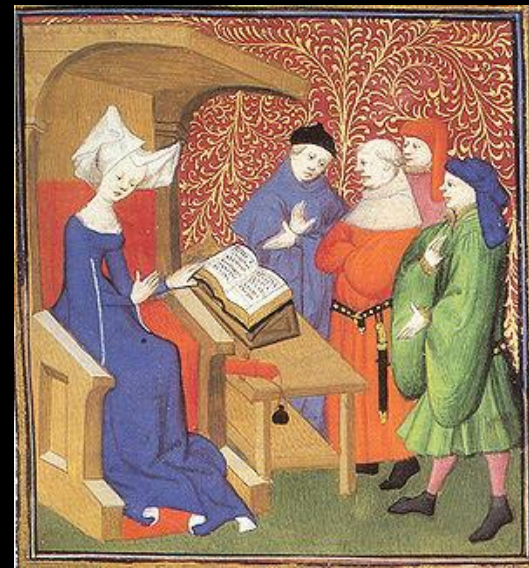
Sedlec Ossuary





Folk culture and vernacular

- Upsurge of folk literature that reflected the growing influence of popular culture
- Women benefited
- Christine de Pizan (1364-1430) first female author to support herself through writing



Modern times: Death is sanitized



Not in Scandinavia, India and Sub-Saharan Africa

□ Why?

- 1) Patterns of migration, trade, travel.
- 2) Interaction between humans and animals.
- 3) Climate factors.

The Little Ice Age: 1000-1300

- Temperatures became much cooler
- Impact on agricultural production.
- Example: changes in migration: Norse settlers abandoned their colonies in Greenland.