



The Great Plague Scare of 1720

From 1720 to 1722, the French region of Provence and surrounding areas experienced one of the last major epidemics of plague to strike Western Europe. The Plague of Provence was a major disaster that left in its wake as many as 126,000 deaths, as well as new understandings about the nature of contagion and the best ways to manage its threat. In this transnational study, Cindy Ermus focuses on the social, commercial, and diplomatic impact of the epidemic beyond French borders, examining reactions to this public health crisis from Italy to Great Britain to Spain and the overseas colonies. She reveals how a crisis in one part of the globe can transcend geographic boundaries and influence society, politics, and public health policy in regions far from the epicenter of disaster.

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The Great Plague Scare of 1720

Disaster and Diplomacy in the
Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World

CINDY ERMUS

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For Arlo, who showed me the meaning of life

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[More Information](#)

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xiii
Introduction	1
1 Plague in Provence	13
A Port of Entry for Contagion?: Plague Appears in Southern France	16
“Les funestes ravages de la contagion”: Plague Spreads in Provence	28
Crisis Management and “Disaster Centralism” during the Plague of Provence	53
2 “L’état le plus exposé”: The Plague of Provence in Genoa and Italy	65
Public Health Organization and the <i>Magistrato di sanità</i> in Genoa	70
Conflicting Narratives and the Invisible Commonwealth: How News of Plague Was Received in Genoa and Europe	79
Reactions to the Plague of Provence in Genoa and Italy	86
3 “A Scheme so Barbarous and so Destructive”: Responses to the Plague of Provence in London	103
The Great European Plague Scare of 1720 in England	105
“On the Repeated Outcries of the People”: Popular Reactions to the Threat of Plague and Resistance to Sanitary Measures in London	116
South Sea Scheme Men, Franco-Spanish Tyranny, and Tit-for-Tat Diplomacy	133
	vii

viii	<i>Contents</i>
4	The Spanish Plague That Never Was: The Plague of Provence in Cádiz and Spain 141
	War and the Gallicization of the <i>Carrera de Indias</i> in the Early Eighteenth Century 144
	Reactions to the Plague of Provence in Spain 156
	Health Inspections and the <i>Fondeo</i> Search in the Port of Cádiz 164
	Disaster Centralism in Spain during the Plague of Provence 171
5	Entangled Empires: The Great Plague Scare in the Colonies 177
	Responses to the Plague of Provence in the French Colonies 181
	Economic Interests and Plague-Time Violence in the Caribbean 192
	Anti-French Policy and the Plague of Provence in the Spanish Colonies 202
	<i>Epilogue</i> 214
	<i>Bibliography</i> 220
	<i>Index</i> 247

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xi

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Abbreviations

AC	Actas Capitulares (AMC & AMU)
ACCIM	Archives historiques de la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Marseille-Provence, Marseille
ADBRM	Archives départementales des Bouches-du-Rhône, Marseille
AE	Affaires étrangères (AN)
AGI	Archivo General de Indias, Seville
AHN	Archivo Histórico Nacional de España
AMC	Archivo Municipal de Cádiz
AMM	Archives municipales de Marseille
AMU	Archivo Municipal de Murcia
AN	Archives nationales de France, Paris
ANOM	Archives nationales d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence
ARV	Archivo General del Reino de Valencia
ASG	Archivio di Stato di Genova
ASR	Archivio di Stato di Roma
ASV	Archivio di Stato di Venezia
BL	British Library, London
BNF	Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris
BNP	Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal
<i>JHL</i>	<i>Journal of the House of Lords</i>
MAR	Fonds de la Marine (AN)
MNE	Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros
<i>PNAS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i>
Sanità	Antichi regimi, Provveditori e Sopraprovveditori alla sanità (ASV)
SP	State Papers Foreign (TNA)
TdT	Arquivo Nacional Torre do Tombo
TNA	The National Archives of the United Kingdom, London

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