

## Western Civilization primary source reflection #1

The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic was a particularly memorable time for people around the world. Initially, the world entered a widespread state of existential panic, this virus - to the general public – was a total enigma, nobody had any comprehension of what the virus was or what it was capable of and at that time there was a limited amount of information on the virus. I remember having discussions with my classmates at school in March of 2020, and there was a distinct sense of shared anxiety as we had no idea what the future held. In Australia, there was almost a sense of cluelessness as we were not sure what the pandemic was going to entail for our country, after all, Australia is not exactly an easy country for a virus to penetrate, a country surrounded by ocean with an incredibly small population relative to the size of the country. However, the inevitable did happen and the virus made it to Australia, and eventually, we followed suit and went into a nationwide lockdown. People were confined to their houses unless they were exercising or shopping, thousands lost jobs due to working in-person being restricted, it was not exactly a glorious time. However, one to two weeks went by and there was more available information about the virus, and there was less of a sense of panic as people began to become familiar with what was going on. I was in my final year of high school at the time of the first global lockdown, and we went from being in-person every single day to being at school entirely on zoom. Fortunately, the first outbreak of COVID did not put Australia in a vice grip the same way it did to the United States. In fact, by the time that September arrived, Australia was experiencing well under 100 cases a day. By the time November arrived, we were collectively counting how many weeks we would go without having a single COVID case. Australia experienced the beginning

of COVID in an advantageous position and we ended up being extremely fortunate relative to most other countries around the world.