

The Concise History Of The Crusades

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The Age of the Crusades
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the crusades were penitential war pilgrimages fought in the levant and the eastern mediterranean as well as in north africa spain portugal poland the baltic region hungary the balkans and western europe beginning in the eleventh century and ending as late as the eighteenth these holy wars were waged against muslims and other enemies of the church enlisting generations of laymen and laywomen to fight for the sake of christendom crusading features prominently in today s religio political hostilities yet the perceptions of these wars held by arab nationalists pan islamists and many in the west have been deeply distorted by the language and imagery of nineteenth century european imperialism with this book jonathan riley smith returns to the actual story of the crusades explaining why and where they were fought and how deeply their narratives and symbolism became embedded in popular catholic thought and devotional life from this history riley smith traces the legacy of the crusades into modern times specifically within the attitudes of european imperialists and colonialists and within the beliefs of twentieth century muslims europeans fashioned an interpretation of the crusades from the writings

of walter scott and a french contemporary joseph françois michaud scott portrayed islamic societies as forward thinking while casting christian crusaders as culturally backward and often morally corrupt michaud in contrast glorified crusading and his followers used its imagery to illuminate imperial adventures these depictions have had a profound influence on contemporary western opinion as well as on muslim attitudes toward their past and present whether regarded as a valid expression of christianity s divine enterprise or condemned as a weapon of empire crusading has been a powerful rhetorical tool for centuries in order to understand the preoccupations of islamist jihadis and the character of western discourse on the middle east riley smith argues we must understand how images of crusading were formed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

a lively reimagining of how the distant medieval world of war functioned drawing on the objects used and made by crusaders throughout the middle ages crusading was justified by religious ideology but the resulting military campaigns were fueled by concrete objectives land resources power reputation crusaders amassed possessions of all sorts from castles to reliquaries campaigns required material funds and equipment while conquests produced bureaucracies taxation economic exploitation and commercial regulation wealth sustained the crusades while material objects from weaponry and military technology to carpentry and shipping conditioned them this lavishly illustrated volume considers the material trappings of crusading wars and the objects that memorialized them in architecture sculpture jewelry painting and manuscripts christopher tyerman s incorporation of the physical and visual remains of crusading enriches our understanding of how the crusaders themselves articulated their mission how they viewed their place in the world and how they related to the cultures they derived from and preyed upon a note to readers the grey shaded pages throughout this volume look at the crusades in detail exploring individual themes such as food and drink medicine weapons and women s role in the crusades these short essays are interspersed throughout the chapters and the main text will continue after each one for instance taking the cross runs from pages 4 to 7 and the introduction continues on p 8

the kaleidoscopic political changes during the years covered by this volume include the rise and fall of the crusader states the expansion of the mongol empire the rise of the mamluk sultanate and of its ultimate conquerors the ottomans to all of these professor holt is a clear and skilful guide he principally utilises and to some extent reinterprets the medieval arabic sources to present a picture which differs in important respects from the conventional western orientated view

this is the first comprehensive study of the use abuse and development of the crusade image in popular and high culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries drawing upon a diverse range of sources mainly from the british isles but with parallels from western europe and north america the author shows the different approaches to the history of the crusading movement and crusade images taken by the historian composer artist and author

sir steven runciman explores the first crusade and the foundation of the kingdom of jerusalem

this is a comprehensive account of the eight religious wars between the christian west and the muslim east that dominated the middle ages calling themselves pilgrims of christ thousands of europeans from all stations in life undertook the harsh and bloody quest to reclaim jerusalem the church of the holy sepulchre and christ s tomb for christendom robert payne brings to life every step of the crusaders thousand mile journey the deprivation the desperate rapacious and brutal raids for food and supplies the epic battles for antioch jerusalem and acre the barbarous treatment of captives and the quarrelling european princes who vied for power and wealth in the near east an epic tale of the glorious and the base of unshakable faith and unspeakable atrocities the dream and the tomb captures not only the events but the very essence of the crusades

nine hundred years ago at a church council in clermont pope urban ii delivered an impassioned sermon calling upon frankish knights to vow to march to the east to free christians from the yoke of islamic rule and to liberate the tomb of christ the holy sepulchre in jerusalem from muslim control thus began the crusades the bloody and grueling battles pitched between european knights and the islamic defenders over the course of two hundred years movements that created the legends of king arthur and the holy grail military orders such as the knights templar and an unusually rich tradition of art and architecture in the oxford illustrated history of the crusades the story of the crusades is told as never before in an engrossing authoritative and comprehensive history that ranges from the preaching of the first crusade in 1095 to the legacy of the crusading ideals and imagery that continues today here are the ideas of apologists propagandists and poets about the crusades as well as the perceptions and motives of the crusaders themselves and the means by which they joined the movement crusaders were required to take the cross which involved making a vow often at an emotional public gatherings under the influence of preachers whose business it was to whip their audiences up into a frenzy and were foresworn to wear a cross on their clothing until they returned from their mission in the east the authors describe the elaborate social and civic systems that arose to support the crusades taxation for example was formalized by the church and monarchs to raise enormous funds needed to wage war on this scale nearly 1 000 000 livres tournois were raised from the french church out of estimated total expenses of some 3 000 000 livres for louis ix s first crusade in 1248 and here are vivid descriptions of the battles themselves frightening disorienting and dangerous affairs with keen and insightful commentary on the reactions of the muslims to a christian holy war extensively illustrated with hundreds of illustrations maps chronologies and a guide to further reading the oxford illustrated history of the crusades even includes coverage of crusades outside the eastern mediterranean region and post medieval crusades from descriptions of the battles and homefront conditions to a thorough evaluation of the clash and coalescence of cultures to the legacy of the crusading movement that continues into our conflict torn twentieth century to the enduring artistic and social changes that the crusades wrought the oxford

illustrated history of the crusades offers an unsurpassed panorama of one of the great movements in western history this beautiful work will engage and inform anyone with an interest in the crusades

a concise history of the crusades whose chief goal was the liberation and preservation of the holy places of the middle east from the first calls to arms in the later twelfth century to the fall of the last crusader strongholds in syria and palestine in 1291 this is the ideal introductory textbook for all students of the crusades professor richard considers the consequences of the crusades such as the establishment of the latin east and its organisation into a group of feudal states as well as crusading contacts with the muslim world eastern christians byzantines and mongols also considered are the organisation of expeditions the financing of such expeditionary forces and the organisation of operations and supply jean richard is one of the world s great crusader historians and this work the distillation of over forty years research and contemplation is the only one of its kind in english

wonderfully written and characteristically brilliant peter frankopan author of the silk roads elegant readable an impressive synthesis not many historians could have done it jonathan sumption spectator tyerman s book is fascinating not just for what it has to tell us about the crusades but for the mirror it holds up to today s religious extremism tom holland spectator thousands left their homelands in the middle ages to fight wars abroad but how did the crusades actually happen from recruitment propaganda to raising money ships to siege engines medicine to the power of prayer this vivid surprising history shows holy war and medieval society in a new light

this work contains information and analysis of the history politics economics and culture of the medieval world the six volumes stand as a history of the crusades spanning five centuries encompassing jewish muslim and christian perspectives

the first great city the crusaders came to in 1089 was not jerusalem but constantinople the capital of the byzantine empire almost as much as jerusalem itself constantinople was the key to the foundation survival and ultimate eclipse of the crusading kingdom the byzantines had developed an ideology over seven hundred years which placed constantinople rather than rome or jerusalem at the centre of the world the attitudes of its rulers reflected this priority and led to tensions with the crusaders over military and diplomatic strategy at the same time the riches and sophistication of the great city made a lasting impression on the crusaders even though they found byzantine society alien and remote in the end the lure of the city s wealth was irresistibly fatal to the claims of christian unity in 1204 the fourth crusade under the venetian doge enrico dandolo captured and sacked constantinople signalling the effective end of almost a thousand years of byzantine dominance in the east

unlike traditional references that recount political and military history this encyclopedia includes entries on a wide range of aspects related to daily life during the medieval

crusades the medieval crusades were fundamental in shaping world history and provide background for the conflict that exists between the west and the muslim world today this two volume set presents fundamental information about the medieval crusades as a movement and its ideological impact on both the crusaders and the peoples of the east it takes a broad look at numerous topics related to crusading with the goal of helping readers to better understand what inspired the crusaders the hardships associated with crusading and how crusading has influenced the development of cultures both in the east and the west the first of the two thematically arranged volumes considers topics such as the arts economics and work food and drink family and gender and fashion and appearance the second volume considers topics such as housing and community politics and warfare recreation and social customs religion and beliefs and science and technology within each topical section are alphabetically arranged reference entries complete with cross references and suggestions for further reading selections from primary source documents each accompanied by an introductory headnote give readers first hand accounts of the crusades

this new and considerably expanded edition of the crusades 1095 1204 couples vivid narrative with a clear and accessible analysis of the key ideas that prompted the conquest and settlement of the holy land between the first and the fourth crusade this edition now covers the fourth crusade and the sack of constantinople along with greater coverage of the muslim response to the crusades from the capture of jerusalem in 1099 to saladin s leadership of the counter crusade culminating in his struggle with richard the lionheart during the third crusade it also examines the complex motives of the italian city states during the conquest of the levant as well as relations between the frankish settlers and the indigenous population both eastern christian and muslim in times of war and peace extended treatment of the events of the first crusade the failure of the second crusade and the prominent role of female rulers in the latin east feature too underpinned by the latest research this book also features a who s who a chronology a discussion of the historiography maps family trees and numerous illustrations a strong collection of contemporary documents including previously untranslated narratives and poems a blend of thematic and narrative chapters also consider the military orders kingship warfare and castles and pilgrimage this new edition provides an illuminating insight into one of the most famous and compelling periods of history

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the six volumes of a history of the crusades will stand as the definitive history of the crusades spanning five centuries encompassing jewish moslem and christian perspectives and containing a wealth of information and analysis of the history politics economics and culture of the medieval world

history of the crusades in 3 volumes is a historical work by french historian joseph françois michaud which provides a comprehensive look at the crusades including political and military battles in europe north africa and asia minor the crusades were a series of religious wars initiated supported and sometimes directed by the latin church in the medieval period especially the campaigns between 1096 and 1271 in the eastern mediterranean aimed at recovering the holy land from islamic rule michaud expands the term of crusades including in his work the wars against turks in europe in 13th 14th and 15th century concluding with his reflections on the state of europe on the various classes of society during and after the crusades

what is the relationship between the medieval crusades and the problems of the modern middle east were the crusades the christian equivalent of muslim jihad in this sweeping yet crisp history thomas f madden offers a brilliant and compelling narrative of the crusades and their contemporary relevance placing all of the major crusades within their medieval social economic religious and intellectual environments madden explores the uniquely medieval world that led untold thousands to leave their homes families and friends to march in christ s name to distant lands from palestine and europe s farthest reaches each crusade is recounted in a clear concise narrative the author gives special attention as well to the crusades effects on the islamic world and the christian byzantine east

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