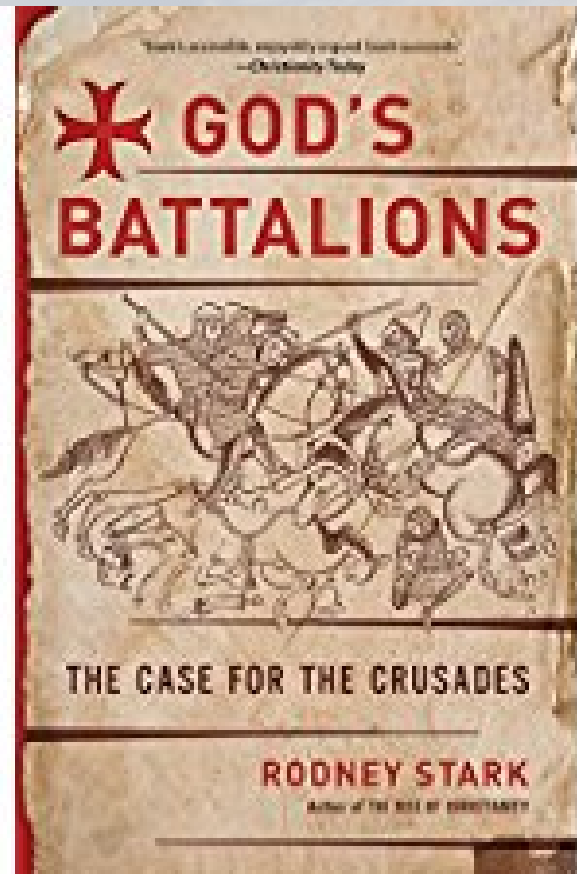
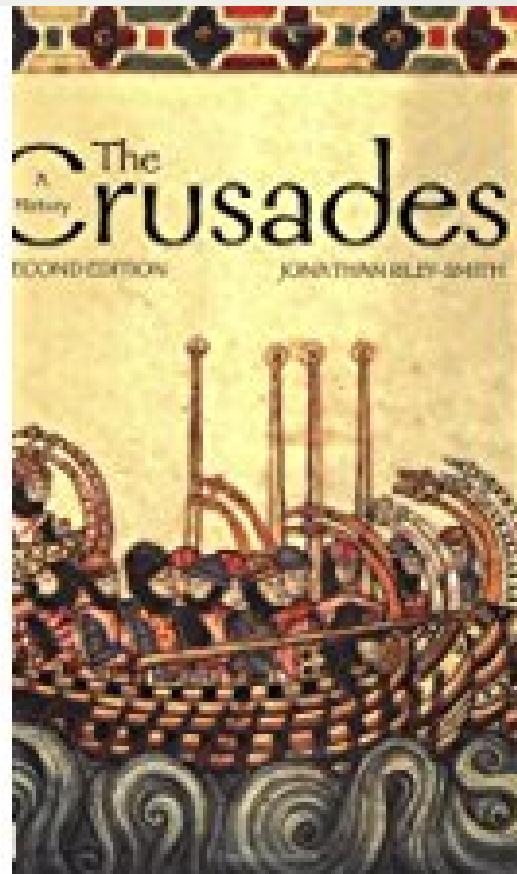




The Crusades

And the lessons they teach us

Resources



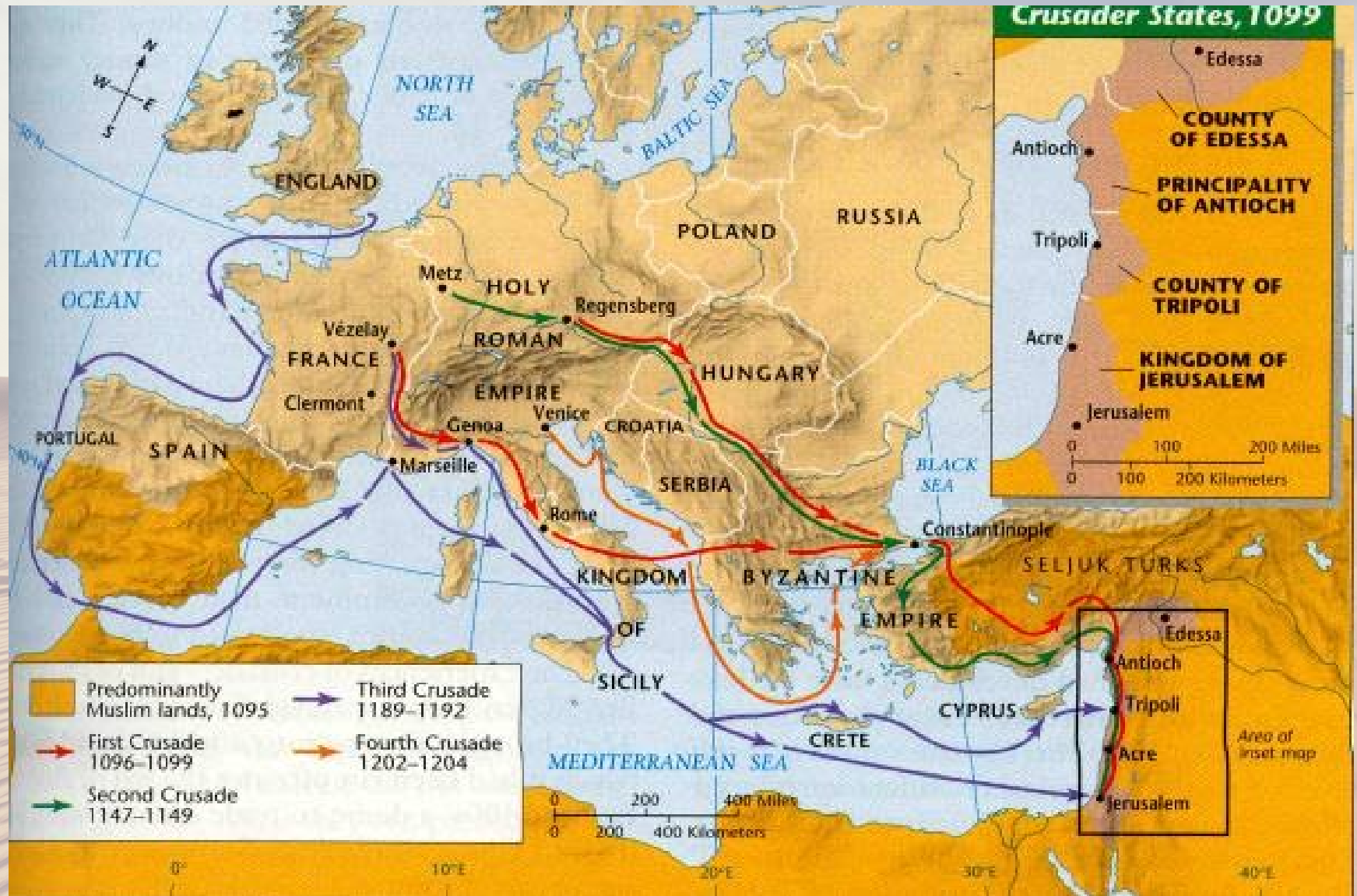
3 Practical Considerations

- Identify **clear objections** when mobilizing people. Organize to meet objections.
- **Starting** something is quite different from **maintaining** something
- Pay attention to **the pliability of terms**

What are the Crusades?

- **Crusades**- a series of expeditions over the course of a few hundred years (1095-1291) aimed at:
 - a.) preserving **Constantinople** as a Christian city
 - b.) keeping the Muslims out of the Byzantine east (and perhaps uniting the East and West)
 - c.) driving the Muslims out of **the Holy Land** (Palestine)

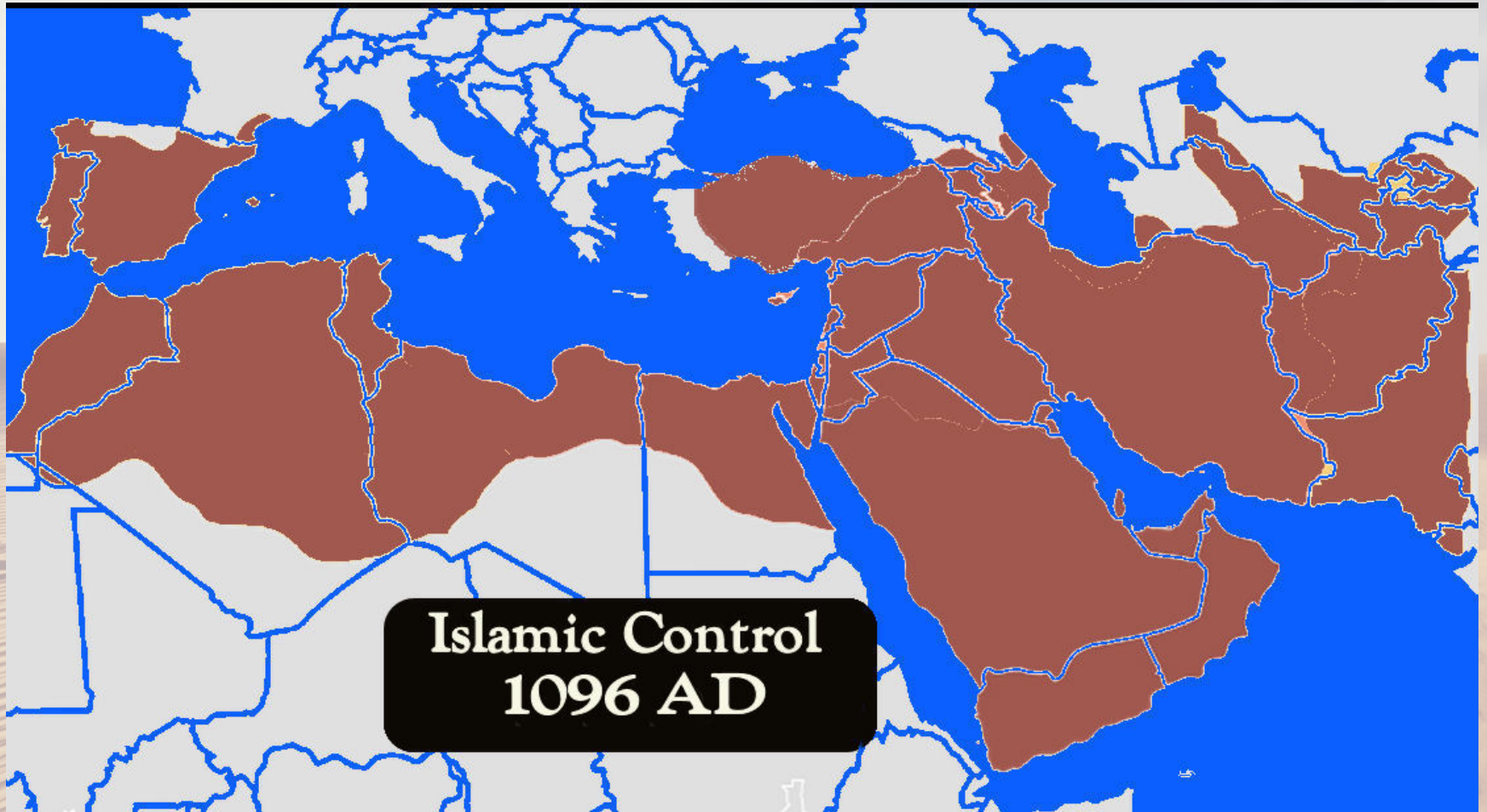
Theaters of the Crusade



“Waves” of crusading activity

- 1096-1099- The First Crusade is usually divided into “three waves”
- 1147-1149 – The Second Crusade
- 1189-1192- Third Crusade
- 1202-1204- Fourth Crusade

Christian and Muslim, 1095



Constantinople



Background: The Feudal System

- Society was set up between Feudal Lords and vassals. The Lords allowed the vassals to work the land in return for loyalty and military service
- **Knights**- the lower nobility, the *militia christi* (army of Christ), granted the title by a monarch or lord, usually mounted

Background: Famine in Europe

- Other factors behind the crusades?
- It was not only religious zealousness that propelled the Crusades, but also a series of **bad harvests** that made leaving for another place more enticing.
- With population growth in Europe came **disease**

Background: Theories of Just War

- Augustine (AD 354-410) develops the Christian theory of **Just War**
- **Just Cause**- a defense against aggression
- **Just Intent**- restoration of peace
- **Last Resort**- violence is the last option
- **Proportionality**- Violence is to be minimized and made commensurate with the infraction
- **Non-combatant immunity**- civilians protected

Background: Apocalyptic Overtones

- During major events in church history, there seems to be a rise in the anticipation of End Times
- This is a time of visions, angel sightings, etc...
- There is a sincere belief that the recapturing of Jerusalem will usher in The End.
- To what degree are the Crusades ideologically motivated – “taking up the cross” (Luke 9.23)?

Urban II (Council of Clermont)

- “I say it to those who are present. I command that it be said to those who are absent. Christ commands it. All who go there and **lose their lives**. Be it on the road or on the sea, or in the fight against the pagans, will be granted **immediate forgiveness of sins**. This I grant all who will march, by virtue of the great gift God has given me” The people respond “Deus vult” = **God wills it**, sets date at Aug. 15, 1096

Organization?

- **Peter the Hermit**- leads a disorganized mob, they plunder the land of other Christians along the way and **attack whatever Jewish settlements they can** in the spirit of fighting the infidel
- This is sometimes called **The People's Crusade**
- Most die, but others join the more formal attack that left in Aug. 1096

“Waves” of the First Crusade



Question of Leadership

- Which one of the leaders would take command?
- What role would the Eastern **Emperor Alexius** take? He must supply the crusaders...
- All of the “armies” assemble in April 1097 before Nicaea, the first Turkish city in Muslim hands

Foreshadowing the Problem

- The crusaders have a series of victories across Asia Minor.
- Conditions are harsh in the summer of 1097, animals die, **4/5 crusaders are horseless!**
- **The Problem:** They refuse to turn the lands over to the Byzantine Empire – thereby refusing to honor their oaths

1st Crusade, 1097-1098



The Siege of Antioch, (1097-98)

- The crusaders, **about 40,000 people**, lay a 7.5 month siege of Antioch.
- “The abiding impression one has of the siege is not one of warfare but of **a constant search for food**”. Riley-Smith, 29.
- Finally they are permitted to enter the city gates by an Armenian traitor, but are quickly surrounded by Turkish support

Apocalyptic Visions at Antioch

- The Crusaders are reassured by visions.
- The most important one was that of **St Andrew** who showed the Crusaders the location of the **Holy Lance** (the lance that pierced Christ's side on the cross)- they dig under a Cathedral and “discover” a lance

Who would control Antioch?

- Bohemund of Taranto claims it for himself
- Alexius, the Emperor, is upset that it has not been returned to Byzantium, but the Crusaders feel betrayed that Alexius will not lead a Crusade nor come to Antioch in person.
- The Crusades feature **Leadership Crises**

Antioch to Jerusalem (1099)



Jerusalem liberated

- Jerusalem surrounded and sacked in July 1099, Godfrey of Bouillon named ruler
- They fight off an Egyptian counter-attack.
- The Crusaders return to Europe with **relics**, but others come East enthused by the victories? Shamed for not coming? (**Third Wave**)

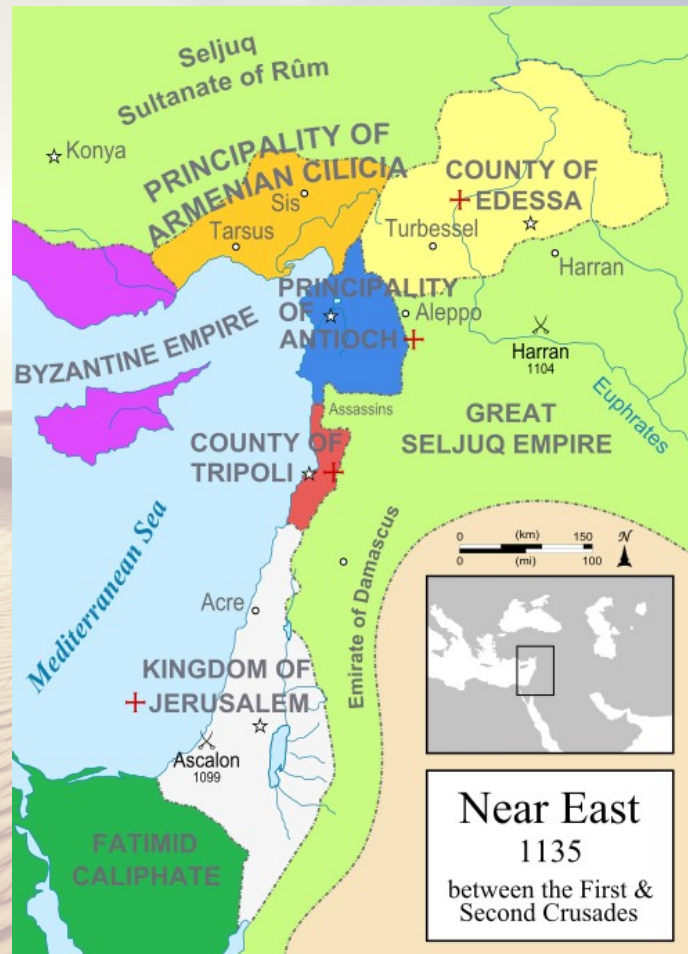
Islamic Perspectives

- There is an entire field of study devoted to **Islamic Perspectives** of the crusades
- For Muslims, the Christians were **invading**. This activated notions of **Jihad**
- The crusaders were **dirty (lack of hygiene)**
- Islamic culture was superior
- **Mushrikun**= Those who partnered something with Allah

Questions about the 1st Crusade

- Some leaders were motivated by power rather than establishing Christianity.
- The Latin Church is disappointed with the outcome- they do not acquire churches
- How were the lands to be maintained? Many Crusaders returned to Europe
- East-West relationship is deteriorating

The 4 Crusading States



The Second Crusade (1145-49)

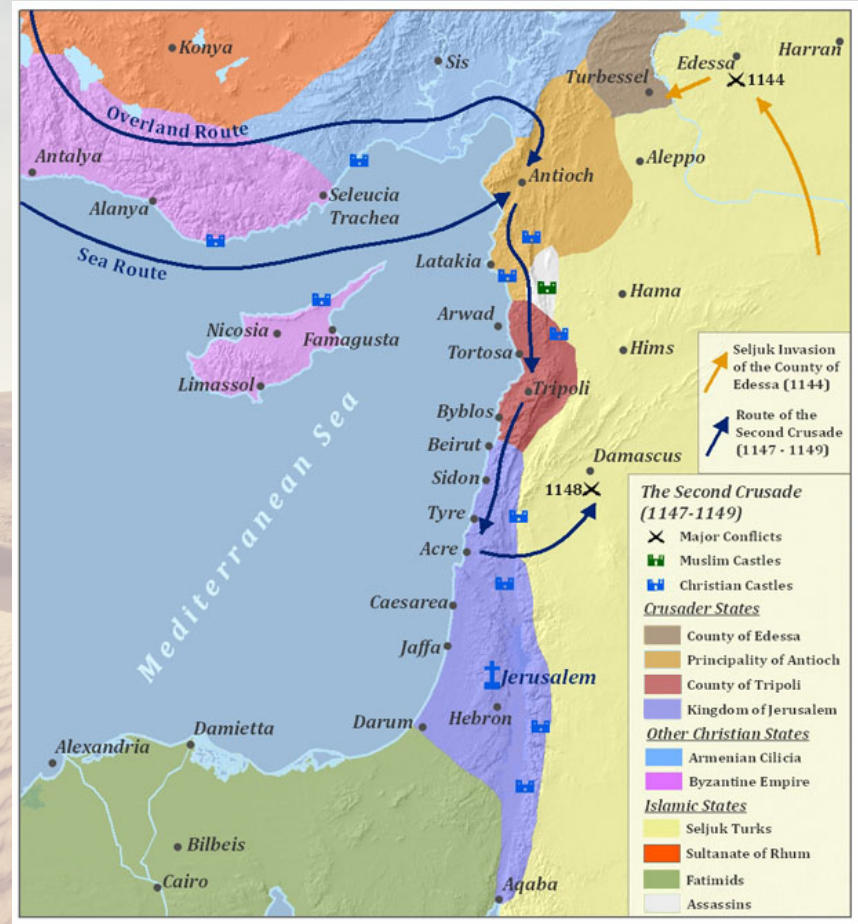
- **Damascus** is never taken by the crusaders and becomes a center for Islamic attacks
- Edessa fell to the Muslims, Melisende of Jerusalem writes the Pope for help
- Pope Eugenius III calls for Crusade in **Quantum Praedecessores**- remission of sins promised

Bernard of Clairvaux

- **Bernard of Clairvaux**- travelled throughout France and Germany calling for the Second Crusade, gets the monarchs on board
- Says **Edessa fell because of sin**
- The Germans and the French leave at different times... the Germans run into Saljuq Turks, lose many crusaders, desertion is a problem

The Loss at Damascus

- They decide to attack Damascus
- The Muslims are reinforced and the crusaders are defeated
- This had a lasting impact on the Crusades



The Rise of the Indulgence

- AD 1100-1200 is a key century for the establishment of the indulgence
- If you cannot go on Crusade, make a payment towards the Crusades for remission of sins
- AD 1215 The Fourth Lateran Council, formalizes the indulgence

Saladin (d. 1193)

- He is Kurdish, begins to “call the shots” in Cairo, the Muslims begin to get their act together
- One of the great military leaders in world history
(Cf. J Philips *The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin*)
- Depicted as **invincible** in Western sources
- Sketch from c. 1185



The Collapse of the Crusading States

- The crusaders have poor plans of succession in Antioch and Jerusalem
- The Byzantine Emperor Andronicus hates the Franks and is glad to align himself with Saladin and the Muslims

The Battle of Hattin (1187)

- **Saladin** is able to consolidate the Muslim forces, Muslims crush the crusaders, capture the “true cross”
- Saladin destroys the crusaders, Acre falls in a few days
- This is a reversal of the First Crusade as the Muslims are now well organized

1992 Sculpture of Saladin, Damascus



Propaganda from the 1980's



The Third Crusade (1189-93)

- Gregory VIII- calls for Crusade in *Audita Tremendi*, having learned Jerusalem was lost
- One of the first to “take up the cross” was **Richard (I) the Lionhearted** – the son of English King Henry II
- Joins with Philip II of France- they decide to leave on Crusade at Easter 1189
- Phillip II of France declares a **Saladin Tithe**

Richard The Lionhearted

- Leaves by sea in 1190, slams into Acre and lays siege to the city
- He tries various methods to retake Jerusalem but he realizes he cannot hold the city
- He ends up negotiating with Saladin- gets free passage for Christians to the Holy Land and a 3 year truce
- Richard returns to Europe broken- he is imprisoned in 1195 and dies in 1199

Innocent III (1198-1216)

- One of the most corrupt Popes of all time
- Used **The Interdict** (mass excommunication) excessively
- He taxed the church membership for crusades
- Innocent III signs “**the deal**” with the **Venetians** and the Doge- Venice supplies the crusaders in return for 4 massive sums

The Fourth Crusade (1202-1204)

- Led by **Venetian merchants** motivated by profit. They set out NOT to combat Muslim strongholds, but rather lay siege to **Constantinople**
- Jean LeClerc, *Doge of Venice Recruiting for the 4th Crusade*, c. 1621.



Fourth Crusade

- “When the leading Crusaders were established in the Great Palace... their soldiers were told that they might spend the next three days in pillage. The sack of Constantinople is unparalleled in history. For nine centuries the great city had been the capital of Christian civilization...” – S. Runciman, *A History of the Crusades*, Vol. 3.123

Fourth Crusade

- “There was never a greater crime against humanity than the fourth crusade” – Runciman, 3.130



Albigensian Crusade (1209-1255)

- This is about the **pliability of the crusading idea**
- The **Cathars** are dualists, they deny the Trinity, they don't say prayers, they deny purgatory
- The Cathars spread west into France – into the city of **Albi**
- Pope Innocent III offers indulgences to those who will fight the Cathars in France!
- “kill them all, God will know his own”!

The Children's Crusade (1212)

- Led by Nicholas of Koln (Cologne)
- The adults were failing because of sin, the children should march south- **the Mediterranean Sea would part**
- Some make it to S. Italy, the sea does NOT part, some go on ships (many of which sink), others are enslaved, others return home in bad shape
- 1213- Innocent III calls for the Fifth Crusade!

Big Themes

- Call to Crusade – the Pope? The secular rulers? The merchants?
- What is the role of incentives? Indulgences?
- What is the motivation- Holy Land? Personal power? 2nd Crusade goes for “Infidels”
- Muslim v. Muslim, Christian v. Christian conflicts
- Should the Crusaders have gone to Egypt first?
- The emergence of new “culture” from the East?

Consequences of the Crusades

- Entrenched division between the Eastern and Western Church
- Violence is *not* a tool for Christian expansion
- Complicated relationships between the “Christian” West and the Arab “East”, George Bush says “Crusade” in Sept. 2001