

Gods Battalions The Case For The Crusades

The Crusades God's Battalions The Crusades Encyclopedia of the Crusades The Crusades to the Holy Land Byzantine Sources for the Crusades, 1095-1204 England and the Crusades, 1095-1588 The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades The Crusades Fighting for Christendom Historical Dictionary of the Crusades The Crusades The Story of the Crusades Seven Myths of the Crusades The Crusades What Were the Crusades? The History of the Crusades for the Recovery and Possession of the Holy Land The History of the Crusades, for the Recovery and Possession of the Holy Land The Age of the Crusades Thomas Asbridge Rodney Stark Thomas S. Asbridge Alfred J. Andrea Ph.D. Alan V. Murray Georgios Chatzelis Christopher Tyerman Jonathan Riley-Smith Jonathan Riley-Smith Jonathan Simon Christopher Riley-Smith Christopher Tyerman Corliss K. Slack State University of New York at Binghamton. Center for Medieval and Early Renaissance Studies. Conference Ethel Mary Wilmot-Buxton Alfred J. Andrea Ernest Barker Jonathan Riley-Smith Charles Mills Charles Mills James Meeker Ludlow

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asbridge can't help but tell a ripping yarn often breezily dramatic whipping the narrative along the times a superb and definitive one volume account of the crusades the impact of which still resonates to this day in the eleventh century a vast christian army summoned to holy war by the pope rampaged through the muslim world of the eastern mediterranean seizing possession of jerusalem a city revered by both faiths over the two hundred years that followed this first crusade islam and the west fought for dominion of the holy land clashing in a succession of chillingly brutal wars both firm in the belief that they were at god's work the crusades tells the story of this epic struggle from the perspective of both christians and muslims reconstructing the experiences and attitudes of those on either side of the conflict mixing pulsing narrative and piercing insight it exposes the full horror passion and barbaric grandeur of the crusading era a dramatic and powerful look at both sides of the story sunday times a compelling narrative a masterful conclusion observer

the author of the rise of christianity reviews the history of the seven major crusades from

1095 1291 in this work of religious revisionist history distinguished and award winning scholar rodney stark takes on the current vogue in liberal thinking to argue that in fact the crusades were not unprovoked they were not the first round of european colonialism they were not conducted for land loot or converts the crusaders were not barbarians who victimized the cultivated muslims they sincerely believed that they served in god s battalions in the wake of many recent books justifying muslim holy wars by criticizing the historic use of violence by christians stark presents the other side of the story drawing upon a wide variety of sources stark argues the facts and figures about why and how christianity attempted to secure the holy lands and protect the safety of christian pilgrims rewards a careful reading and not only because the story itself is so gripping with tales of courage and desperation outsized characters and fate of cultures hanging in the balance masterful sets the record straight national catholic register christian readers should welcome stark s affirmation of the best in scholarship both old and new and his willingness to argue a controversial position christian scholar s review there is much to be learned here filled with fascinating historical glimpses of monks and templars priests and pilgrims kings and contemplatives stark pulls it all together and challenges us to reconsider our view of the crusades publishers weekly

in the 11th century a vast christian army summoned to holy war by the pope rammaged through the muslim world of the eastern mediterranean seizing possession of jerusalem a city revered by both faiths over the 200 years that followed islam the west fought for domination over the holy land clashing in a series of brutal wars

what were the crusades were they a series of battles that pitted european christians against muslims for control of the holy land or was there something deeper something more significant beneath the violence this a to z encyclopedia explores the phenomenon of the crusades in all of its complexity ranging from the classic numbered crusades in the middle east to the reconquista in spain and from the baltic crusades to the crusades against albigensian heretics in france the crusades marked a violent interaction between cultures this book includes not only european leaders and themes but also biographical portraits of islamic leaders and topics related to islamic culture and although men dominated the crusades women also played important roles their contributions are examined this is the most up to date reference source available reflecting the most recent scholarship in the field more than 200 entries are extensively cross referenced and many provide additional readings including accessible primary sources nearly 100 photos and six maps accompany the text a bibliographic essay leads readers to the most useful and important works in the field while an appendix of major crusades events and figures helps readers put the era into perspective this invaluable tool gives students researchers and general readers all they need to begin their own exploration of this fascinating time of intercultural conflict one which continues to reverberate in today s world

based on the latest scholarship by experts in the field this work provides an accessible guide to the crusades fought for the liberation and defense of the holy land one of the most enduring and consequential conflicts of the medieval world the crusades to the holy land were one of the most important religious and social movements to emerge over the course of the middle ages the warfare of the crusades affected nearly all of western europe and involved members of social groups from kings and knights down to serfs and paupers the memory of this epic long ago conflict affects relations between the western and islamic

worlds in the present day the crusades to the holy land the essential reference guide provides almost 90 a z entries that detail the history of the crusades launched from western europe for the liberation or defense of the holy land covering the inception of the movement by pope urban ii in 1095 up to the early 14th century this concise single volume work provides accessible articles and perspective essays on the main crusade expeditions as well as the important crusaders countries places and institutions involved each entry is accompanied by references for further reading readers will follow the career of saladin from humble beginnings to becoming ruler of syria and egypt and reconquering almost all of the holy land from its christian rulers learn about the main sites and characteristics of the castles that were crucial to the christian domination of the holy land and understand the key aspects of crusading from motivation and recruitment to practicalities of finance and transport the reference guide also includes survey articles that provide readers with an overview of the original source materials written in latin arabic greek hebrew armenian and syriac

the christian greek speaking byzantine empire was placed rather uneasily between western christendom and the islamic world during the crusade era like all historical topics particularly medieval sources on the crusades give a variety of perspectives and accounts but byzantine writers provide a unique outlook on these crucial events byzantine sources for the crusades 1095 1204 brings together important sources on the crusades into one volume the texts translated here include established accounts such as selections from anna komnene s description of the passage of the first crusade in 1096 8 john kinnaamos writings on the second crusade and niketas choniates studies on the second and third crusades particularly covering the passage of german emperor frederick i barbarossa during the latter however less well known accounts are also translated and provided such as zonaras and the contemporary letters of the archbishop of ohrid during the first crusade various poems and speeches recorded throughout the reigns of john ii and manuel i komnenos and smaller accounts about crusaders passing through the byzantine empire this book covers up to the fourth crusade in which niketas choniates was an eye witness to the siege of constantinople in 1204 and later a refugee in nicaea writing a series of speeches about the capture of the byzantine capital and rallying the byzantines to recovery the city from the newly created latin empire this book will appeal to scholars and students alike studying the era of the crusades in the east and the perspectives and accounts of byzantine writers both at the time and after as well as all those interested in the history of the byzantine empire in the 11th 12th and 13th centuries

a potent mixt of salvation and adventure the crusades were one of the most prominent features of medieval europe reflecting and directing religious and secular movements in western society for half a millennium christopher tyerman offers the first book length study of the role of england in the crusades focusing on the courtroom and council chamber rather than the battlefield he demonstrates the impact of the crusades on the political and economic functions of english society drawing on a wide range of archival chronicle and literary evidence tyerman brings to life the royal personalities foreign policy political intrigue taxation and fundraising and the crusading ethos that gripped england for hundreds of years an ambitious task to undertake tyerman has done the job not only thoroughly but brilliantly a highly impressive study deserving rich praise and wide readership norman housley times literary supplement christopher tyerman has written a wonderful book he manages to confront thorny issues in scholarship and to contribute new perspectives on

them william chester jordan american historical review tyerman provides valuable insights into preaching recruitment and the funding and organisation of crusading expeditions fascinating new perspectives on english history edward powell sunday times impressive tyerman s research has yielded valuable evidence and his admirably lucid argument sheds new light on a complex and bloody period in english history virginia quarterly review

the crusades were penitential war pilgrimages fought in the levant and the eastern mediterranean as well as in north africa spain portugal poland the baltic region hungary the balkans and western europe beginning in the eleventh century and ending as late as the eighteenth these holy wars were waged against muslims and other enemies of the church enlisting generations of laymen and laywomen to fight for the sake of christendom crusading features prominently in today s religio political hostilities yet the perceptions of these wars held by arab nationalists pan islamists and many in the west have been deeply distorted by the language and imagery of nineteenth century european imperialism with this book jonathan riley smith returns to the actual story of the crusades explaining why and where they were fought and how deeply their narratives and symbolism became embedded in popular catholic thought and devotional life from this history riley smith traces the legacy of the crusades into modern times specifically within the attitudes of european imperialists and colonialists and within the beliefs of twentieth century muslims europeans fashioned an interpretation of the crusades from the writings of walter scott and a french contemporary joseph françois michaud scott portrayed islamic societies as forward thinking while casting christian crusaders as culturally backward and often morally corrupt michaud in contrast glorified crusading and his followers used its imagery to illuminate imperial adventures these depictions have had a profound influence on contemporary western opinion as well as on muslim attitudes toward their past and present whether regarded as a valid expression of christianity s divine enterprise or condemned as a weapon of empire crusading has been a powerful rhetorical tool for centuries in order to understand the preoccupations of islamist jihadis and the character of western discourse on the middle east riley smith argues we must understand how images of crusading were formed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

written by a team of leading scholars this richly illustrated book with over 200 colour and black and white pictures presents an authoritative and comprehensive history of the crusades from the preaching of the first crusade in 1095 to the legacy of crusading ideas and imagery today

pulls off the enviable feat of summing up seven centuries of religious warfare in a crisp 309 pages of text dennis drabelle washington post book world in this authoritative work jonathan riley smith provides the definitive account of the crusades an account of the theology of violence behind the crusades the major crusades the experience of crusading and the crusaders themselves with a wealth of fascinating detail riley smith brings to life these stirring expeditions to the holy land and the politics and personalities behind them this new edition includes revisions throughout as well as a new preface and afterword in which jonathan riley smith surveys recent developments in the field and examines responses to the crusades in different periods from the romantics to the islamic world today from reviews of the first edition everything is here the crusades to the holy land and against the albigensians the moors the pagans in eastern europe the turks and the enemies of the popes riley smith writes a beautiful lucid prose and his book is packed with facts and action choice a concise

clearly written synthesis by one of the leading historians of the crusading movement robert s gottfried historian a lively and flowing narrative with an enormous cast of characters that is not a mere catalog but a history a remarkable achievement thomas e morrissey church history superb reuven s avi yonah speculum a first rate one volume survey of the crusading movement from 1074 to 1798 southwest catholic

the image of the crusaders chain mailed knights on horseback bearing crosses on banners fighting for their faith under an alien sun occupies a familiar niche in modern western culture yet despite their powerful hold on our imaginations the crusades remain obscured and distorted by time in fighting for christendom christopher tyerman picks his way through many myths and misconceptions to present a vivid portrait of the crusades both the historical events themselves and their posthumous role in western and middle eastern thought were the crusaders motivated by spiritual rewards or by greed for power and wealth was the papacy imposing order and uniformity on christendom or defending itself from the infidel enemy were the crusades an experiment in european colonialism or a manifestation of religious persecution or ethnic cleansing to answer these questions tyerman examines the many military operations between 1095 and 1500 that fall under the heading of wars of the cross beginning with pope urban ii s dramatic appeal in 1095 tyerman ranges from the first crusade a campaign unrivalled in impact to the massive expedition lead by frederick barbarossa which ended suddenly when he drowned crossing a river to the crusade that pitted king richard i of england against saladin tyerman also discusses lesser expeditions including the peasants children s and shepherds crusades throughout the book he clarifies issues of colonialism cultural exchange economic exploitation and the relationship between past and present the crusades are among the most dramatic mass movements in world history fighting for christendom illuminates these remarkable events with uncommon flair and originality

the crusades were among the longest and most bitter wars in human history and consisted of no less than seven major expeditions from western europe from the late 11th to the early 14th centuries for the purpose of wresting jerusalem and the holy land from the control of the muslims in the end it was the muslims who won and the christians who suffered a major setback and the middle east remained firmly in muslim hands this was one of the worst clashes between different religions and civilizations and for long it was largely forgotten or brushed over that is no longer the case with many muslims regarding western interference in the region as a repeat of the crusades while launching their own jihads so while an old conflict it is still with us today even at the time it was very hard to understand the causes and outcome of the crusades and that remains a problem today this historical dictionary of the crusades cannot claim to have resolved it but it most definitely does make the situation easier to understand the introduction provides an overview tracing the crusades from one expedition to the next and assessing their impact the actual flow of events is far easier to follow thanks to the chronology and maps help to trace the events geographically the entries and there are more than 300 of them in this second edition look more closely at notable figures including pope gregory vii richard the lionhearted and saladin as well as important places jerusalem constantinople and others events battles and sieges as well as the use of weapons and armor the bibliography points to further reading

the crusades examines how the crusades affected peoples and terrains agriculture art and

archeology military and urban architecture literature and music and the attitudes of the christian west towards the muslim east and vice versa in researching it a work in progress even today it is imperative to keep in mind the fact that one is dealing with an event in history where the right exists side by side with the wrong the good with the bad the beautiful with the ugly charity generosity and nobility with cruelty selfishness and treachery a task which is for the historian as difficult as working on the holocaust while listening to wagner

the two hundred years which cover roughly speaking the actual period of the holy war are crammed with an interest that never grows dim gallant figures noble knights generous foes valiant women eager children follow one another through these centuries and form a pageant the colour and romance of which can never fade for the circumstances were in themselves unique the two great religious forces of the world—christianity and islam the cross and the crescent—were at grips with one another and for the first time the stately east with its suggestion of mystery was face to face with the brilliant west wherein the civilisation and organisation of rome were at last prevailing over the chaos of the dark ages a very special kind of interest moreover belongs to the story of the crusades in that the motive of the wars was the desire to rescue from the hands of unbelievers but we shall see as we read the story that this was only a part of the real motive power which inspired and sustained the holy war even if the land of palestine and the holy city jerusalem had never fallen into the hands of the saracens some such war was inevitable the east was knocking at the doors of the west with no uncertain sound an extraordinary force had come into existence during the four centuries that immediately preceded the first crusade which threatened to dominate the whole of the western world it was a religious force—always stronger and more effective than any other and it was only repelled with the greatest difficulty by christendom inspired not so much by the motive of religion as by that curious mixture of romance and adventurous design which we call chivalry let us try then first of all to get some idea of these men of the east the mohammedans or saracens who managed to keep europe in a state of constant turmoil for upwards of five centuries and to do that we must go back to the latter years of the sixth century after christ about fifty miles from the shores of the red sea stands the city of mecca one of the few important towns to be found on the fringe of the great sandy desert of arabia during hundreds of years mecca had been the venerated bourne of pilgrims for embedded in the walls of the sacred building known as the kaaba was the pure white stone said to have fallen from heaven on the day that adam and eve took their sorrowful way from the gates of paradise

seven myths of the crusades rebuttal of the persistent and multifarious misconceptions associated with topics including the first crusade anti judaism and the crusades the crusader states the children s crusade the templars and past and present islamic christian relations proves once and for all that real history is far more fascinating than conspiracy theories pseudo history and myth mongering this book is a powerful witness to the dangers of the misappropriation and misinterpretation of the past and the false parallels so often drawn between the crusades and later historical events ranging from nineteenth century colonialism to the protest movements of the 1960s to the events of 9 11 this volume s authors have venerable track records in teaching and researching the crusading movement and anyone curious about the crusades would do well to start here jessalynn bird dominican university co editor of crusade and christendom

the crusades originally published in 1923 preface the significance of the crusades the crusades may be regarded partly as the decumanus feuctus in the tide of religious revival which had begun in western europe during the tenth century and had mounted high during the eleventh partly as a chapter and a most important chapter in the history of the interaction of east and west contemporaries regarded them in the former of these two aspects as holy wars and pilgrims progresses towards christs sepulchre the reflective eye of the historian must perhaps regard them no less from the latter point of view considered as holy wars the crusades must be interpreted by the ideas of an age which was dominated by the spirit of otherworldliness and accordingly ruled by the clerical power which represented the other world they are a novum salutis genus a new path to heaven to tread which counted for full and complete satisfaction pro omni poenitentia and gave forgiveness of sins peccaminum remissio I they are again the foreign policy of the papacy directing its faithful subjects to the great war of christianity against the infidel as a new way of salvation the crusades connect themselves with the history of the penitentiary system as the foreign policy of the church they belong to that clerical purification and direction of feudal society and its instincts which appears in the institution of gods truce and in chivalry itself the penitentiary system according to which the priest enforced a code of moral law in the confessional by the sanction 1 fulcher of chartres i i for what follows with regard to the churchs conversion of guerra into the holy war cf especially the passage procedant contra infideles ad pugnam iam incipi dignam qui abusive privatum cerramen contra fideles consuescebant distendere quondam 4 the sig ificaunce of the crusades of penancepenance which must be performed as a condition of admission to the sacrament of the eucharist had been from early times a great instrument in the civilization of the raw germanic races penance might consist in fasting it might consist in flagellation it might consist in pilgrimage the penitentiary pilgrimage which seems to have been practised as early as a d 700 was twice blessed not only was it an act of atonement in itself like fasting and flagellation it also gained for the pilgrim the merit of having stood on holy ground under the influence of the cluniac revival which began in the tenth century pilgrimages became increasingly frequent and the goal of pilgrimage was often jerusalem pilgrims who were travelling to jerusalem joined themselves in companies for security and marched under arms the pilgrims of 1064 who were headed by the archbishop of mainz numbered some 7 000 men

the student of human nature also will find here his most subtle and perplexing but at the same time his most suggestive subjects never before or since was there such exalted faith combined with such grotesque superstition such splendid self sacrifice mingled with cruel and unrestrained selfishness such holy purpose with its wings entangled torn and besmeared in vicious environments to the historical scholar this period is unsurpassed in importance by any if we except the days of the birth of christianity the age of the crusades covers the eleventh and twelfth centuries for two hundred years to use the vigorous language of the greek princess anna comnena who witnessed the first crusade Ôeurope was loosened from its foundations and hurled against asia Ó as an alpine glacier presses down into the valley only to melt away at the summer line yet with renewed snows repeals the fatal experiment from year to year so seven times western christendom replenished its mighty armaments to see them destroyed at the border land of oriental conquest to define the causes of these vast movements is a task which both tempts and tantalizes the historian it is surely unlearned to ascribe even the first crusade to the sole influence of any man though he were an urban ii and wielded the temporal and spiritual authority of the papacy in its most puissant days it is

puerile to say as michaud does speaking of peter the hermit Òthe glory of delivering jerusalem belongs to a single pilgrim possessed of no other power than the influence of his character and genius Ó it is equally uncritical if not blasphemous to attribute these most unfortunate and ill timed ventures to the almighty as the same writer does in these words Òno power on earth could have produced such a great revolution it only belonged to him whose will gives birth to and disperses tempests to throw all at once into human hearts that enthusiasm which silenced all other passions and drew on the multitude as if by an invisible power Ó to even approximate an understanding of this subject one must first become familiar with the great racial movements which culminated in that age must be able to estimate the tendencies of society at a time when it knew not the forces which were struggling within itself must penetrate the policies of statesmen and ecclesiastics who veiled their ambition under the self delusion that they were serving god or their fellow men and besides all this he must gauge the passions and habits of common people their ignorance and superstition if not the true heavenly ardor which led them to offer themselves as fuel for the most stupendous human sacrifice the world has known were one thus equipped with information oneÕs philosophical judgment might still be baffled with the inquiry what was the chief cause of the crusades an observation of dean milman is especially applicable to this subject Òwhen all the motives which stir the human mind and heart the most impulsive passion and the profoundest policy conspire together it is impossible to discover which is the dominant influence in guiding to a certain course of action Ó the mighty tide of events we are to consider was not unlike a vast river which sweeps through many lands and has many tributary streams some of whose sources are hidden in the depth of the unexplored wilderness

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