

The Crusades: War for the Holy Land

Directions: Read about the Crusades and answer each question as it comes up based on the previous section.

LAUNCHING THE CRUSADES

The **Holy Land** contains the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus lived and taught. It includes several sites sacred to three major religions: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. During the Middle Ages, **Seljuk Turks** controlled the Holy Land, along with Persia and southwest Asia. Rumors that Muslims were persecuting Christian visitors spread through Europe. The Seljuk Turks attacked the **Byzantine Empire**, destroying a large part of its army in 1071. Fearing the Turks would soon conquer Constantinople, the Byzantine emperor turned to **Pope Urban II**. At a meeting in Clermont, France, Pope Urban asked European Christians to fight on behalf of the Byzantine Christians. To claim or protect the Holy Land, they launched several Crusades, or religious wars.

What did Pope Urban II do to help the Byzantine Empire?

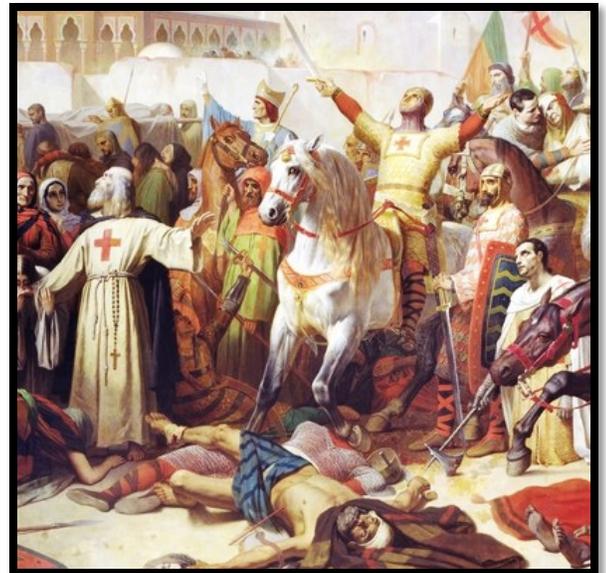
What was the goal of the Crusades?

FIGHTING THE CRUSADES

In all, there would be nine crusades between 1096 and 1291. The First Crusade was made up of two groups. One group was peasants. They were not skilled fighters, nor were they prepared for the long journey. Many were killed fighting people they encountered along the way. Those who made it to the Holy Land were easily defeated by the Seljuk forces.

What happened to the peasant fighters during the First Crusade?

The second group fighting in the First Crusade were trained knights. They were also unprepared for the difficulties of travel. Eager to fight in the Holy Land, some knights brutally attacked Jewish communities along the way. After two years of travel, they arrived in Jerusalem and claimed the city after several months of battle. Christian crusaders set up four states to serve as Christian strongholds in the Holy Land. These were centered on Jerusalem, Edessa, Antioch, and Tripoli.



Was the First Crusade a success? Explain.

The Second Crusade began because Muslims started retaking the land they had lost. New forces set out from Europe in 1147. This crusade was a failure for Christians, who returned home to Europe with no new land claims. A new Muslim leader named Saladin emerged about thirty years after the



Second Crusade and retook Jerusalem from the Christians. This caused the Third Crusade. The kings of France and Germany set out on this crusade, but only King Richard the Lion-Hearted of England stayed with his forces to fight Saladin. Richard and Saladin had great respect for each other, even as they fought fiercely for control of the Holy Land. Despite some early victories, Richard was not able to take Jerusalem and returned to England defeated. He was captured and held for ransom along the way.



Who were the two main leaders on two sides during Third Crusade?

In the end, who controlled the Holy Land?

A Fourth Crusade began in 1201 in yet another Christian attempt to claim Jerusalem. The Crusaders lacked the funds to pay for passage to the Holy Land. Instead, they agreed to attack a Christian port city called Zara for the Venetians in exchange for passage. Zara had been taken over by the Hungarian king, who was Christian. This attack resulted in the outraged pope excommunicating all the Crusaders, who then attacked Constantinople instead of the Holy Land.

Was the Fourth Crusade a success? Explain.

Five more Crusades were launched in the following years. None was successful. Jerusalem remained in Muslim hands when the Christians were driven completely out of the Holy Land by 1291.

EFFECTS OF THE CRUSADES

The Crusades had long-lasting effects on the economy, society, and politics in Europe and the Holy Land. First, trade increased as people in Europe learned about products from Asia, such as the spices and textiles that had been brought home by Crusaders. Second, the Crusades brought changes to the political structure of Europe. Because many nobles and knights died during the Crusades, some kings took their land to increase their own power. Also, fighting between European nations decreased because their soldiers were fighting elsewhere. Finally, relations between people of different religions suffered as a result of the Crusades. Many Europeans became intolerant, thinking of all non-Christians as enemies. In return, Muslims and Jews viewed Christians as invaders. These attitudes caused strained relations between the groups for centuries.

Name three effects of the Crusades.