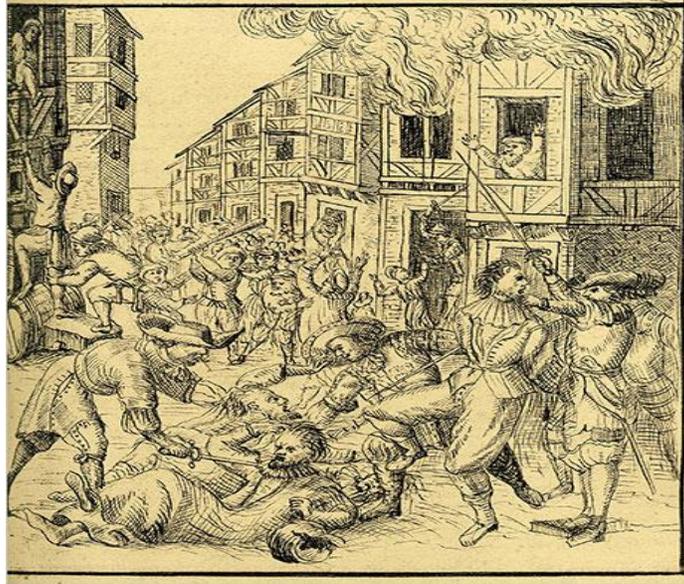


Analyze the various responses to the outbreaks of plague from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Discuss the beliefs and concerns that these responses express.

Document 1



Friese Chronicles, 1349 Massacre of Erfurt Jews in Germany

Document 2

Since the rich fled, death was principally directed towards the poor so that only a few of the Paris porters and wage-earners, who had lived there in large numbers before the misfortune, were left.

Nicolas Versoris, French author, *Book of Reason*, 1523

Document 3

About 40 people at Casale in Western Lombardy smeared the bolts of the town gates with an ointment to spread the plague. Those who touched the gates were infected and many died. The heirs of the dead and diseased had actually paid people at Casale to smear the gates in order to obtain their inheritances more quickly.

Johann Weyer, German physician, *The Deceptions of Demons*, 1583

Document 4

Whatever house the pestilence visited was immediately nailed up, and if a person died within, he had to be buried there. Many died of hunger in their own houses. Throughout the country, all the roads and highways were guarded so that a person could not pass from one place to another.

Heinrich von Staden, Count of the Palatinate and traveler to Russia, *The Land and Government of Muscovy*, 1571

Document 5

For nobody will dare to buy any wig, for fear of the infection, that the hair had been cut off the heads of people dead of the plague.

Samuel Pepys, English naval bureaucrat, *Diary*, 1665

Document 6

The trading nations of Europe were all afraid of us; no port of France, or Holland, or Spain, or Italy would admit our ships. Foreign exportation being stopped, the general trade in manufactured goods stopped next.

Daniel Defoe, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, 1722

Document 7

The plague must be considered a particular chastisement exercised by an angry God over a sinful and offending people rather than as a calamity proceeding from common and natural causes. Consequently, it is little subject to the remedies pursued in the cases of ordinary maladies.

M. Bertrand, physician at Marseilles, *A Historical Relation of the Plague at Marseilles in the Year 1720*