

## **Pedagogical and Historical Resources for the Pandemic**

**by Sarah Pesola, undergraduate student at Metropolitan State University**

The rise of the COVID-19 pandemic has been described as “unprecedented” and, for many, this is certainly true. People, individuals and families, have had to find new routines to their lives that center on curbing the spread of this virus while also doing their best to protect the most vulnerable people in our society. As a history student myself, I have found some interesting insights in reading the articles below on how societies have dealt with situations such as the one in which we find ourselves now. My aim in presenting these articles is to help people, especially students, look at different perspectives and comparisons from then to now. My hope is that reading about different ideas and perspectives about the COVID-19 pandemic will aid in understanding how our society can function and survive the unexpected.

Please note that all the open-access resources and websites below were accessed March-May 2020.

### **For K-12 teachers**

**Commonsensemedia.org:** <https://www.commonsense.org/education/coronavirus-resources>

**Review:** This site looks like a great resource for teachers during the pandemic. There are plenty of tips and tricks for teachers. For example, going to the above URL and clicking on the “browse distance learning tools” brings the browser to a link of links for ways to learn virtually such as links to video services and communicating with other teachers and parents.

Commonsensemedia.org seems reliable because of their mission, found here:

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/about-us/our-mission>.

## Resources for History Teachers (Or really any teachers)

**Time Magazine:** <https://time.com/5808838/coronavirus-syllabus-history/>

**Review:** *Time* did a really interesting story on how history teachers are teaching the pandemic using past pandemic events. Within that article are two twitter hashtags that have other teachers sharing how and what they are teaching during the pandemic: #coronavirussyllabus and #coronoavirussyllabusK12. There is actually a Google docs document for teachers to post about the things they are teaching about during the pandemic, at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTkJmhWQ8NcxhmjeLp6ybT1\\_YOPhFLx9hZ43j1S7DjE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dTkJmhWQ8NcxhmjeLp6ybT1_YOPhFLx9hZ43j1S7DjE/edit) (last accessed 5/18/2020)

**JSTOR.** <https://daily.jstor.org/teaching-pandemics/>

**Review:** JSTOR has a wealth of information and articles on historical pandemics. There are articles on how pandemics affected past economies and societies and how they were solved or simply endured.

- 1) “What’s the difference between Pandemic, Epidemic and Outbreak?”

<https://daily.jstor.org/whats-the-difference-between-pandemic-epidemic-and-outbreak/>

This article explains the differences between a pandemic, epidemic and outbreak, which I think is just generally useful information.

- 2) “The Origin of Quarantine” <https://daily.jstor.org/origin-of-quarantine/>

This is an article about origin of the quarantine. It includes a fantastic primary source from 1909 about the consequences of the disobeying a quarantine order.

- 3) “‘The Public Health’ in 1840.” <https://daily.jstor.org/the-public-health-in-1840/>

This is a great article about Public Health in 1840. What I found particularly interesting about this is the primary source in the article about Public Health policies. It's a short article, but an informative one.

- 4) “How the Public Health Community Prepares for Pandemics.” <https://daily.jstor.org/how-the-public-health-community-prepares-for-pandemics/>

This is a fantastic collection of articles on how different parts of the health community prepare for pandemics, even COVID-19.

- 5) “Could Foreign Policy Stop Another Pandemic?” <https://daily.jstor.org/could-foreign-policy-stop-another-pandemic/>

This article has more to do with foreign policy and politics, but I also think it could add yet more context to the ways in which governments deal with the impacts of a pandemic.

- 6) <https://daily.jstor.org/teaching-pandemics/> is a list of articles about the coronavirus pandemic in the widest sense, which actually includes some of the articles above.
- 7) <https://daily.jstor.org/a-science-reader-for-covid-19/> is another list of JSTOR articles, this time on scientific aspects of the pandemic.

### Other Articles that Put COVID-19 into Perspective

“Write It Down: Historian Suggests Keeping A Record of Life During Pandemic.” <https://news.virginia.edu/content/write-it-down-historian-suggests-keeping-record-life-during-pandemic>

**Review:** This is an article from the University of Virginia on how to write about life during a pandemic and why writing about life during a pandemic can help everyone. This is different from the other articles, but the advice from the historian seems solid and could help other teachers advise the same thing to anyone struggling.

“COVID-19: Economic Impact, Human Solutions.”

<https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/04/10/covid-19-economic-impact-human-solutions/>

**Review:** This is an article from UC-Berkeley about the economic impacts of the virus and possible solutions. I added this one because long term economic impacts could certainly have long term historical impacts. What I find especially compelling in this article is the emphasis on aid to people and communities of color. There is also a comparison to the Great Depression and how the upcoming financial difficulties will affect the country as a whole. This article gives a great insight into the economic impacts and the people affected the most, along with proposed ways that the impacts could be softened or people could be assisted and the role the government must play in this process.

“The Social Impact of COVID-19.” <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/everyone-included-covid-19.html>

**Review:** While many of the other resources concentrate on the economic and financial problems that COVID-19 is causing, this article from the United Nations is about the social and societal issues as well as the people who are especially affected by COVID-19 (e.g., elderly people and disabled people). It also suggests ways that those impacted could be helped or safeguards put in place to protect the most vulnerable members of society, the ones that are being impacted the most. This article adds another, more humanistic, element to the effects of COVID-19.

“The Pandemic Will Accelerate History Rather Than Reshape It.”

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-04-07/pandemic-will-accelerate-history-rather-reshape-it>

**Review:** This article adds an interesting note about the readiness of the world (and the U.S. in particular) and how the novel coronavirus has only highlighted problems already in place, i.e., economic readiness, affordable healthcare, and what these realizations will accomplish once the

coronavirus pandemic is over. It could add further context the role the government plays in the assistance to those who have been affected by the virus.

**“1918 Flu Pandemics Killed 12 Million Indians...”** <https://theconversation.com/1918-flu-pandemic-killed-12-million-indians-and-british-overlords-indifference-strengthened-the-anti-colonial-movement-133605>

**Review:** This article has a completely new point of view that I have not seen elsewhere. I especially like the focus of this one with the spread in India and the impacts of the different groups of people affected. With the comparison to the 1918 Flu Pandemic, this article adds another layer of context to the COVID-19 pandemic.