

The Crusades

Lecture 1 Part 1 - Pope Urban II Call to and the First Crusade

Early crusaders often described themselves as pilgrims

Council of Clermont, France (Nov 27th, 1095)

1. The day that Pope Urban II called them to the crusades
2. The Church council was to reform the church
3. Urban raised indignation by talking about how Muslims were oppressing Christians
4. Probably urged to conquest Jerusalem
5. Wanted only trained fighters and ordered that they all get permission from wives and priests
6. Would take the place of penance
7. Many individuals signed up
8. 25-30,000 individuals joined
9. No kings participated in the first crusade

People's Crusade

1. Urban and rural poor with some knights
2. They had very little discipline or organization
3. As they travelled they attacked communities of Jews and killing them
 - a. They were motivated for revenge for killing Jesus
 - b. Also wanted to seize the wealth
 - c. Most people condemned the slaughter of Jews but also enjoyed collecting the Jewish bribes

The First Crusade

1. Left in 1097
2. Far better organized and trained
3. Many victories were hard-won and they lost many lives
4. July 15 1099 they won the city of Jerusalem
5. They only won a small strip of land that was surrounded by Muslim territories
6. Won it mostly by luck and situation
7. Four Crusader States: the Kingdom of Jerusalem, Principality of Antioch, County of Edessa, and County of Tripoli

Muslims

1. Impressive culture
2. Strong intellectual traditions
3. They had political infighting between the Sunni Seljuk Turks in Baghdad and Shi'ite Fatimids in Egypt
4. The leaders of these groups died and then had to deal with internal power struggles

Need for more crusades

1. They needed to have more warriors to hold the holy land
2. Everyone wanted to go home after the conquest
3. The religious orders (templars, hospitallers) were needed to hold the area

Subsequent expeditions

1. Small expeditions were continuously going
2. Second crusade - 1147-1148 lost the battle for Edessa

3. Third Crusade - 1189-1193 Lost Jerusalem
 - a. Went with kings of France and England
 - b. Richard the Lion Heart had some successes but he failed to reconquer Jerusalem

Fourth Crusade

1. Never made it
2. They overestimated the number of ships needed
3. They captured Zara for the Venetians and were excommunicated
4. Captured Byzantium in return for funding
 - a. Pope excommunicated them as they reunited the church

Next Crusades

1. Children's crusade- the sea did not part for them so they never made it
2. The fifth crusade - they attacked Egypt to weaken them. They did not succeed in capturing Egypt
3. Frederick II 1229 - negotiated it but then lost it soon after
4. These continued for almost 500 years

Other Uses for Crusades

1. Iberian Reconquista
2. Eastern Europe - Teutonic Knights were dedicated to fighting on this front. It pushed Christianity further east
3. Heretics - Albigensians, Christians that deviate from official Christian teaching
4. Political Opponents - Frederick II
5. All of these called into question the authority of the Pope

Creation of a Persecuting Society

1. Less tolerance from deviance from the mainstream
2. Jews and Heretics were expelled from European states
3. They killed and torched many Heretics which was later extended towards witches

Taking the Cross

1. Vow to go on crusade was made publicly
2. Cross, staff and purse were symbols of the crusade
3. Delays in fulfilling your vow could result in excommunication (then nobody can associate with you) or social and religious penalties
4. Many people did break their vows because it was difficult to go on a crusade
5. People could buy their way out through vow redemption
6. They saw themselves as doing god's will
7. Brought social prestige
8. Some that went were non-combatants, some were non-elites
9. Some brought their families
10. Non-combatants were a strain as they had to be fed and brought to the next location
11. Crusades were expensive
12. Although they looted they also spent a lot of money on food and transportation
13. Elites were responsible for their household expenses and the wages of the people they brought
14. Kings would tax people to fund their crusades

15. Church also charged taxes which caused some people to lose faith
16. Church let people pay off their sin

Travel

1. The first crusaders travelled by land
 - a. Difficult and slow as they had to bring lots of supplies
 - b. Locals were often hostile
 - c. Crossing rivers was difficult
2. Later crusades travelled by sea
 - a. This was expensive to make contracts
 - b. They also had trouble bringing all of their supplies on ships
 - c. Horses did not like to go on ships
 - d. Risk of pirates

Food and water

1. The first crusade brought little food and water
 - a. Relied on foraging and gifts
 - b. Most warfare were sieges but this took a lot of resources
2. Supply was better in later crusades
3. They had difficulty finding water supplies

Climate and Terrain

1. The temperatures were different from what they were used to
2. It was difficult to travel over mountains
3. Many animals died
4. Crusaders died often due to poor health as well as through injuries
5. At least 50% died and many had permanent health conditions or ended up in slavery

Video - The Role of Religion

1. Crusaders took pride in killing Muslims
2. Land at home was at risk while they were away
3. They often had permanent health problems
4. Almost nobody went home richer

Motives

1. Not all had the same motives
2. Most important motivation is religion
3. Most recent historians believe that religion was an important factor in taking their vows
4. Concern for the afterlife
 - a. Devotion was growing in the 11th century
 - b. Increases in people going on pilgrimages or entering monasteries
5. The church was trying to improve outreach and be less individually sinful
 - a. More people were willing to trust the pope
6. 11 and 12 century - life was uncertain so a good afterlife is important
 - a. Hell is the punishment if they sin and do not repent
 - b. Catholic doctrine allowed for individuals to repent and do penance so that they could still get into heaven
7. War was inevitable and thus not sinful - just war
 - a. War to prevent injustice or protect

- b. Could not use excessive force
 - c. War to protect the church was just
 - d. War should be declared by leaders and follow their commands
 - i. Therefore if the war was unjust then the sin would be on the leader
- 8. Violence personally was unacceptable
- 9. People believed that it was difficult to be a warrior without sinning
- 10. Rich had a harder time getting into heaven so the noblemen and knights likely had deep-seated fears about this

Suffering

- 1. Monks and Masters got into a special place in heaven because of their persecution and suffering
 - a. These acts were widely respected
- 2. Religious devotion often involved meditating on Jesus' suffering
- 3. Pictures of Jesus on a cross were common aids
- 4. People that thought they could get closer to Jesus by mimicking his life and suffering
- 5. People wanted to die in Jerusalem
- 6. Astrological events were odd on the 1st crusade and people saw this as signs from god
- 7. Failures were blamed on sin or insufficient prayer
- 8. People were obeying authority, saw the benefit of peace but also thought it was necessary to go to war

Pilgrimage

- 1. Presented as an armed pilgrimage
- 2. Only much later that pilgrims were considered distinct from crusades
- 3. Common penance
- 4. People thought places absorbed the virtues of people who had visited there
- 5. Sainly relics were often encased in gold and gems
- 6. People thought that this could heal people
- 7. Jerusalem was one of the most important pilgrimage lands
- 8. Crusaders visited the holy places and brought home dirt
- 9. People thought Jerusalem was the center of the earth
- 10. Christians were buried in orientation to Jerusalem
- 11. Wanted it to be in Christian hands so they had free access
- 12. 11 CE they were more popular but they were often attacked by Muslims
- 13. Wanted to conquer to ensure safe access

Video - Other Motives

Wealth

- 1. Thought the east was the land of fabulous riches
- 2. Merchants brought luxury goods from the east
- 3. After the 1st crusade most realized that it was not profitable
- 4. It was very expensive to go on a crusade
- 5. Family and land were often treated while their men were away
- 6. Some planned on settling in the holy land
 - a. A few nobles did this
 - b. Few Europeans actually did

- c. They didn't want to live near hostile states
- 7. Merchants benefited from the trade
- 8. Wealth was enormous
- 9. Cyprus continued to serve as a trading center even after
- 10. Most crusaders did not make much wealth from this trade
- 11. They planned to loot, hold prisoners for ransom, keep them as slaves
 - a. The spoils of war did not usually cover the cost of the journey
- 12. Many crusaders brought home spiritual riches
 - a. They usually gave the relics to local churches

Reputation

- 1. Likely was a goal for some
- 2. Could win them patronage
- 3. Young boys were taught to be knights
- 4. This helped them win the respect of peers
- 5. They had to prove that they could fight in battle, but war was becoming scarce
- 6. Churchmen tried to limit violence
- 7. Kings and nobles developed stronger reigns so they could suppress violence
- 8. Fewer opportunities for fighting
- 9. Going on crusades could give them a reputation and they could use their skills

Expansion of Christian Territory

- 1. The 9th century they began to reconquest Iberia
 - a. Often ambitious unruly warriors
 - b. They were given crusader status
- 2. Northern French warriors went to Italy and reconquered the territory from the Muslim
- 3. Expanded north into the pagan states

Hatred of Muslims

- 1. Hard to judge how widespread this was
- 2. Most Christians had only limited contact with Muslims
- 3. Stories about the evils of Muslims were very popular
 - a. Distorted picture of Muslim beliefs
- 4. Many heard stories of atrocities committed against Christians
- 5. Many pilgrims were attacked
- 6. Reconquest of their areas encouraged them to think of the Muslims as the enemy
- 7. Concerned about Muslim expansion
- 8. Emperor Alexios (ruler of Byzantium) wanted the pope to send mercenaries to aid in the war and to win back his lands
 - a. Wanted to be on good terms with him to heal the schism between Orthodox and catholic who had formally separated in 1054
- 9. Works of Muslim scholars were sought after and may have spurred the intellectual revolution
- 10. Relationships with Muslim in the crusader states were sometimes friendly

Video - Why the Crusades Achieved so Little

Leadership

- 1. There was no single leader of most crusades

2. Nobles led their Retinues and paid their expenses
 - a. Most men attached themselves to one contingent or another
3. This resulted in fragmented leadership
4. Leaders contingents did not have to cooperate with others
5. Occasionally they attempted to elect leaders but nobles made it impossible for them to lead
6. First crusade had the best plan and motive
7. Some had hostilities prior to going on crusade
8. Later crusades were more cohesive but smaller

Muslim Resistance

1. Crusaders lacked the personnel to hold the area
2. Few were willing to settle and protect what was won
3. Because of other conquests, fewer men came to the holy land
4. Rulers panned to attract people but nobody wanted to come
5. Forces adjustments in relationships between Muslims
 - a. Originally wanted the states to be fully Christian
 - b. They, however, had to keep Muslims peasants to work the land, they were heavily taxed
 - i. The two groups remained mostly separate with Christians in the cities
 - c. The Muslims were heavily taxed but their lives barely changed
 - d. Mosques became churches but Muslims could still pray in them
 - e. Slaves that converted were immediately freed
6. Traders moved through despite war or peace
7. Relatively little blending of culture
8. After the fall of crusader states, little crusader culture remained
9. Muslims were excellent fighter but had better resources
10. Did not take the crusader states very seriously
11. Muslim people were very divided and spent a lot of time fighting each other
12. The common enemy unified them
13. The building of castles demonstrated power
14. Muslimes greatly outnumbered the Christians
15. Muslims excelled at siegecraft

Difficulty of Transport

1. Hard to get an army and their equipment to the holy land
2. Required armour, horses, provisions, weapons
3. Transportation by land was slow, transportation by water was expensive
4. Sieges used up many supplies
5. Catapulting corpses into the opposite camp to give them diseases

Video - Reflection

Who created terror

Who bought into it?

How did it spread?

How was it experienced?

What mechanism spread the underlying ideas - popular culture, the culture of knights?

1. Easy to blame the pope but they needed widespread support
2. Those living in the region would have delta lot of terror
3. Some died, some lived under terror
4. Some went due to their terrors
5. People feared what others thought of them
6. Some feared poverty
7. Some feared the Turks would conquer their lands
8. People did not experience terror in the same way
9. Encouraged new fears in society
 - a. Fears lead to the protestant reformation

Pope Urban II's Speech at the Council of Clermont, 1095

1. The leaders of the church need to be better the people that they lead
2. They had lost control in their diocese and needed to restore it
3. The Christian territory in the east had been attacked and conquered
4. Anyone who helps will have their sins remitted
5. Anyone can join to fight

Siege of Jerusalem

1. Lots of people
2. They all have coats of arms
3. They have out someone on a cross
4. Praying

Usamah Ibn Munqidh (1095-1188): Autobiography, excerpts on the Franks

1. The franks have a weird form of medicine
2. It seems to both kill and cure people
3. Men do not seem to protect women or see them as an object that is only theirs
4. It is good when a father takes on an active role
5. They blind a man because he does not sink
6. He is saved by a Christian because he was willing to trust them

On Muslim and Christian Piety

1. He is impressed by how devoted the Christians are
2. He also sees it as a competition to see who is more devoted

Marcus Bull, "Origins"

1. Opens with telling a story of Thomas of Marle where he is accessible violent
 - a. Almost certainly exaggerated violence to shock people
 - b. The purpose of this was to shock the people who had become so used to violence
2. The church in the early centuries had to be a pacifist, set up systemization and consistency
3. The second half of the eleventh century saw an expansion
4. Formerly Christian lands were being taken away
5. The crusade was something that had never been suggested before
6. Europeans were not willing to go on the crusade based solely on hatred for Muslims
7. They in fact were very impressed with the fighting methods that they speculated that perhaps they were related

8. The aristocrats in Europe were very experienced in war
9. The mutation feudal transformation and the multanantist view had power because they were landowners
10. Courts were not public forums but rather they were instruments of private aristocratic might
11. The people he worked the land either sunk into serfdom or hung onto their landed rights
12. The judicial system became more ad hoc and less organized throughout the 11 century
13. The period before the crusades was clearly going through a change
14. There was still a knightly elite called the miles (foot soldier in Roman times)
 - a. These knights were not coming onto horseback with all of the social connotations associated with that
 - b. They carried heavy lances which required that they work as a group and stay mounted
 - c. However, chivalry was not a thing until after the 12th century
 - d. There were no established dubbing ceremonies
 - e. They worked alongside great lords in a way of life including warrior toughness, origins and honour
15. Despite efforts to keep non-combatants off the crusade, there were still non-combatants including merchants, and women
16. The crusades were only able to happen because of the revolution of the church in the 11th century called the Gregorian Reform
 - a. German king Henry III and Henry IV took control of the papacy
 - b. They worked up through the ranks
 - c. The church structure typically slows down all reform
 - d. Pope Gregory VII was an energetic proponent
 - e. They wanted to purify the church
 - f. They organized it better by having better connections and more frequent meetings between the levels and members
 - g. This made it easier for Urban to mobilize support
17. The crusades were a voluntary undertaking but were seen as a way to do penance and would wash out all sin
18. The church and religion as important as it allowed people to regulate their communities through convention
19. Pilgrimage was also important and journeying to the holy land was already a thing. When the people were told that their sacred sites were not being respected there was anger that could be tapped into
20. Religion united locals and created communal enthusiasm
21. Urban also went on a tour to churches to try to recruit people to go
 - a. Monks were some of the most active recruiters
 - b. Enthusiasm and involvement were fairly widespread

Jonathan Riley-smith

1. Applied to be a confrater
 - a. There was a procession any many met him
 - b. Marks an end to an individual's crusade

2. Crusaders did not bring back wealth but they brought back many relics
 - a. Problem of transporting any loot they did get
3. Crusaders thought that they were going to get land
4. They re-established trade routes
5. Most returned to Europe once they took Jerusalem
6. Those that stayed were often churchmen
7. The nobles did not want to split up their estates among their sons so the later-born ones had no prospects, making crusading appealing
8. Monasteries dealt with disputed claims for cash which could help them not leave enemies behind and fund their crusades
9. Property was pledged and sold and they allowed other people to live on them and collect the rents
10. Often the church was the one that had the funds but lay people also funded it, however, this is less documented

Anselm of Ribemont to Manasses II, Archbishop of Reims

1. Kingdom of France
2. Captured Nicaea and are on their way to capture Romania and Armenia
3. Almost everyone was dying at the siege of Antioch because they had a lack of supplies
4. Turks were killing many
5. They fought a hard battle against the Turks
6. They then built a fortress
7. They killed most of the pagans within the city
8. Spoken like a prayer to god

Saladin's 1187 capture of Jerusalem

1. September 20 the city of Jerusalem was captured
2. There were many wounded, particularly by arrows
3. Saladin then went around the city looking for weak spots
4. At daybreak, Saladin's archers started to fire arrows all around the city
5. The walls had been left unattended and they woke to men breaching the walls
6. Nobody was brave enough to keep watch of the walls at night
7. Saladin then charged a ransom, anyone who paid could leave the city with their belongings, those that could not were slain
8. They held the city for 89 years