

The Crusades, Part 2

The Rest of the Crusades

Introduction

- Last time, we started the Crusades. The word “crusade” comes from the word cross, and speaks of a military endeavor in the name of the cross.
 - This is a period of Christian history that was romanticized in the West, but indeed it was tragic.
- The First Crusade was largely a success.
- Once Jerusalem was in their hands, Western Catholics had control from Constantinople to the holy city.
 - All of Turkey was not conquered, but they controlled a straight path in which they plowed and a large chunk of land between the two major cities.
 - Thus, the Christian empire was still surrounded by hostile territory.
- In this lesson, we will cover the remaining Crusades.



The Crusades as System Defense

- In order to protect the path from Constantinople to Jerusalem, they built 13 Crusader castles between the two cities. They were close to the coast so they could be reinforced by naval means.
 - Each castle was inhabited by many knights. When pilgrims wanted to go to Jerusalem, they would be escorted by knights from Constantinople to the first castle. Those knights would return home, and the knights of the castle would take them to the next castle.
 - This would occur all of the way to Jerusalem and back. The knights became experts on the territory between their castle and the next one in both directions. Some of these castles still stand today – the largest being in Syria with 60 to 70 rooms (Crac de Chevaliers).
- This will turn the Crusades into a defense of this system. The First Crusade mainly set the stage for future crusades as the castles would be built up and strengthened.
 - Every day there was the crusading spirit since pilgrimages were constant. However, the “Crusades” after this were the major thrusts where many knights and kings gathered for a big effort.
- The 2nd Crusade happens almost 50 years after the first. Even though the first was a true success—restored pilgrimages and Jerusalem belonged to Christians—much happened between the 1st and 2nd Crusades:
 - Pope Urban II died in 1099 (fall of Jerusalem); Arabs had strengthened their positions and slowly surrounded Jerusalem. The Arabs took back a part of northern Palestine from the crusaders and moved toward retaking Jerusalem.



Crusader Castles



Crac de Chevaliers



Karak



Inside Crac des Chevaliers



Inside Crac des Chevaliers

The Second Crusade

- The Second Crusade (1147-1149) was precipitated by the fall of the Latin kingdom of Edessa to a Turkish army in 1144.
 - This event convinced the Pope that a new surge was necessary. Thus, Pope Eugenius III proclaimed a new crusade.
 - Even so, it was Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153) that was the main mover behind the Second Crusade.
- Bernard was the third son of Tescelin Sorrel, a Crusading knight that participated in the capture of Jerusalem in 1099.
 - Of Tescelin's six sons, five followed in his footsteps as a knight. Bernard alone followed a different path.
 - His mother had a dream that he was destined for higher things. Thus he was sent to theological college.
 - As a young man, he had a vivid dream of the Virgin Mary and the Christ child, and it left a lifelong impression upon him.
- Bernard's involvement in the Second Crusade was due to his relationship with Pope Eugenius III. The Pope was formerly a monk trained by Bernard.
 - The Pope asked him to be a hype man for it.
 - Thus, Bernard preached passionately all over Western Europe, charging people with the duty of rescuing the kingdom of Jerusalem. (Read Needham, 213)



The Second Crusade

- His appeals were successful. The Second Crusade was led by King Louis VII of France (1137-1180) and the Holy Roman Emperor Conrad III (1138-1152).
- Unfortunately, the Crusaders met with total disaster when they arrived in the East.
 - The Byzantines did not ask them to come, and therefore they received them badly.
 - Additionally, Louis and Conrad could not agree on strategy, and so they did things separately.
 - Therefore, most of Crusaders perished in Asia Minor from famine, fever, and Turkish attacks.
- There was only one serious military operation—an attempted siege of Damascus. It failed.
 - Catholic Europe was shaken by this. Many blamed it on the Byzantines for their treachery. Bernard blamed it on the Western Catholics. He claimed God was judging them for their wicked lives.
- This crusade affected very little. They did not remove the Arab army around Jerusalem. So this crusade failed, and 40 years later in 1187, Jerusalem finally falls to Saladin.
 - This necessitates the Third Crusade.



Siege of Damascus

The Founding of Portugal

- Slightly before the Second Crusade, but independent from it, some knights from England and Flanders (modern Belgium) were sailing to Holy Land for the Crusade.
- On the way, they stopped in 1139 to attack the Muslim city of Lisbon on the Western coast of Muslim Spain.
- They captured it, slaughtered the Muslim population, and they then decided to settle it.
- They became an independent Catholic kingdom called Portugal.
- Just several centuries later, they would create a massive overseas empire that paved the way for European colonization of the Americas.



Siege of Lisbon

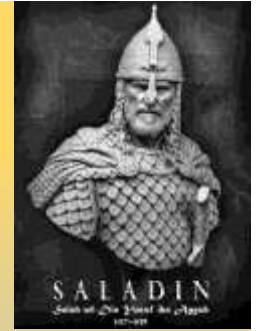
Bernard on Jews and Heretics

- On a different note, Bernard's hawkish attitude toward Crusades differed greatly from his attitude toward heretics and Jews within Catholic Europe.
 - He called Christians to show tolerance to the Jews.
 - He also said that heretics should not be fought with swords, but instead with argument and persuasion.
- Since this was prior to the Inquisition, such views were tolerated. Once the Inquisition was founded, these statements of Bernard were suppressed.
 - He was canonized as a saint only two decades after his death, but later Catholics said he had a blemish on his perfect breast in heaven because he taught against the Immaculate Conception of Mary.
- In the next century, his popularity was eclipsed Saint Francis.
- When the Protestant Reformation occurred, Bernard was one of the few medieval saints hailed as a true believer by the Reformers.



The Third Crusade

- The Third Crusade (1189-1192) was caused by the failure of the Second Crusade. The European failure led to the disunited Muslims uniting.
- A brilliant and honorable Kurdish general named Saladin (1137-1193) took control of Egypt.
 - He was a man of integrity, and he never broke treaties with Christians.
 - By 1186, his empire surrounded the kingdom of Jerusalem. He destroyed the Christian army at the battle of Hattin in July 1187, and then captured Jerusalem.
- The Holy City was held by Western Christians from 1099 to 1187 (88 years).
 - Saladin demonstrated his honorable nature when he did not kill the Christian inhabitants of Jerusalem.
 - He allowed them to leave peacefully. Truly, his character put many of the Crusaders to shame.
- The West was absolutely shocked by the fall of Jerusalem. Apparently, Pope Gregory VIII (October-December 1187) died of grief. However, before dying, he proclaimed the Third Crusade.
- The three greatest kings of Catholic Europe would lead this crusade: King Philip Augustus of France (1180-1223), the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Barbarossa (1152-1190), and most notably, King Richard I of England (1189-1199).



The Kings of the Third Crusade

- Richard was also known as Richard the Lionheart.
 - He was an imposing figure, likely six foot five or taller (which was imposing for that time). He was also said to be very handsome and charismatic.
 - His physical strength and charm made him a natural leader for war and politics.
 - He was very selfish and was more interested in Jerusalem than in London. He spent most of his reign outside of England and sold many cities to fund his wars in the Holy Land.
 - Prior to the crusades, he fought many battles and as such was military minded.
- Philip Augustus was terrified of Richard. Philip was everything Richard was not: short, weak, young, and French.
 - However, he was a better administrator than Richard.
- Frederick Barbarossa was the other major ruler. His red beard led to the nickname of Fred the Red.
 - Like Richard he was a warrior, and had a long history of fighting on the front lines and slaying many in mortal combat.
 - He was able to provide 100,000 troops. By 1190 he was 70 years old and overweight.



The Third Crusade's Rough Start

- There were early setbacks that nearly doomed the expedition.
- Emperor Barbarossa drowned near Tarsus in 1190.
 - His journey came to an end in Asia Minor when he crossed the Solikh River. It was not big, but flowed well that day.
 - While crossing on horseback, he fell off. He did not remove his armor prior to the crossing, and so he sunk and his men could not get him above water before he drowned.
 - His son Frederick of Swabia took command, but did not want to bury his dad in enemy territory.
 - So he put him in a water tight coffin filled with vinegar. He took his pickled dad into a few battles with him and realized the difficulty in it.
- So he eventually left back to Germany to bury him. The German army was ineffective without his leadership.
- Richard and Philip Augustus bickered with each other all the time thus hindering an early unity of effort.



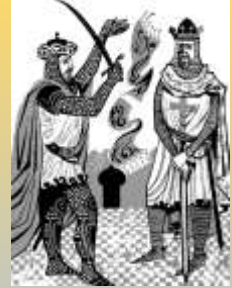
Third Crusade's Achievements & Shortcomings

- Despite these deficiencies, the Crusaders captured the great port city of Acre near Mt. Carmel.
 - Truly, Acre, not Jerusalem was the greatest Crusader city in the Holy Land. It was the center of international trade and commerce for the whole Middle East.
- After this, Philip Augustus returned to France. He left his soldiers under Richard's command. This restored a unity of effort.
 - Richard threatened him not to touch Normandy as Richard was occupied in the Holy Land. Out of fear, Philip dared not touch it.
- Richard the Lionheart remained for another year. He failed to actually capture Jerusalem, but he performed amazing exploits in battle.
 - He won a number of battles against Saladin, but he could not win Jerusalem. Additionally, his attempts to attack Egypt to break Saladin's base met with failure.
- Despite this, his reputation grew even among his Muslim enemies, as they both feared and respected him.
 - This fear was so prevalent that Muslim mothers would scare their small children into obedience by telling them if they did not do as they were told, Richard the Lionheart would get them.
- Even Saladin was scared of facing Richard in battle. Richard was a hot-tempered individual who personally fought in battle and was extremely fierce.



Third Crusade's Achievements & Shortcomings

- When it became clear that Richard could not recapture Jerusalem, Richard and Saladin met and formed a treaty in 1192.
 - Richard even offered Saladin his own sister in exchange for Jerusalem, but both Saladin and Richard's sister rejected the idea.
 - The treaty gave the Crusaders a strip of coastland from Acre to Ascalon (it was southwest of Jerusalem). Additionally, Christian access to Jerusalem was guaranteed.
- It was the Third Crusade more than any other that captured the imagination of Western Europe and romanticized the Crusades.
 - Poets, story writers, and lyricists wrote much to celebrate the contest between Saladin and Richard. They were two of the greatest warrior-leaders of any age.
- Even today, this is the main Crusade that people have some knowledge about. It is the Crusade for the setting of the Robin Hood story.



The Fourth Crusade

- The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204) was proclaimed by Pope Innocent III (1198-1216).
 - For this Crusade, all the soldiers were French. Their goal was first to conquer Egypt from the Muslims.
 - To get there, they required transportation from the great Italian trading republic of Venice. The Venetian merchants saw the opportunity to make a lot of money off of this.
- As payment for their services, the Venetians first insisted that the French conquer the city of Zara in Dalmatia (Croatia) for them.
 - It was previously under Venetian control, but recently broke free and joined the Catholic kingdom of Hungary.
- So the Fourth Crusade begins with the Crusaders killing their fellow Catholics in Zara.
- Innocent III was rightly outraged and excommunicated both the French Crusaders and the Venetians.
 - He later restored the French Crusaders to the church upon their professions of repentance.
 - However, he refused to lift the excommunication from the Venetians.
- This made it where the Fourth Crusade continued as an unholy alliance between the Catholic French Crusaders and the excommunicated Venetians.



The Fourth Crusade's Treachery

- Alexius Angelus, the son of the deposed Byzantine Emperor Isaac II (1185-1195) distracted the Venetian and French force from its original aim of conquering Egypt.
 - He promised the Crusaders a large payment if they could restore him to the Byzantine throne.
 - He also promised the Eastern Orthodox church would submit to the Roman papacy.
- The Venetians were pleased with the proposal since they could use this as the pretext to secure control of all Eastern trade.
 - Venice's political head, Enrico Dandolo, also had a grudge against Byzantium. He was blinded in a street fight in Constantinople 30 years prior, and the Byzantines had refused trading agreements with him once he became Venice's leader. He had been looking for a way to get revenge for a long time.
- Pope Innocent III forbid the Crusaders to fight the Byzantines, but they ignored him. They stormed Constantinople, deposed the Emperor, and placed Alexius on the throne.
- When Alexius could not pay what he promised, the French besieged and conquered Constantinople in 1204. They violently butchered many in the population.
 - They then looted the Byzantine capital's many treasures (the Venetians did most of the looting). They even took the gold of Hagia Sophia.
- A French noble, Baldwin of Flanders, became the Emperor of a new Latin kingdom of Constantinople.
 - They set up a Western Catholic patriarch of Constantinople and made the Orthodox church subject to the Pope.
 - Despite this, the Orthodox people of Byzantium hated the papacy and remained loyal to their church and patriarch.

Consequences of the Fourth Crusade

- Truly the Fourth Crusade was one of the darkest events in Christian history.
 - This was the first time Crusading armies fought fellow Christians—it was all for money and power!
- The Byzantine Empire never recovered from this wound, even though they recaptured Constantinople from the Latins in 1261.
 - Just two centuries later, they fall to the Turks.
- Also, this Crusade wasn't even a battle between Muslims and Christians, but due to greed it was a war between Christians.
- There was a legacy of deep hatred left among the Eastern Orthodox for the Western Catholic Church.



The Children's Crusade

- The Children's Crusade (1212) in many respects is even more heartbreaking than the Fourth Crusade.
 - A German boy named Nicholas (10 years old) claimed to have a vision from Christ.
 - The same was said by a French boy named Stephen (9 to 12).
- They said the other crusades failed because they were fought for the wrong reason.
- They claimed Christ told them to peacefully convert the Muslims.
 - They gained about 30,000 pre-teen followers to march to the Holy Land.
 - Many adults did nothing to dissuade it thinking, "Surely God will help the children."



The Treachery of the Children's Crusade

- The boys claimed that God would part the waters in southern France to ease their passage.
 - He did not part the water, but the boys simply convinced themselves that God would do such in Northern Italy. The waters did not part there either.
 - The children went through North Italy eventually ending up in Venice.
- Once again, in steps the Venetian merchants. They promised to transport the children for free to Constantinople.
 - Instead, they sailed to Egypt and sold the kids into slavery. More than two-thirds of them were never heard from again.
- This should remind us that many of those who called themselves Christians during the Medieval Period were not truly believers.
- "Christians" from the beginning to the end of the Crusades acted without mercy and displayed barbarism.



The Other Crusades

- There were other Crusades, but none rival the first four.
 - There was not a great deal of zeal for crusades after the Third, because one of the chief causes was satisfied. Pilgrimages were protected.
- The only other Crusade of note is the so-called Sixth Crusade (1228-1229).
- It was led by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II (1210-1250).
 - He was an extremely strange, yet gifted and cultured ruler in the Middle Ages. Historians admire him as a lawmaker.
 - He had much respect for Muslim culture. He would wear a Turkish costume, and like the Sultans he took multiple wives.
 - He was also a foe of the papacy, even to the point of military conflict. Pope Gregory IX (1227-1241) excommunicated him.
- Frederick's visit to the Holy Land was not a war, but a state visit. Without fighting, he gained possession of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Nazareth from Sultan al-Kamil of Egypt in 1229 by diplomacy alone.
- Frederick then crowned himself king of Jerusalem.
 - This lasted until 1244 when it was again recaptured by Muslims. At this point, it was permanently lost to the West.

The Nature of the Other Crusades

- It's also worth noting that not all fighting was Christian v. Muslim.
 - In the 13th century, some Christian forces made alliances with Muslim forces who then went and fought against other Christian and Muslim groups.
 - Also at this time, the Mongols invaded the Middle East and decimated the Arabs as well.
- By the end of the 13th century, all the Latin territory in the Middle East had fallen to the Muslims.
 - The final one to fall into Muslim hands was the Crusader capital Acre. That occurred in 1291.
- Even with the end of the final crusade, Western Christendom and the papacy would talk about further Crusades for several hundred years, but none was ever actually launched.
 - With the fall of Acre, the Crusades were over.
- After receiving a taste of their own medicine for these two centuries, Muslims turned their hearts away from constant jihad.
 - However, the Turks still had their sights on Constantinople. Two centuries later, the Ottoman Turks will begin a new Islamic invasion of the West.



Monastic Orders of the Crusades

- The Crusades led to the establishment of great religious-military monastic orders.
 - This is a form of monasticism that was not discussed the Holy Orders lesson because their flourishing was entirely related to the Crusades.
- The most significant orders were the *Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem*, the *Knights of the Temple*, and the *Teutonic Knights*.
 - They combined the monastic way of life with the warrior code of chivalry—their members were simultaneously monks and knights.
- Their stated purpose was to transport pilgrims to the Holy Land, give them shelter and protection while there, and to battle the Muslim Turks.
- The Knights of Saint John were founded in 1048 prior to the First Crusade, but the Crusades are what caused them to flourish and grow.
 - Pope Paschal II (1099-1118) gave them papal recognition in 1113. They were nicknamed the *Hospitallers* because they ran a hospital for sick pilgrims in Jerusalem.
- The Knights of the Temple were founded in 1118. They get their name from their base which was near the site of the Jerusalem Temple.
 - Their monastic rule was written by Bernard of Clairvaux in 1128. They were nicknamed Templars.



Monastic Orders of the Crusades

- Both groups fought with bravery and ferocity against the Turks.
- Both also became wealthy organizations with a wide geographic spread.
- When Saladin recaptured Jerusalem in 1187, both orders moved their headquarters to Acre.
- When Acre fell in 1291, the Hospitallers moved their headquarters eventually to Malta.
 - From there, they defended Christian Europe from Muslim attack for 300 years.
- The Templars settled in France. In one of the dirtiest political moves in the Middle Ages, the French king Philip the Fair (1285-1314) disbanded the Templars by force in 1312, and put many of them to death on trumped up charges of heresy.
 - It seems clear that the king simply wanted to seize their money and property.
 - Of course, this gave birth to numerous conspiracy theories that exist to the present time.



The Teutonic Knights

- The Teutonic Knights were different from the other two since they were almost entirely a German order of monastic knights.
 - They were founded by merchants from certain German cities in 1190 during the Third Crusade. Papal recognition was granted in 1191 by Pope Clement III (1187-1191).
 - Most of their activities were in Germany and Eastern Europe rather than the Middle East.
- They began major campaigns against the pagan Prussians in 1226. This was in territory in present day Poland. They conquered Prussia in its entirety in 1283.
 - German settlers and Dominican missionaries then moved into the territory and brought Prussia within the Catholic fold.
 - Only the Eastern part of Prussia remained under the control of the Teutonic Knights since the Western part was conquered by Poland.
- The Teutonic Knights also vanquished the pagans and Christianized Latvia and Estonia. The Lithuanians were the last large pagan people of Eastern Europe.
 - It was through their fierce conflict with the Teutonic Knights that they came to Catholic Christianity.
 - They made an alliance with Catholic Poland to fight off the Knights, and in the process, they intermarried and the Lithuanians had to embrace Catholicism. This kept the Teutonic Knights out of Lithuania.



The Consequences of the Crusades

- The Crusades heightened the prestige and influence of the papacy in Western Europe. Popes inspired Crusades. They seemed to be the champions of Christianity. They united Christians against the Muslim threat.
 - The pope called the crusades setting the precedent of being able to call all of Europe to war. People thought he really had the power to do this.
 - In fact, this power will be extended beyond the idea of a religious war to destroy the enemies of the church. It would soon use the Crusade power against dissenting groups and heretics within Western Christendom: Albigensians, Waldensians, and Hussites.
- The Crusades created the scenario where European Christians took the concept of indulgences for granted. It was believed the popes could pardon all temporal penalties of sin. At first, they were granted for a great deed such as going on a crusade.
 - However, once the idea of indulgences was seen as valid, they could be sold for cash. The gift of money to the church was seen as a good deed that could cancel penalties of sin.
 - Eventually, indulgences would be extended to cover the souls already in purgatory, as living relatives or friends could use money to buy grace for dead loved ones.



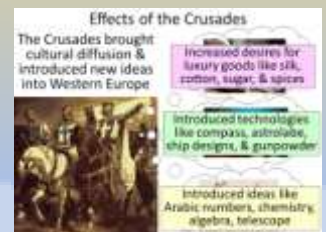
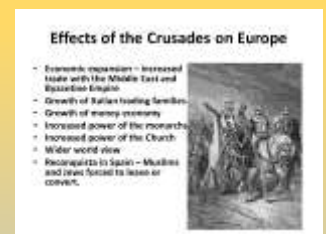
The Consequences of the Crusades

- The Crusades strengthened the monarchies of Western Europe as the crowns had more power than they did prior to the Crusades.
 - The nobility was weakened by their loss of control over many local communities. The communities often used money they saved up and purchased their freedom from the nobility.
 - The nobility needed money to fund their crusading expeditions. This led to a decline in Feudalism and an increase in governmental centralization.
- The knights themselves were changed by the Crusades, which also weakened Feudalism.
- When the knights came home, many refused to go back to the manor.
 - Instead they gathered into their own communities and built up their own cities.
 - Life in the crusades was interesting due to travel and adventure, they did not desire the boring life on the manor where they controlled the peasants for the nobility.
 - Many knights became tradesmen and founded guilds. Some became banking guilds (Knights of the Templar).
 - Many cities were built and a trend from agrarian living to urbanization began.



The Consequences of the Crusades

- The Crusades widened the division and hatred between Eastern Orthodox and Western Catholic Christianity.
 - The religious oppression inflicted by the crusaders would not be easily forgotten.
 - The conquest, plundering, and weakening of Constantinople would not be forgotten as well. The weakening of Byzantium will enable the later conquest of Eastern Europe by Muslims.
- The Crusades also left a legacy of bitterness and hatred between Christians and Muslims. Even though the Byzantines and Muslims fought often prior to the Crusades, there was a mutual respect between them.
 - The ruthless behavior of the Crusaders toward the Muslims in the Holy Land left a mark. They didn't even try to evangelize Muslims. Instead, they were enemies that should be killed without compassion.
 - This heightened religious intolerance between the two groups that has led to subsequent cruelty.
 - Many Muslims today see the West as a present-day version of the Crusading knights that slaughtered so many Muslim men, women, and children in the Holy Land in the Middle Ages.



Conclusion

- A final result was the education learned from the East.
 - The Greek and Roman philosophers were much forgotten in Western Europe, but the Arabs studied Aristotle and Plato heavily.
 - They reintroduced Europeans to their own heritage. This was an indirect cause of the Renaissance. This will influence Scholasticism and the rise of the University.
- The Crusades definitely left a blemish on the Lord's Church. The cruelty and lack of Christian ethics on display tarnished the Lord's reputation.
 - The First Crusade may have had merit in terms of jus ad bellum, but it lacked jus in bello.
 - The Second Crusade was simply an attempt to hold onto the gains of the First Crusade.
 - The Third Crusade was an attempt to reclaim the losses of those gains. The jus ad bellum is debatable in these Crusades.
 - The Fourth Crusade and after were disasters devoid of any moral cause.
- The results of the Crusades are still felt today.