

The Crusades: Overcoming the Myths

The Crusades

- ◆ What were they?
- ◆ When were they?
- ◆ What characteristics did they have?
- ◆ What are the myths?

What were they?

◆ A series of war/pilgrimages that started in the late 11th century and advocated the recovery of the Holy Land, the expulsion of the Moors/Saracens from Spain and combating enemies within Christendom.

When Were They?

- ◆ Approx 1095-1271
- ◆ “People’s Crusade” 1095-1096
- ◆ 1st Crusade – 1096-1099
- ◆ 2nd Crusade – 1147-1149
- ◆ 3rd Crusade – 1189-1192
- ◆ 4th Crusade – 1202-1204

- ◆ Children’s Crusade – 1212
- ◆ 5th Crusade – 1218-1221
- ◆ 6th Crusade – 1228-1229
- ◆ 7th Crusade – 1248-1254
- ◆ 8th Crusade – 1270

People’s Crusade

- ◆ Battle of Manzikert (1071) – Byzantines fall to Seljuk Turks
- ◆ Alexius I asks Pope Urban II for help
- ◆ 1095 – proclaimed crusade at Council of Clermont
- ◆ Walter the Penniless and Peter the Hermit lead People’s Crusade through Constantinople
- ◆ Massacred in Asia Minor

1st Crusade

- ◆ 1096-1099
- ◆ Led by three Frenchmen Robert of Flanders, Raymond of Toulouse, Godfrey of Bouillon and the Norman Bohemond of Taranto
- ◆ Pledged loyalty to the Byzantine Emperor in exchange for support
- ◆ Captured Nicaea on Jun 19, 1097, Antioch on Jun 3, 1098 and Jerusalem on Jul 18, 1099
- ◆ Godfrey defeats Egyptian relief force, elected protector of Jerusalem
- ◆ Crusader states established (principality of Antioch, county of Edessa, kingdom of Jerusalem), most return home

2nd Crusade

- ◆ 1147-1149
- ◆ Edessa falls in 1147 to the Muslim Zengi
- ◆ Leaders were King Louis VII and Emperor Conrad of Germany
- ◆ Conrad's Forces decimated at Battle of Dorylaeum
- ◆ Louis and Conrad besiege Damascus/give up
- ◆ Victory for Nurradin, son of Zengi

3rd Crusade

- ◆ 1189-1192
- ◆ Fall of Jerusalem to Saladin – Oct 2 1187
- ◆ Leaders – Emperor Frederick Barbarossa I, King Richard the Lionhearted of England, King Phillip II Augustus of France
- ◆ Frederick dies in Cilicia (falls into river), his remaining forces arrive at Acre
- ◆ Richard conquers Cyprus, joins Phillip at Acre/fortress finally falls on July 12 1291
- ◆ Phillip leaves after squabble, Richard defeats Saladin at Arsuf on Sept 7, 1191, signs treaty allowing pilgrims access to Jerusalem, goes home

4th Crusade

- ◆ 1202-1204
- ◆ Pope Innocent III proclaimed, forces planned to go by sea, land in Egypt, push to Jerusalem
- ◆ Venetian deception from the start, Enrico Dandolo charges huge sum, convinces forces to take Zara
- ◆ Deposed emperor's son offers money for Crusaders to overthrow current emperor at Constantinople
- ◆ After succeeding, they lose patience with new emperor, sack Constantinople in 1204

Children's Crusade

- ◆ 1212
- ◆ Crusading spirit inspires youth
- ◆ Great disaster – starvation, disease, slaughter by Turks
- ◆ Some sold into slavery
- ◆ Embarrasses leaders of Christendom

5th Crusade

- ◆ 1218-1221
- ◆ Popes Innocent IV/Honorius III called for it
- ◆ Frederick II promised troops/never showed
- ◆ Leaders – John of Brienne, Papal army, Teutonic Knights
- ◆ Cardinal Pelagius in command
- ◆ Captured Egyptian town of Damietta in Nov 1219
- ◆ Wanted to press on to Cairo but withdrew due to lack of troops/Nile floods/heat/Muslim resistance

6th crusade

- ◆ 1228-1229
- ◆ Frederick II this time decides to go in 1227, has to retreat to Sicily due to fever outbreak on ships
- ◆ Excommunicated by Pope Gregory IX

- ◆ Frederick departs anyway to Holy Land/negotiates w/ Muslims ensuring Christian control over Jerusalem/Bethlehem/Nazareth
- ◆ Due to continued internecine squabbling Jerusalem falls again in 1244

7th Crusade

- ◆ 1248-1254
- ◆ Promoted by Pope Innocent IV
- ◆ Leader – King Louis IX of France
- ◆ Landed in Egypt, took Damietta in 1249, defeated at the battle of Mansura after ineptness of brother, Robert of Artois
- ◆ Captured by Egyptians on April 6, 1250, forced to pay a large ransom
- ◆ Pushed Mongols to attack

8th Crusade

- ◆ 1270
- ◆ Baybars and the Mamelukes defeat the Mongols at the Battle of Ain-Jalut
- ◆ Baybars attacks Antioch in 1268
- ◆ Encouraged by the leader of Tunis, he landed there but was deceived by him
- ◆ During the siege of Tunis, Louis and his son died from the plague
- ◆ Charles of Anjou took control and sailed home
- ◆ The Mamelukes took the last Crusader stronghold from 1271-1291. Acre was the last to capitulate.

What characteristics did they have?

- ◆ Participants would “take the cross” – take a vow to join a military expedition with defined aims
- ◆ Call must be made by the Pope
- ◆ Privileges were granted
- ◆ Crusaders enjoyed indulgences
- ◆ A penitential holy war

What are the Myths of the Crusades according to Prof Madden?

- ◆ #1 - The Crusades were wars of unprovoked aggression against a peaceful Muslim world.
- ◆ #2 - The Crusaders were only interested in capturing booty and land.
- ◆ #3 - When they captured Jerusalem in 1099, every man, woman and child was killed and the streets ran ankle deep with blood.
- ◆ #4 - The Crusades were just medieval colonialism dressed up in religious finery.
- ◆ #5 - The Crusades were also waged against the Jews.
- ◆ #6 - The Crusades were so corrupt and vile that they even had a Children’s Crusade.
- ◆ #7 - Pope John Paul II apologized for the Crusades.
- ◆ #8 - Muslims, who remember the Crusades vividly, have good reason to hate the West.