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The COVID-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic is a deadly pandemic which in the matter of a short period of time has affected everyone in the world in some form or another. This pandemic is unlike any recorded throughout the history of our world as for the first ever a pandemic has been able to reach all the earth, if not most. Living in the modern day and age has had many luxuries and benefits for us humans as we've been able to interconnect different regions of the world through Planes, cars, globalization, and more.... This interconnectivity of the world has led to many advancements and before this pandemic, no one believed that anything could affect all the inhabitants of the world all at once. However, the many technological advancements we've made and dealt with for thousands of years have come to be little or no use when facing something as small as an airborne water droplet that could infect, kill, and affect every person in the world economically.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted me and my family in great lengths and has turned our lives upside down. Being a senior in my last year at UCLA I've found my last quarter to be my hardest quarter at UCLA. Not only do I still have to continue being a full-time student at

home but I now have the added problems and worries of home combined and interconnected with my studies.

One struggle I've largely had during this pandemic is managing my time. When having classes pushed online one of the first conclusions many have is that classes online would be much easier than the traditional classroom environment. This however, has proven to be completely false for me as before the pandemic I was a student that lived at home that would separate school and work. Prior to the pandemic I would go to my classes at UCLA, and would then go to the library to finish all my assignments. I would never really do any homework at home because of the multitude of things going on at home that were distractions. This pandemic, however, has intertwined my study environment and my home environment making things very complicated. Before I wouldn't study at home because of noise, distractions, and more.... Now, however, I struggle to find a quiet place in my tiny two bedroom apartment while having to deal with my mom, dad, brother, and Grandpa who came to the United States to visit the day before all flights were internationally barred from entering the United States.

Living with my Grandpa has also been very challenging when dealing with the pandemic as due to the current economic setting both my parents have become unemployed due to the shutdown of all businesses except essential business. This has led to many financial uncertainties for my family and has even led me to start working as a Postmates driver to be able to help pay some of the bills for my family. Living with my 92-year-old grandpa who came from Iran to visit right before Covid-19 reached the U.S has complicated many things as whenever I leave to work there's the constant thought in the back of my head if I'm going to

bring the Virus home. I'm most worried for my grandpa at this time, as because of his old age he's the most vulnerable. Every time I come home after a long day at work I have to be cautious by leaving my shoes outside, putting all my clothes in a bag to be washed, and taking a shower immediately upon coming home. Living in the same home as someone who is very at risk has been very stressful and challenging.

Balancing my school work and new Postmates job has been very complicated as well as many times during peak work hours I have class and I'm unable to work. Sometimes I have to make the hard decision if it's wiser to attend my class or help provide for my family. Many UCLA professors have been very accommodating to this by offering recorded lectures rather than live lectures which make it hard for me and many others to be online at a specific time. I am very thankful for having the privilege of attending UCLA as professors have been very accommodating to my situation and are able to work with me

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only affected me economically but also millions of people around the world as well. The world economy has taken a great hit due to this pandemic as many businesses and people are out of work. Many people can't pay bills at the moment which is going to likely going to lead to a rescission, more job losses, home losses, and a multitude of other economic factors. Comparing COVID-19 to the Bubonic plague which ravaged Europe between 1347 to 1351, both pandemics, although about 700 years apart, seem to have the same similar impacts. According to Teofilo Ruiz in *Spain's Centuries of Crisis* the Bubonic plague of Europe led to "Material transactions – selling and buying of lands, land leases, and other economic exchanges – (to) declined precipitously. The few such transactions

extant for the period point to a world in which, at least in some localities, it was hard to find labor” (46). Here Ruiz is stating that the Bubonic plague led to the decline of economic transitions and to the increase in unemployment. This is very relatable to the Covid-19 situation that’s been going on for the past few months as in these months everything has been closed ranging from department stores, bars, schools and more. Having these things closed has put a halt or diminished the profits of many commerce industries other than essential businesses such as grocery stores and restaurants. By not having businesses open just as during the Bubonic plague, it has become very hard for people to find “labor”. Many people during the Covid-19 pandemic are currently unemployed, and as Ruiz stated above about jobs that survived the bubonic plague, jobs that survive the Covid-19 Pandemic are going to be very scarce to the ample amount of people who are going to be looking for work or “labor” after being unemployed due to that pandemic. As a senior this issue really gives me an unsettling feeling as I know when I graduate next month it’s going to be very hard to find any type of job even with a College degree. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic I had plans to get a job with my degree and see how it went from there. Now however due to the pandemic, I’m considering furthering my studies and applying to a graduate program as because of the huge amount of uncertainty in the job market I don’t think I’ll be able to find a job with my degree.

The homeless population is also a serious issue when analyzing the current pandemic. When driving near the Veterans Hospital near UCLA or rather any street in Los Angeles, with the lack of people outside, it’s clear to see the vast homelessness problem Los Angeles faces as homeless people are the only ones left out in the streets. It’s clear that the homeless are the

most vulnerable as they don't have a home to sleep in, money to buy food, and healthcare. The other day while driving I saw a homeless encampment in which medics and cops had closed off due to a homeless man that had passed away from COVID-19. This homeless situation reminded me greatly of the Native Americans who were affected by the plague of smallpox brought to the Americas by the European conquistadors. According to the *The Siege of Tenochtitlan*, referring to the native Americans, "A great many died from this plague, and many others died of hunger. They could not get up to search for food, and everyone else was too sick to care for them, so they starved to death in their beds" (93). The situation of the Native Americans here is greatly relatable to the homeless people sleeping under freeways today. In *The Siege of Tenochtitlan* it states a vast majority of people died due to the plague, but also a vast majority died of hunger. This is relatable to the homeless population dying today as due to Covid-19 people have become more distant to homeless people and less reluctant to help them in fears of catching the virus. Because of this, the many homeless people who are already vulnerable to the virus are struggling more than before the virus as now they face the battle of catching the virus and trying to keep themselves fed as well. In my opinion government officials are not providing the homeless population with the support they need which has led to many of them dying from the sickness and hunger due to the lack of attention they receive just as the natives of Tenochtitlan.

Overall this Pandemic has shaken up our world in lengths it hasn't been shaken up before. It's affected everyone differently whether someone lost their job, home, a loved one, or has been infected by the virus. The uniqueness of this virus is unlike any other as it affects the

whole world as one, unlike former pandemics such as the European bubonic plague that affected only a certain regions of the world. In our modern times Pandemics such as Covid-19 and future ones to come will not infect only certain regions but rather the whole world as a whole. This is due to the fact of how interconnected we are with different parts of the world and can hop on a plane to anywhere in the world in hours. The luxuries of our technologies and globalization have enabled a Virus located over 6,000 miles away in Wuhan, China to rapidly take over the world. Covid-19 is just as the Europeans bringing small pox from Europe to Tenochtitlan, except on a much larger scale as back then the innovative ships brought smallpox to the Americas, and now the innovative planes, cargo ships, and concept of globalization have brought Covid-19 to all around the world.

Bibliography:

Ruiz, Teofilo F. *Spain's Centuries of Crisis: 1300-1474*. Vol. 13. John Wiley & Sons, 2011.

Siege of Tenochtitlan CH.11