

## **First Crusade 1095**

### **Causes:**

1). Muslim Expansion – the Rise of Islam

Muhammad 610 – Revelation

629 Flight to Medina from Mecca Hijra

Death 632

Islamic expansion began 3 years after Muhammad's death and emerged from the Arabian peninsula as an aggressively expanding religion, which aimed to conquer all the lands of the region. They swept across North Africa into Spain, conquered the Middle East and Near East/Asia Minor. Pagans were dealt with ruthlessly and not tolerated. The "people of the book", Christians and Jews were tolerated for their common Biblical inheritance, but forced to pay high taxes. Any advancement in Muslim society was given only to those who converted and between this and the prohibitive taxes many Jews and Christians converted. This continuous war or "jihad" began just three years after Muhammad's death and continued for the next thousand years. In this time Muslim armies overran the Christian Lands of:

**Syria 637 Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine 630 AD Armenia and Egypt 639**

**North Africa, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco 652-665 AD**

**Spain 711 AD**

**Southern France 732 AD – Checked at the Battle of Tours**

**Sicily 850 AD**

**Southern Italy 827 AD**

**Turkish borders 900 AD**

**Armenia and Georgia 1050 AD**

**Central Turkey 1070 AD**

**Greece 1300 AD**

**Bulgaria, Serbia and the Balkans 1400 AD**

**Constantinople Siege 717-718 Fall to Turks 1453 AD**

Of all the churches mentioned in the New Testament, Jerusalem, Antioch, Constantinople and Alexandria, only a single one, Rome, escaped Muslim domination.

Most Muslim Scholars see the world as divided into two realms or abodes—the Abode of Peace (Dar Al-Salaam) and the Abode of War (Dar Al-Harb). The lands controlled by Muslims belong to the Abode of Peace, while those who have not yet submitted to Islam belong to the Abode of War until they are "utterly subdued." So the entire context of the eastern Crusades is one of **response** to continuous Islamic aggression.

2). Access to Christianities holiest sites was threatened. In 1009, the [Fatimid Caliph al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah](#) ordered the destruction of the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#). In 1039 his successor, after requiring large sums be paid for the right, permitted the Byzantine Empire to rebuild it. Pilgrims were being threatened and sometimes captured and killed. The 3 of the original patriarchates had fallen under Muslim rule: Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Constantinople was threatened.

3). Seljuk Turks threaten the Byzantine empire. In 1071, at the [Battle of Manzikert](#), the Byzantine Empire was defeated, which led to the loss of all of Asia Minor (modern [Turkey](#)) save the coastlands. In 1074, Emperor [Michael VII](#) sent letters to [Pope Gregory VII](#) asking for aid and in again 1095, from Emperor [Alexios I Komnenos](#) to [Pope Urban II](#).

### **Pope Urban 11 at the Council of Clermont**

Plenary Indulgence: [Pope Urban II](#)'s remitted all penance incurred by [crusaders](#) who confessed their sins, considering participation in the crusade equivalent to a complete penance. (Precedent in 1063, [Pope Alexander II](#) had given his blessing to Iberian Christians in their wars against the Muslims, granting both a papal standard (the *vexillum sancti Petri*) and an [indulgence](#) to those who were killed in battle.)

**Augustine's Just War:** Augustine developed a theology of [just war](#), that is, [war](#) that is acceptable under certain conditions. Firstly, [war](#) must occur for a good and [just](#) purpose rather than for self-gain or as an exercise of power. Secondly, [just war](#) must be waged by a properly instituted authority such as the state. Thirdly, love must be a central motive even in the midst of violence. Augustine concludes, "The commandment forbidding killing was not broken by those who have waged wars on the authority of God, or those who have imposed the death-penalty on criminals when representing the authority of the state, the justest and most reasonable source of power."

### **Siege of Antioch 1098**

### **Siege of Jerusalem 1099**

**Results:** Returned Jerusalem to Christian control and saved the Byzantines from the Muslim conquerors. Established Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem the principality of Antioch, and the counties of Edessa and Tripoli.

**Second Crusade (1146-48)** 1144 County of Edessa falls to the Turks and a new crusade is launched led by Louis VII of France and Conrad III of Germany and preached by St. Bernard of Clairvaux himself. It failed and most of the crusaders died en route.

**Third Crusade (1188-92)** The Muslims are united under the great leader Saladin and wipe out the armies of the Kingdom of Jerusalem at the Battle of Hattin. They capture the relic of the True Cross from the Christians and one by one the Christian cities begin to fall ending with the capture of Jerusalem on Oct 2, 1187. Phillip II of France, Richard I (the Lionheart) of England and Frederick Barbarossa embark on a new crusade. Frederick drowns before they reach the Holy Land and his armies return home. The remaining French and English armies recapture Acre and then the French return home due to conflicts. Richard continues on and recaptures most of the coast but fails to regain Jerusalem. He makes a deal with Saladin to ensure safe passage to Jerusalem for pilgrims. Richard is captured on his way home by the Austrian king and held for ransom.

**Fourth Crusade (1202-04)** The disastrous 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade was never endorsed by Pope Innocent III and he excommunicates the whole crusade. Lacking funds they appeal to the Venetians to get them to the Holy Land and also get involved with a rival claimant to the Byzantine throne. The Crusade gets detoured to Byzantium and they end up sacking the city, both to attempt to repay the Venetians and to support the new emperor.

**Albigensian Crusade (1208):** Also known as Cathars, they were medieval Manichaeans; (Mani 3<sup>rd</sup> c religious teacher) a strong and organized sect based in the south of France, particularly in Languedoc who had the support of powerful and great nobles like Raymond of Toulouse. Divided into *perfecti* and *credenti*. St. Bernard attempted to convert them, Pope Innocent III sent envoys on preaching missions in 1198 and 1203. In 1208 the papal legate Peter of Castelnau was assassinated there and a crusade was declared. Finally violently defeated in 1213, and by 1226 under control of French crown, but continued until the massacre of 1244.

**Children's Crusade 1212:** Grew of the crusading enthusiasm and originated in France and the Low Countries where a group of children and adults (30,000) set out for the Holy Land to free Jerusalem. It ended badly, some of the children came home others perished and some were shipped to ports in southern France to be sold as slaves in Muslim-controlled North Africa.

**Fifth Crusade (1217-21)** The fifth crusade led by St. Louis IX goes to Egypt in an attempt to establish a launching point there. They briefly capture Damietta but it is soon retaken by the Muslims. Louis is unable to free Jerusalem and leads another crusade to Tunis in 1270 where he dies of a fever.

**Peasant's Crusade:** When Louis IX captured on Crusade in 1250 a spontaneous movement inside France to free him. Took to pillaging and plundering en route and where put down by royal forces.

## Crusade Myths

1. The crusades were never referred to as such by their participants. The original crusaders were known by various terms, including *fideles Sancti Petri* (the faithful of [Saint Peter](#)) or *milites Christi* (knights of Christ). They saw themselves as undertaking an *iter*, a journey, or a *peregrinatio*, a pilgrimage, though pilgrims were usually forbidden from carrying arms. Like pilgrims, each crusader swore a vow (a *votus*), to be fulfilled on successfully reaching Jerusalem, and they were granted a cloth cross (*crux*) to be sewn into their clothes. This "taking of the cross", the *crux*, eventually became associated with the entire journey; the word "crusade" (coming into English from the [French](#) *croisade*, the [Italian](#) *crociata*, the [Portuguese](#) *cruzada*, or the German *Kreuzzug*) developed from this.
2. Knights went crusading for the riches and booty. The study of medieval charters shows another story. Crusaders were wealthy landowners already. Outfitting oneself and one's men for a crusade was very costly. Very little treasure was found and few returned home made wealthier by crusading for most it was just the opposite.
3. Attacks against Jews in the Rhineland were terrible and led by renegade leaders in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusades. Local bishops tried to stop the attack and condemned them as did the popes. St. Bernard of Clairvaux himself traveled to Germany during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade to stop a fellow Cistercian monk for inciting crusaders to kill local Jews.