

In its earliest stage, the Spanish Flu was not well understood and no country wanted to appear as if something was sabotaging the war effort. As a result, countries fighting in WW1 initially enforced strict wartime censorship of the Spanish Flu. Neutral countries like Spain however, did not have this concern and reported on the epidemic. This media coverage is where the disease gets its name from.

This is important to understand because initially hiding this disease to appear strong meant that the proper attention and resources weren't devoted to treating those affected with the disease. It seems like the major powers wanted to fight the war before they faced an epidemic, but by doing so only exacerbated the spread of the epidemic. As the Spanish Flu refused to be easily swept under the rug, countries were forced to allocate resources to both the war and this epidemic, which did bring about good in the form of a department of health, but the delayed response caused more harm than good. Posters at the time did not