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1918 Pandemic Revisited Podcast Paper

The host did not have an argument the podcast was just informational. This podcast was about the Flu Pandemic of 1918¹. This Pandemic can, in a lot of ways, relate to the current pandemic². The Flu Pandemic of 1918 is like our pandemic in many ways. Like our pandemic, people back in 1918 were also panicking when the Flu started infecting people, there were shortages, and scientists were trying to produce a vaccine.

When people started getting infected by the Flu people started to panic. It was estimated that around 50 million people died from it. However, after this pandemic happened people started to become more immune to the flu. In 1957, 1968, and 2009 a total of 3 million people died from the flu which is a lot better compared to the one pandemic in 1918 that killed more than 16 times more than those three pandemics. The government responded to the high mortality rate of this virus was to limit large gatherings and prohibited unnecessary meetings. They would prohibit these gatherings until a vaccine had been developed.

¹ Also known as the Spanish Flu

² Corona Virus 2019 Pandemic that started in China.

When the flu pandemic hit people were planning on trying to hunker down in their homes. So, to prepare for that they had to buy a lot of supplies, this caused many shortages on certain products and people. There was a massive shortage on the number of professional nurses during the pandemic, hospitals were being overrun by sick patients and there were not enough nurses to take care of all of them. There were not enough nurses to take care of all the patients because a lot of the nurses were deployed to military camps in the United States and other locations like Europe because the flu broke out toward the end of World War 1³. Their failure to use trained African American nurses also contributed to the shortage. During the Spanish Flu pandemic people stocked up on items like flour and sugar, however fresh vegetables and other produce did not change much, due to the large local food production.

Just like modern day, once the flu started infecting people, scientists immediately began to make a vaccine to counter the deadly virus. This virus killed more soldiers fighting in the war than by enemy fire during World War 1. The vaccine was finally developed in 1942 and soldiers fighting in World War 2⁴ received the vaccine. Since the vaccine for influenza was developed the virus had become far less deadly than before because people finally had built immunity to it. Though the Spanish Flu had finally stopped running rampant through many communities, it became weaker because it was believed that the virus mutated and became less deadly. It was still a threat but kill far less people than it did before.

³ WW1 Started in 1914 and ended in 1918.

⁴ WW2 Started in 1939 and ended in 1945.

In conclusion the Flu Pandemic of 1918 was devastating, it caused many catastrophic issues like, people panicking because it was killing millions of people, there were several cases of shortages ranging from nurses to spices. But eventually there was a vaccine produced for the horrible virus. This podcast contained a lot of information, I learned that the virus killed 50 million people and vaccines took way longer to develop back then. I did miss this in all my history classes, I do not recall learning much about the Spanish Flu. I think this topic should get more attention; I think it would make people appreciate our modern technology a little bit more because we produced a Corona Virus vaccine in about a year which is extremely impressive. I enjoyed learning history this way, because I drive a lot and it is full of information and it keeps me entertained while I am driving. I would listen to this podcast more, but I really enjoy Joe Rogan's podcast a lot more, its not as educating as this podcast is but it is very entertaining.