The Nika Riot and the repercussions of Justinian’s dealing with the matter.

The Nika Riots played a major part in Justinian’s reign because of the lasting impacts of Emperor Justinian’s decision to deal with them. During the riots a lot of the populus had decided to separate themselves into two rival fan clubs, the Blues and the Greens (Prokopios pt.2, 7.1). In the dead of the night these Blue militants would mug their social betters both in the open marketplace and in the alleys and they would even target others within their same fan club (Prokopios pt.2, 7.15). The Blues, amassing larger numbers and more youthful members, begun to start killing those who did not stand in their way (Prokopios pt.2, 7.23-7.26).

Regardless of social class and fan club affiliation, unarmed men would be made like game and killed for sport and contest among these blue militant demagogues. No one had hope of surviving in these times of daily life (Prokopios pt.2, 7.28). People would be killed senselessly in the most revered shrines, and people bore no trust to their friends and family for many died due to malicious scheming within their own inner circles (Prokopios pt.2, 7.29-7.30). Despite these events, no official inquiry was made about these crimes and no one sought to avenge the fallen. Because of all things being governed by force, the state was indistinguishable from a tyranny (Prokopios pt.2, 7.31). The emperor Justinian would aid and abet these crimes by paying large sums of money to the blue militants and placing them in positions of power (Prokopios pt.2, 7.32). These acts were ubiquitous; [this criminal activity was] taking place in Byzantion and to every corner of the Roman Empire (Prokopios pt.2, 8.1).

Conclusion

The overarching reach of Justinian siding with the Blues lead to outbreak of crime throughout the Roman Empire. People were scared of other people, even those closest to them,
and crimes went unpunished. In times when plague struck, people who were tending to the ill could be robbed or killed in broad daylight. The lawless state exacerbated the panic that plague caused because not only was one afraid of the plague and the victims of it, but also those among the living that, akin to the plague, were killing people arbitrarily.

Hey we need pictures and we can condense the social Ramifications section because it has overlapping themes.

Religion and mortality doesn't need the Nika riot sections because it deals more with Politics. Sam's input?

Overall good job we gotta make an overall conclusion but I ain't even stressed. Imma need pictures tho for real.

Overall Conclusion: Combine Social, religious, and political to express how fear is the greatest factor because it affects everyone regardless of social position

Universal affects

- Nika Riot
- Plague Effects
- Religion
Fear was the single element that was the most significant factor in the responses to plague in Justinian's reign because it affected everyone regardless of social position. Fear was universal and widespread in Justinian’s rule and what fear is famous for is inhibiting people from dealing with a problematic task. Fear of one’s neighbor, friends, and family contributed to the spread of plague and the social effects that occurred because of the plague for people refused to deal with the sick and the dead. This led to an overall drop in morality and even though people called out for mercy by God, many people agreed that the plague was a punishment for the sins of the Romans. More specifically, Prokopios claims that God is punishing Justinian and Theodora for their bloodlust, greed, and sinful acts. Even the populus was cast into madness with how Justinian and Theodora dealt with the Nika Riots. Everyone, from the poor to the noblemen, clergymen, and even the Emperor could not escape the effects the plague and the fear that followed in conjunction. For when the Romans could not turn to their Emperor, themselves, or their God, that was the true end of the Roman empire. The final response to plague and the effects that pursued in its wake was the destruction of the Roman Empire due to fear became systemic in all Romans.
Justinian was ambitious in his conquests. He sent armies to North Africa and destroyed the Vandal forces there. Instead of imposing rule and order in those lands, Justinian pulled Belisarios and his armies away and heavily taxed the populations there. Even with this taxation, Justinian was late to pay his soldiers and treated them [poorly] (Prokopios pt.2, 18.11). This caused many revolts that resulted in widespread devastation (Prokopios pt.2, 18.11). Justinian made the same actions in his conquering of North Africa in Italy.

While Justinian was conquering the West, Persians attacked from the East and killed a lot of Romans. Justinian was not quick to take action against foreign aggressors, but had an “insatiable bloodlust” for war (Prokopios pt.2, 18.27). He was unable to let go of the wars because he was bloodthirsty and murderous and he was unable to prevail over his enemies due to his stinginess (Prokopios pt.2, 18.29). The world was “drenched in blood”; a constant stream being poured from the Romans (Prokopios pt.2, 18.30). Tens of thousands of Romans died at the hands of Justinian’s politics and wars. Calculating the number of Romans who died in the wars and in the riots, Prokopios finds that there were no fewer deaths in the war (Prokopios pt.2, 32). That was the extent of the destruction of human life that occurred under Justinian’s reign (Prokopios pt.2, 45).

Conclusion