History 294: Post-War Europe

Mrs. Bondi

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***The Plague* Paper**

**Due Date**:

One of the most famous and well-known post-World War II novels is *The Plague* by Albert Camus. For this assignment you are to read this novel, participate in a class discussion on it, and write a short paper. The book, *The Plague,* is set place in Oran, a city in Algeria, which was a French colony. Albert Camus began writing this book in 1941 during World War II and published it in 1947, shortly after the end of World War II. There have been countless books, articles, and papers written about this novel and its meaning. For your paper, I would like you to focus on the following prompt.

*The Plague* provides us with an insight into the mentality as well as the responses of

various individuals when faced with a contagious disease, which upends their lives.

Discuss the reactions of **three** of the characters from the novel, which reflect

the range of responses to the disease. Additionally, compare and contrast these responses

to those which we have witnessed today in response to COVID-19.

Use the following format to organize and write your paper.

**Introduction**- brief summary of the book, including time period and location; include a clear

and concise thesis

**Body Paragraph 1**: brief overview of the author’s background

**Body Paragraph 2:** discussion of the first character’s response

**Body Paragraph 3**: discussion of the second character’s response

**Body Paragraph 4**: discussion of the third character’s response

**Body Paragraph 5:** comparison to the responses to our present-day pandemic, COVID-19

**Conclusion:** final comments, thoughts, or reflections upon the book, today’s situation, or even

human nature

Please include the word count at the end of your paper.

**IMPORTANT**: You must use specific evidence, i.e. quotes, from the novel, to support your statements. You should use internal citations.

Your essay should be approximately 1000-1200 words in length, double-spaced, and typed. It also should include a works cited page, which will include the book as well as any additional resources that you used. However, you should not need many outside sources for this paper as it focuses upon the book itself. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.