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Influenza DBQ

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Following the First World War, the world was in shambles because a lot of effort was put into the war. A lot of nations were affected negatively and were not in a good financial situation. Many nations could not support the people during the pandemic. The influenza pandemic would claim millions of lives and had spread to more than a fifth of the entire world. Many people had died due to the war, but there were so many more deaths caused by the pandemic. There was not enough medical support around the world. The condition the world was in after the war was an excellent hotbed for a disease to spread. During the war, many trenches and areas in the battle were affected by the disease, and men who were so close to each other, living in close quarters, had increased the rate of the spread. Men who survived the war and went back home brought the disease with them, spreading it around to others. The disease wasn’t known publicly, so when the media talked about the disease, it was already too late. In addition, due to the economic pressures going on after the war, states were not able to help much and had restricted feedback to the pandemic.

In the early twentieth century, influenza had spread very quickly globally. In many areas, the people were frustrated with their governments for not providing enough resources during the pandemic and for not being ready to support their own citizens. Furthermore, some people would trust and accept the spread of the influenza disease. These people dealt with the spread through their religious beliefs. People would turn to religion for hope and a sense of relief. Moreover, there were many people who expressed their opinions towards the government and there were people who wanted to volunteer to help the sickly.

Using the following documents, document 4, document 5, and document 8, I can conclude that religion had a huge impact on the response to the disease. Their different beliefs and thoughts in their religion conflicted with ways nations responded to the pandemic. In document 4, the Hindus are opposed to using medicine. They believed that drugs should not be a way to treat the disease since the pandemic is a visitation from one of the Hindu goddesses. Then, in document 5, the church would close and claimed that God cannot be near the sick. The church closing is one way of preventing the spread. Also, people wonder if preventing the disease or any treatment to the disease would anger God. This is because what if God didn’t allow their methods of healing or ways to prevent the disease. The author is writing from the perspective of someone who was religious. The author thinks that God is coming to end the world and is frustrated that there are people who are trying to get in the way of God’s Plan. Then, in document 8, the people believed that God had intended for the pandemic to happen to punish the people. The natives thought that God began the pandemic to destroy mankind. These documents showed how the thoughts of religious people and how it affected the response to the spread of the influenza.

Documents 1, 2, and 7 were about helping out the sick. These positive and prepared responses for the influenza pandemic from the government were beneficial and gave a different perspective on the whole situation. According to document 1, a doctor at a US army base describes how many people died at the Camp Devens. Also, the doctor talks about how more medical attention was brought in and how there is a lot of effort going towards treating the disease. There is a lot of frustration that the doctors felt while treating the sick. Overall, this document is positive since it talks about taking care of the people that were infected. The letter was written by a doctor who encountered the disease directly and his letter contained numbers and facts retaining to the disease. The doctor has experienced with many illnesses and has to have a medical mindset. This is why in the letter; he is concerned about the work instead of the amount of people who died. Then, in document 2, it talks about the experience of a volunteer, Lutiant van Wert. She describes her duties and responsibilities as a volunteer taking care of sick patients. She provides medicine to patients and helps to nurse the sick soldiers impacted by the pandemic. This is another positive response since volunteers were helping to heal sick patients. Furthermore, in document 7, two women from New Zealand after the first World War spoke about their childhood during the pandemic. These women knew the risks of the pandemic and were very cautious of their actions. They avoided crowds and circumvented themselves from contact with others. One of the women had attempted to help with the pandemic by leaving food on the homes of the sick. This shows that they had tried to help treat the people who were affected.