# Article information:

Ancient DNA Reveals What Caused the Black Death  
<https://now.northropgrumman.com/ancient-dna-reveals-what-caused-the-black-death/>

# Article summary:

1. The source of the Black Death, a pandemic that killed millions in Europe and Asia from 1346 to 1353, has been pinpointed using ancient DNA from Central Asia.

2. Plague bacteria survive within wild rodent populations around the world in so-called plague reservoirs, making it nearly impossible to completely eradicate the disease.

3. Lessons from the Black Death can be applied to current and future pandemics, such as COVID-19, by gaining a better understanding of the source of infectious diseases today to better protect against them tomorrow.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Ancient DNA Reveals What Caused the Black Death" provides a detailed account of the origins and spread of the Black Death pandemic that swept Europe and Asia in the 14th century. The article uses scientific evidence to trace the source of the infectious Yersinia pestis bacteria responsible for the pandemic to Central Asia, where two cemeteries had an unusually large number of burials in 1338 and 1339 with tombstones indicating that the cause of death was "pestilence." By sequencing ancient DNA from these grave sites, researchers were able to confirm the presence of plague and obtain the complete DNA sequence of the plague bacteria responsible for those deaths.

The article highlights how viral reservoirs could be a source of new variants of COVID-19, such as the highly infectious Omicron variant. The article suggests that Omicron evolved in an animal reservoir, such as rats, and was then transmitted to humans. However, this claim is not supported by any scientific evidence or research studies. It is important to note that while viral reservoirs are a concern for future pandemics, there is no evidence to suggest that Omicron evolved in an animal reservoir.

The article also fails to mention some important points about the Black Death pandemic. For example, it does not discuss how social and economic factors contributed to its spread or how it affected different social classes differently. Additionally, while antibiotics provide an effective treatment for plague today, they were not available during the Black Death pandemic.

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into the origins and spread of the Black Death pandemic and its relevance for current and future pandemics, it has some potential biases and missing points of consideration. It is important to critically evaluate scientific claims made in articles like this one and seek out additional sources before drawing conclusions.

# Topics for further research:

* Social and economic factors contributing to the spread of the Black Death pandemic
* Impact of the Black Death pandemic on different social classes
* Antibiotic treatment for plague and its availability during the Black Death pandemic
* Animal reservoirs and their role in the evolution of viruses
* Evidence for the origin of the Omicron variant of COVID-19
* Critically evaluating scientific claims in articles about pandemics

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/ecbd8166bc4f8c4fe1892156c83c7943>