

CHURCH HISTORY

8. ISLAM & THE CRUSADES

1. THE CRUSADES IN PERSPECTIVE

- The Crusades, the wars fought with Muslims in the name of Christ, are an infamous stain on the history of the Church.
- They are the most recognised and well-known atrocities in Christian history and yet very few people know or understand the history behind these wars.
- Did bloodthirsty and intolerant Christians make war to pillage and destroy the kingdom of the peace-loving and tolerant Muslim people?
- Let us first put the Crusades in perspective:
 - From 1095 to 1291 about 6 million people, Muslims, Christians and Jews, died in these wars.
 - Joseph Stalin, in his own lifetime, killed 20 million of his own people.
 - Yet secular historians who denounce the Crusades as only evil are desperate to come up with some “positive” aspects of Stalin’s regime. We need to judge history using balanced scales.
- It is undeniable that atrocities were committed in the name of Christ and Christianity, but they were in complete contrast to Biblical Christianity. Jesus would never condone wicked acts done for His sake.

2. WHAT IS ISLAM?

- *Islam* – Complete submission to God (*Allah* in Arabic).
- *Muslim* – One who submits to God.
- Not simply a religion, but “*a complete way of life covering family, social, political, spiritual, religious, financial, community and personal spheres.*” – Colin Edwards.
- It covers what to eat, how to dress, when to pray, the pattern of daily and yearly life.
- Guidance is provided in different forms: The Qur’an, the perfect example of Muhammad, the *hadith* (the sayings of Muhammad) and *sharia* (law and moral code).
- 1.9 billion adherents (almost 25% of world’s population).
- Although it began in the Middle East, 85% of adherents to Islam are not Arabs. Indonesia has the largest Muslim population of any country (231m), followed by Pakistan (213m) and India (200m).
- To convert to Islam, one must recite the *Shahadah*: *There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.* For this declaration to have any effect it must be recited in Arabic, with a sincere heart.
- The 5 Pillars of Islam:
 1. *Shahadah* – Declaration of witness. Said at times of prayer, when a baby is born, as a person is dying.

2. *Salat* – Prayers. Five daily prayers give a routine to life. Muslims generally stick to these scripted prayers and don't offer their own words in prayer to God. Prayer is always towards Mecca.
 3. *Zakat* – Almsgiving. Muslims are required to give away at least 2.5% of one's money, both to care for the poor and to ensure that the giver doesn't become ensnared by the love of money.
 4. *Sawn* – Fasting. The month of *Ramadan* is set aside for fasting daily from sunrise to sunset. Muslims are to abstain from food and drink during daylight hours, unless they are sick, pregnant, or travelling. It is done in commemoration of *the day of visitation*, when Muhammad received his first vision.
 5. *Hajj* – Pilgrimage. All those who are able to do so must make one trip to Mecca in their lifetime in the last month of the year, where they join millions of other Muslims for self-reflection, prayer at the *Kaaba* and the *Eid al Adha* (Festival of Sacrifice) remembering Abraham's willingness to offer up his own beloved son (Ishmael, not Issac).
- The controversial "6th Pillar":
 6. *Jihad* – Struggle. There is much disagreement about what this term means exactly and whether it should be considered a Pillar of Islam or not. The most radical groups see any 'holy war' as jihad; thus, any time Muslims need to fight to spread Islam or weaken the *infidels* (unbelievers) military action is necessary and justified. Others see this struggle as a purely spiritual battle to live out the Muslim faith, build a Muslim society and to defend Islam militarily only if necessary.
 - The Six Articles of Faith:
 - The absolute oneness of Allah. There only one God (monotheism) and he is only one person (*Unitarianism*). To associate any other person or deity with Allah is to commit *shirk*, which is an unforgivable sin. In his greatness, Allah is completely transcendent and unknowable.
 - The existence of angels. Muslims live in constant awareness of the spiritual realm. Because Allah is so wholly separate, he cannot communicate with us directly, and so created angels in order to convey messages to his human prophets. They also offer spiritual support to Muslims. Some evil spirits also exist – *jinn* (from where we get the word 'genie'), and these spirits try to lead the faithful astray.
 - The prophets. Muhammad is seen as the last and final messenger in the line of prophets that includes Adam, Noah, Moses, Abraham and Jesus (*Issa*).
 - The Qur'an ('recitation'). The Qur'an is the literal, unchanged word of God, delivered to Muhammad by the angel *Jibril* (Gabriel). Other prophets had brought scriptures in the past, but these had been corrupted by sinful humanity:
 - Moses – Torah (*Tawrat*)
 - David – Psalms (*Zabur*)
 - Jesus – Gospel (*Injil*)
- The Qur'an is seen as the culmination of these writings and therefore where any of them disagree with the Qur'an on a teaching it is evidence of their corruption. The Qur'an is written in Arabic and must be read, studied and memorised in Arabic. Reading it in an English version might help you better understand some passages, but it doesn't have any authority. Many Muslims cannot read Arabic.
- Day of judgement. Muhammad's message was for people to turn to Allah from idolatry, because a final day of judgement is coming, followed by heaven for the faithful and hell for the lost.



- Predestination. Muslims believe that everything that happens, both good and evil, was predestined by Allah. The concept of God's will (*Insh'allah* "if Allah wills") is central to life. It is a very fatalistic outlook on life: Things are going to happen the way they will happen and that is the will of Allah.

3. THE BIRTH OF ISLAM

- Muhammad was born in 570 in the city of Mecca in modern-day Saudi Arabia.
- He had lost both parents by the age of 6 and was raised by his uncle, Abu Talib.
- Muhammad's family was in charge of guarding the *Kaaba*, a large black stone (possibly a meteorite) in Mecca that was the focal point of the polytheistic religions in Arabia at the time. It was said to be surrounded by all the idols of these religions.



- Abu Talib was a trader and under his training Muhammad became a successful trader as well. Mecca was an important trade city at the time and Muhammad was soon leading caravan trips to and from the city to buy and sell various goods.
- His life would change when in the year 610, on his fortieth birthday, he received a vision. In it, the angel Gabriel revealed that Allah had chosen Muhammad to be his last prophet, the one to turn all the world from their corrupted idol worship to the true worship of Allah alone. He was to receive and record the words of Allah and proclaim them to the world.
- His initial reaction was one of fear, that an evil spirit was deceiving him; it was his wife Khadija that convinced him that the message had truly been from Allah. She is considered the first convert to Islam.
- Initially, Muhammad's movement grew very slowly. He was illiterate and could not write down the messages he received. He had to tell them to his followers who would write it down on whatever they could find (Papermaking was only known to the Chinese at that time) and compile them later.
- He was also preaching strict monotheism, in complete contrast to the polytheism which had been widely practised for centuries in the region. This put him on a collision course with his family, as he denounced the pagan worship at the Kaaba which was a great source of income not just for them but for the city itself.
- Muhammad lived in Mecca for three years with his band of followers. Toward the end of these three years Muhammad claimed to have visited heaven in a night vision. He was taken to Jerusalem by Gabriel, and from there to Paradise, where he met all the previous prophets (including Jesus) and received the core message of Islam and detailed rituals of daily prayer.
- The mosque in Jerusalem that is build where the Jewish temple once stood is called the 'Dome of the rock' because it was from a rock on the temple mount that Muhammad travelled to Paradise. It remains the third most holy site in Islam.

- In 622, the leaders of Mecca took action and tried to assassinate Muhammad. He fled with his followers to the city of *Yathrib*, which was renamed to *Medina* (“city of the prophet”) after his death. From there he consolidated and grew his power base.
- Muhammad managed to unite the different Arab tribes that were constantly at war with each other over territorial or religious disagreements. He did this by preaching that the disputed lands of the Middle East belonged to the Muslims because Abraham’s son *Ishmael* was his heir (not Isaac as the Biblical account says) and so it was *their* rightful inheritance. And of course, he preached that they should abandon their polytheism and unite under the new religion. This proved to be extremely effective in bringing the different Arab tribes together.
- In 629, Muhammed and his army conquered Mecca, and the whole Arabian Peninsula came under his political and theological influence. The Kaaba was cleansed of all idols and Muslim practices of were put in place.
- Mecca and Medina are considered so holy that non-Muslims may not enter them:



- The *suras* (chapters) in the Qur’an are not arranged in chronological order and can therefore be very confusing. There are reading lists available online to help in this regard. If looked at in chronological order, there are three divisions in the Qur’an:
 - The first consists of the revelation Muhammad received while still in Mecca, before his flight to Medina, where he makes the argument for religious freedom and tolerance. Verses about Islam being a religion of peace are generally from this period.
 - The second while he was taking refuge in Medina.
 - The third, after he had taken over Mecca and has a much stricter focus on Islamic theocracy and law. The verses about violence in the name of Allah are generally from this period.
- In addition to the Qur’an, the sayings of Muhammad, his explanations of Qur’anic texts and examples he set for Muslims to follow were collected in the *Hadith*. The Hadith serve as an important guide for everyday life.
- Muhammad died in 632 without leaving a successor (*caliph*). Immediately, divisions arose between his followers as to who was best qualified to succeed him.
- This is the origin of what we know today as the *Sunni* and *Shi’a* sects of Islam.
- The Sunnis believed that Abu Bakr, the first male convert to Islam and best friend of Muhammad should succeed him. They wanted the best and most capable administrator and leader in the position.

- The Shi'a saw the position as prophetic more than administrative, and therefore wanted a blood-relative of Muhammad to succeed him. Since Muhammad had no sons, his son-in-law Ali was their choice.
- The Sunni majority won, and Abu Bakr became the first caliph. Ali would eventually become the fourth caliph, but the division would never be healed, even if at first it did not hinder Muslim expansion.
- Today, the Sunni account for about 90% of all Muslims. The Shi'a about 10%, and a tiny percentage belong to fringe sects. Shi'a Islam is centred around the country of Iran, which is why most Muslim countries both dislike and distrust Iran, and some (Bahrain, UAE) have even gone so far as to sign treaties with Israel, the traditional archenemy, in acknowledging the threat that Iran poses to the region.
- Sunnis and Shi's also differ on the contents of the Hadith.

4. ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

- Even though they are usually lumped together as “the three great Abrahamic faiths”, Islam, Judaism and Christianity differ significantly from each other. Don't let anyone fool you into thinking that these religions agree on the really important doctrines and only disagree about the less important doctrines.
- From what the Qur'an claims regarding Christianity, it seems clear that Muhammad never read the New Testament himself. Rather, he probably met some (heretical?) Christians on the various trade routes who discussed it with him. He shows no understanding of even the basic concept of the Trinity, constantly referring to it as Tritheism (three gods), which it is not.
- Muslims would say that Biblical prophecies such Deuteronomy 18:15-18 (speaking about Jesus) and John 16:7-13 (speaking about the Holy Spirit) refer to the coming of Muhammad as the last and ultimate prophet of Allah. This argument has no grounds contextually or exegetically, it can only be arrived at if it is read into the text.
- Some people refer to Muslims as ‘the Muhammadans’ but this is incorrect. Islam could exist without Muhammad as Allah could have chosen another messenger in his place. The same is not true of Christianity. Without Christ, there is no Christian religion. He is central to our faith.
- According to the Qur'an Jesus was not crucified, so it is said that someone (thought to be Judas) who resembled Jesus died on the cross. This means that in Islam there is no doctrine of the atonement. There is no payment for sin.
- In other words, Islam has no Saviour. Salvation is by good works, weighed on a scale against your evil deeds on the day of judgement. But also, by Allah's mercy: Muslims cannot tell you for certain whether they are going to heaven, because Allah might decide otherwise and tip the scales in your favour or to your damnation at the last second.
- Muslims, unlike Christians, would never claim to have a living relationship with God. The very idea is blasphemy to them. They only live in submission to what he has revealed.
- As stated earlier, it is a fatalistic outlook on life. As Christians we believe that God is sovereign over everything and in a sense determines *all* that will take place, yet we as humans are able to make *meaningful* choices in life, we are not simply surrendered to a predetermined fate.
- The third caliph, Uthman, had come to the realization that many variant readings of the Qur'an were in existence (as people copied verses on skins, bones, rocks, papyrus etc. and passed them along). He ordered all the fragments to be collected and an authorized,

standard version of the Qur'an was compiled. All other writings were destroyed. We thus have no idea of how this version compares to the original that Muhammad received. Yet Muslims will claim that the Qur'an has been unedited and untranslated, unlike the Bible.

- But because there was free transmission of the Biblical text, we today have thousands and thousands of copies of manuscripts in Greek, Latin, Syriac, Aramaic and Hebrew just to name a few, and have thus been able to reconstruct what the original documents said with 99.4% accuracy, according to highly-respected scholar Bruce Metzger. The 0.6% has no impact on doctrine, it is simply variant spellings of names etc.
- Christians need to understand that when we call on Muslims to repent of their sin and accept and follow Jesus Christ as Lord, we are asking them to commit *shirk*. They are risking eternal hell for believing that He is God, and we need to be aware of that burden. It is a very serious matter and should be done with much prayer, patient conversations and Bible reading together if possible.
- Muslim life is centred around their religion, with detailed guides on what to do, when and how. When they convert to Christianity, they often struggle to adapt to a one day a week Bible study and a Sunday service, especially after praying 5 times a day as a Muslim! We need to ensure that Muslim converts are given enough reading material and Christian fellowship.

5. ISLAMIC EXPANSION

- Muhammad brings the Arabian Peninsula under his influence. After his death in 632, Islamic expansion takes off.
- In 638 Jerusalem falls to the Muslims.
- By 661 Muslims hold the Middle East and Egypt.
- By 732 they had conquered the whole North Africa and had crossed the Mediterranean Sea into Spain and France. They had also moved east into Asia.



- Expansion into Europe was only halted in 732, at the Battle of Tours, when a man named Charles Martel ('The Hammer') led an army that defeated the larger Muslim army through tactical genius.
- He then strengthened the border to make sure that the Muslims could come no further into France, and they settled in Spain.

- Charles was the *Mayor of the Palace* of the king of the Franks (i.e. the person behind the scenes who actually ran the kingdom). He began to build strong ties with the Pope, a process carried on by his son Pepin, whom the Pope declared to be the rightful king of the Franks in 751, deposing the current king. Pepin's son Charlemagne (The Great) was declared emperor of the Romans in 800, solidifying their alliance with the Pope.
- Just spare a thought for Pepin: His father was known as the HAMMER; his son as the GREAT; but he was known as ... the SHORT. Pepin the Short. History can be cruel.
- Expansion into the East was halted at the Battle of Talas in 751. It was fought in modern day Kyrgyzstan between Muslim and Chinese armies.
- Even though the Arabs won the Battle both sides realised that neither wanted to expand the borders any further:
 - The Arabs because it was just logistically going to be too difficult to expand further in that direction
 - The Chinese because the Muslims were ferocious fighters.
- However, some of the Chinese prisoners that were taken possessed the secret knowledge that the Chinese had hidden from the rest of the world for so long: the art of paper making. This art would travel through the Muslim world up into Europe and be critical in the development of printing many centuries later.

So how did the Muslims do it? How did they manage to create which at that time was the largest empire the world had ever seen in just over 100 years? It still ranks in the top 5 largest empires today!

The main reasons for the rapid expansion of the Muslim Empire:

- The element of surprise. No-one expected the Arab tribes to unite themselves under a leader who had dreams of expanding his influence.
- They fought with religious zeal. As with any religion, some were more sincere about spreading the faith than others, but religion can be a powerful rallying tool.
- They were raised in the desert, so were adapted to the harsh climate and terrain. Desert warfare using camels was something they were skilled at.
- Europe was torn by constant wars between the Germanic kings; North Africa was splintered due to the Donatist schism. Often the Muslims were only conducting raids into these areas, only for the resistance to completely collapse, leaving the Muslims to add that territory to their empire.
- Islamic peoples were not as susceptible to plague as Europeans, due to:
 - Plagues do not thrive in hot, dry climates
 - Most Arabs led a nomadic existence, and were not bound to cities
 - Islam requires continual ritualistic cleansing
- Not all conquering was done to spread Islam.
- Different Muslim dynasties emerged as new tribes/families came into power.
- Some were bent on converting everyone in their new territories to Islam.
- Others wanted to profit from their new territories. By law you could not tax a Muslim, but you could tax unbelievers heavily, and so that became a deterrent for forcing conversion.
- Thus, Christians in Muslim lands were treated differently depending on the ruler – some left them alone, some forbid them from public worship, some took all their rights and made life very hard for them. Others killed anyone who did not convert to Islam.

6. PAPAL INFLUENCE

- The Muslim Conquest of the Middle East and North Africa signals a big shift in the balance of the church. Remember that you had five major churches who kept each other in check: Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem and Constantinople. But suddenly, because of Islamic conquest, you only had Rome and Constantinople left.
- Their rivalry became more and more bitter, leading to the Great Schism in 1054, which is going to be key in Pope Urban II's drive to go on Crusade.
- On Christmas day in 800, Charles was kneeling in prayer before the altar of the church in Rome when the Pope placed the Crown on his head and declared him Emperor of the Romans. The setting was significant because it signified that it was by the power and authority of the Pope that Charles was made emperor. In contrast, about 1,000 years later Napoleon Bonaparte kicked out the reigning Holy Roman Emperor. He then took the crown and placed it on his own head, signifying that was not the church that gave him his power, but his own military might.
- Ironically, From that day in 800 when the allegiance between Pope and emperor was solidified the cracks began to show almost immediately, because the question remained as to who had the *ultimate* authority - Did the church have authority over the state or the state over the church? Who was really in charge, the kings or the Popes?
- Charlemagne's reforms led to what is known as *Christendom*. For the next 1000 years, Europe's education, politics, social life and religion would all be 'Christian'. Again, not everything done in the name of Christianity is truly Christian, but I am sure his intentions were sincere.
- After Charlemagne's death his kingdom is divided between his many sons. The split is basically beginning of the kingdom known as France, and in 962 the Holy Roman Empire (Germany and parts of Italy) was established. As Voltaire said, the Holy Roman Empire was neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an empire, but the very name *Holy* signified the Pope's influence. You also see the rise of other recognisable kingdoms.



- The Popes were still regarded as the Eastern Emperor's representative.
- The Roman Catholic sacrament of penance. It started out as a good idea - the church encouraged you to not just *say* that you're sorry for your sin, but to actually do something to *show* that you are sorry. Your sins had consequences that you had to take responsibility for consequences. Of course, because there is a wrong view of Jesus's sacrifice for our sin, penance inevitably became a way of earning forgiveness for your sin.

- What would happen is you would go to your priest and confess your sin. He would then decide on a suitable punishment.
- For example if you went to the priest and said that you had desired your neighbour's house or his wife then the priest would say in order for you to be forgiven, you need to climb the 50 steps of the church while stopping to say a prayer at every step. In other words, it was a very public punishment but was also time consuming.
- People who wanted to avoid being seen conducting penance or were just too time-pressed began to ask if they couldn't just pay a monetary fine instead.
- This, along with the development of the doctrine of *purgatory* (that all Christians must first go through millions of years of fiery cleansing of their sins before they are fit to enter heaven) led to the Church beginning to sell indulgences.
- Buying an indulgence brought forgiveness for your sin in place of penance or could shorten the time you will spend in purgatory after death.

7. WHY THE CRUSADES?

- In order to keep it simple I'm going to use convention and refer to the European Crusaders as *the Christians* and those who opposed them as *the Muslims*. There certainly were true believers on both sides, but many were false believers who fought with no concern for either God. As we have seen, the problem with having Christianity as the state religion is that everyone is now a Christian, regardless of the condition of their hearts.
- After Jerusalem fell to the Muslims it was still possible to make pilgrimages there. Jerusalem was special to Christians as that is the city where Jesus was crucified, and centuries earlier Constantine's mother had a church built over the cave where they thought Jesus was buried, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. People thought that there was spiritual significance in visiting these 'holy sites'.
- When the Seljuk Turks took over these territories from the Arabs in the 11 Century and started spreading their dynasty, they treated Christians very harshly. Now it was no longer safe for Christians to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem for they were attacked, harassed and often killed. They also destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
- The Turks conquered territory right up until the Strait of Bosphorus. The Bosphorus Strait at its narrowest point is only 500m, so from the ramparts of Constantinople the enemy could be seen, they became a constant threat.
- The Turks also defeated an army of the Eastern Roman emperor at the battle of Manzikert in 1071.
- These were not peace-loving, tolerant people who just wanted to do their own thing and be left alone!



Our old friend St. Augustine again proved influential here because he had developed what is called a *just war theory*: A theory of under which circumstances it is just and right for Christians to make war:

- Firstly, Christianity itself was under threat by the Muslims. If Christians did not oppose them, they would be in danger of being wiped out (as far as they could see).
- Secondly, they had to relieve the suffering of Christians who were being mistreated under Muslim rule.
- Thirdly, any war against Islam would not be considered conquest, because they would be taking back land that had once been in Christian hands. Muslim expansion had been into lands that they had never possessed and so were not the rightful owners of.

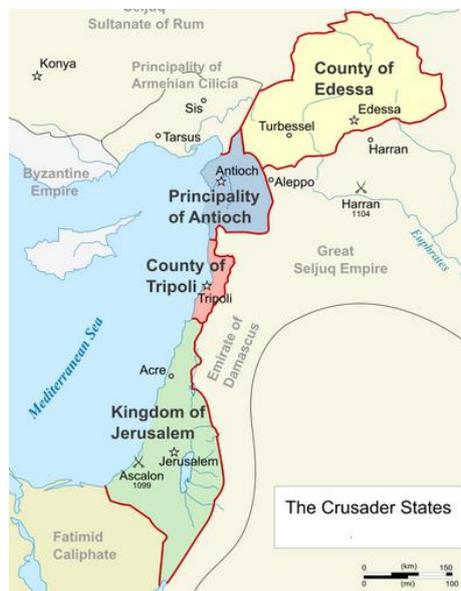
The Eastern Emperor, Alexius, grew increasingly desperate, and in March of 1095 he called on the Pope Urban II, his “representative” in the West, for help.

- This was an opportunity the Pope could only have dreamt of: The church had officially split into East and West in 1054, just 40 years earlier, and having the Eastern Emperor owe him a favour for assisting him militarily could prove decisive in his attempts to once again unite the Church under his rule.
- The Pope knew that Alexius could not ask the European kings for aid because they were just as often at war with him as they were with each other as they sought to increase their own territory, and so would certainly not help him defend his kingdom. But it was for this same reason that the Pope could not simply call on the kings to provide military aid to Constantinople.
- Using the principles of just war theory, the situation of the Christians in the holy land, and his spiritual authority all to his advantage, he devised the perfect plan: Not “let’s go and help Constantinople”, but “Let’s go and liberate Jerusalem!”

8. THE FIRST CRUSADE

- The Pope made a famous speech at the Council of Claremont in November 1095 and said it was the duty of every Christian to assist with the retaking of Jerusalem. His words were so stirring and powerful that the people began to chant “Deus vult!”. “God wills it!”
- He then set the departure date for August 1096, then went on a speaking tour through Europe to spread this message.
- Urban promised indulgences to all who attempted the journey whether you made it to Jerusalem or not.
- Simply by going you were guaranteed to completely skip purgatory and go straight to heaven, what is called a *plenary* indulgence. This is going to be one of the sticking points for Martin Luther: If the Pope can send *anyone* directly to heaven why doesn't he do that for *everyone*?
- He managed to convince 150,000 people to go on this crusade. But of this number only 40,000 were men and even fewer were soldiers.
- Most them just religious fanatics who got swept up with the idea of going to fight for Christ and win back the lands that belong to Jesus their Lord.
- Now there was very little organisation: not all of them left at the same time, some didn't go all the way. Thomas Madden: “A *crusade army was in effect a loosely organised mob of soldiers, clergy, servants and followers heading in roughly the same direction for roughly the same purposes*”.

- It is difficult to describe the effect that Urban's speeches had on the European population. Some were so convinced that God had willed the capturing of Jerusalem that they said "Why wait a year? Let's go right now!". This was known as the *People's Crusade* and it was led by a monk, Peter the Hermit. He whipped up a mob of people into a frenzy and began *walking* to the Holy Land to retake Jerusalem.
- This was a ragtag bunch, there were a handful of knights with them but mostly peasants and monks, ill equipped and with no weapons to speak of. On the way they raided and killed Jews for supplies, but many of them starved. When they arrived at Constantinople the emperor carried them over the water straight away as he didn't want them causing any trouble in his city. They rushed into Muslim territory and were slaughtered.
- Now this early attempt at carrying out "God's will" should have provided proof that God had *not* blessed this war, that this was misguided Christianity.
- But despite its lack of organisation, once the First Crusade got underway it was immensely successful. Against all odds and probably against the Pope's better judgement the Crusaders conquered Edessa, Antioch and then Jerusalem in 1099! This led to the creation of the *Crusader States*.



- The Crusaders massacred many people in the process, even those who had surrendered and Jews in the city who had nothing to do with this war. So, while this was a great victory for Christendom, it was achieved in the most horrendous way possible.
- And again, you have the problem of trying to hold on to conquered territory:
 - Jerusalem was surrounded on every side by hostile enemies also it had to be constantly resupplied with soldiers, equipment supplies horses etc.
 - Jerusalem is not a coastal city and an open supply route from port cities was crucial to ensure the city could be resupplied.
 - It was phenomenally expensive and quickly drained the coffers of the church in Rome.
- This is really when the Pope's began to sell indulgences, as they needed to finance the crusader States.

9. THE SECOND CRUSADE

- The sweeping success of the first crusade resulted in many more people coming to the Holy Land, either with religious zeal or looking for plunder.
- You must remember that for the Christians victory was inevitable because they believed that God had sent them on this quest. But then 1144 the Muslims reconquered the Christian city of Edessa. This was a rude awakening for the Christians and a motivator for the Muslims.
- Pope Eugenius then launched the Second Crusade in 1145 to retake Edessa, but by this time the Muslim Turks had regrouped and knew what to expect, and so the second crusade was a failure, they were defeated and driven back.

10. THE THIRD CRUSADE

- A man named Saladin realised the key to success is to once again unite the Muslim tribes that had become increasingly fragmented. He began the process of uniting the various Muslim tribes getting in Egypt and Syria until finally he was strong enough to make War and holy land and The Crusaders were no match for his army; he retook Jerusalem in 1187.
- At this time there was various disputes and wars between European Kings, especially between the kings of England, France and the Holy Roman Emperor. The Pope then declared that there be a 7-year truce between the kings of Europe so that they could focus on crusading and winning back Jerusalem.
- This allowed Richard the Lionheart of England, Philip of France and Frederick Barbarossa, The Holy Roman Emperor, to go on Crusade.
- Frederick died when he fell from his horse as he was crossing a river wearing his full armour. His death resulted in most of his forces returning home.
- This left Philip and Richard in a battle for supremacy over the Crusader army. Eventually Richard triumphed and Philip returned to France.
- Richard the Lionheart was a brave and talented general and strategist and under his leadership the Crusaders conquer a lot of the coastal territories of the Muslims but he could not retake Jerusalem because he knew it did not have the strength to refortify it and hold on to it. It was no use expending soldiers and resources to capture the city without then being able to defend it against the Muslim reinforcements that were surely on their way.
- He made a treaty with Saladin which allowed Christians to enter Jerusalem safely for a period of 10 years. Then he had to go back home because (remember the Robin Hood movies) his brother John was busy usurping his authority, but also King Philip of France was busy making inroads into his territory.
- Now the Third Crusade was controversial because the emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire had made a treaty with Saladin in order to hamper the progress of the Crusaders and this was seen as a great betrayal.
- He did so because he was tired of these Crusaders moving through his Kingdom causing nothing but trouble and food shortages. But really, he was jealous: According to him, he was the only Roman Emperor, and Frederick Barbarossa's claim to be the *Holy* Roman Emperor was an insult to him.

- This was to come back and haunt Constantinople in the near future.

11. THE FOURTH CRUSADE

- Pope Innocent the third was not happy or the fact that Richard failed to capture Jerusalem and he made his mission as a pope to regain the Holy Land for Christianity.
- He issued a rallying cry for a fourth Crusade in 1199, to be the greatest yet undertaken.
- The Crusaders met up in Venice, a semi-independent city in Italy, known for their quality ships. They commission ships to take them to the holy land. Because they expected thousands more to shortly join them, they had many extra ships built.
- However, far fewer Crusaders arrived than had been anticipated and this left them with the huge problem of paying for these ships.
- In utter desperation, after waiting for more Crusaders to arrive, after trying all other avenues, the Crusaders attacked and sacked Constantinople. They felt justified in doing so because the role of Constantinople's treaty with Saladin had not been forgotten.
- This was an act of (supposed) Christians killing other Christians and it nothing to do with the Muslims or the Holy Land.
- Constantinople would never recover its full splendour and it was this weakening that contributed to its fall to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

12. THE FALLOUT

- The fifth crusade led by King Louis 9th tried to capture Egypt and cut off Muslim supply routes to Jerusalem, but it was a total failure. The Crusaders were not prepared: They got trapped in the Nile Delta and were not equipped to deal with the desert terrain.
- Bit by bit the Muslims drove the Crusaders out and in 1291 the last of the Crusader strongholds fell, leaving the Holy Land once again in the hands of the Muslims.
- The appetite for crusading never completely abated but there are various challenges in mounting new Crusades in the following centuries, including:
 1. The weakening of the papacy
 2. The Black Death
 3. The king of France aligning himself with the Turks.
 4. Pope Leo X was planning a Crusade in 1517... but the emergence of Martin Luther put an end to those plans.
- It's important to realise that the Crusades were NOT a get-rich-quick scheme. It cost an enormous amount of money to finance a crusade and while they undoubtedly plundered spoils, they very rarely even broke even. King Louis of France's Fifth Crusade cost **6 times** the French crown's annual income!
- The Crusades were not viewed negatively by the Muslims until very recently; they were just viewed as any other wars that the Muslims had fought. Why? Because the Muslims won! They were successful in the long term.

1. It was only after they began to lose territory and really at the fall of the Ottoman Empire after the First World War that they began to view the Crusades as atrocities committed by Christians.
2. The creation of the modern state of Israel placed a lot of attention on the Crusades and the battle for Jerusalem.
3. Guilt and shame for colonization drove the West to apologize for actions such as the Crusades when no apology was required by the Muslims.