

# THE CRUSADES

## **Wonders of Arabia**

Windstar Cruises  
Ross Arnold, Spring 2015

# Wonders of Arabia: May Lectures

- May 1- Lawrence of Arabia, the Bedouins & Allied Victory in WW1
- May 2- Mysteries of the Nabateans & Petra
- May 2- The Permanence of Ancient Egypt
- May 3- Pharaohs, Temple & Tombs
  - May 4-5- Safaga & Luxor, Egypt
  - May 6- Sharm el Sheikk & St. Catherine's Monastery
  - May 7- Aqaba, Jordan & Petra
  - May 8- Hurghada, Egypt
  - May 9- Suez Canal Transit
- **May 10- The Crusades**
- May 10- History, Culture & Conflict in the Middle East
- May 11- Alexander the Great & Hellenism
- May 11- Greece: Birthplace of Western Civilization

The Crusades were “the most signal and durable monument to human folly that has yet appeared in any nation or age.”

David Hume, 18<sup>th</sup> century

The Crusades were “a time of deepest darkness and of the greatest folly... to drag a significant part of the world into an unhappy little country in order to cut the inhabitants’ throats and seize a rocky peak which was not worth one drop of blood.”

Denis Diderot, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.

The Crusades are comparable to Hitler’s atrocities or the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo.

New York Times, 1999

“Those of us who come from various European lineages are not blameless...” regarding the Crusades as a crime against Islam.

Bill Clinton, 2011

- **The Crusades (1095-1291)**

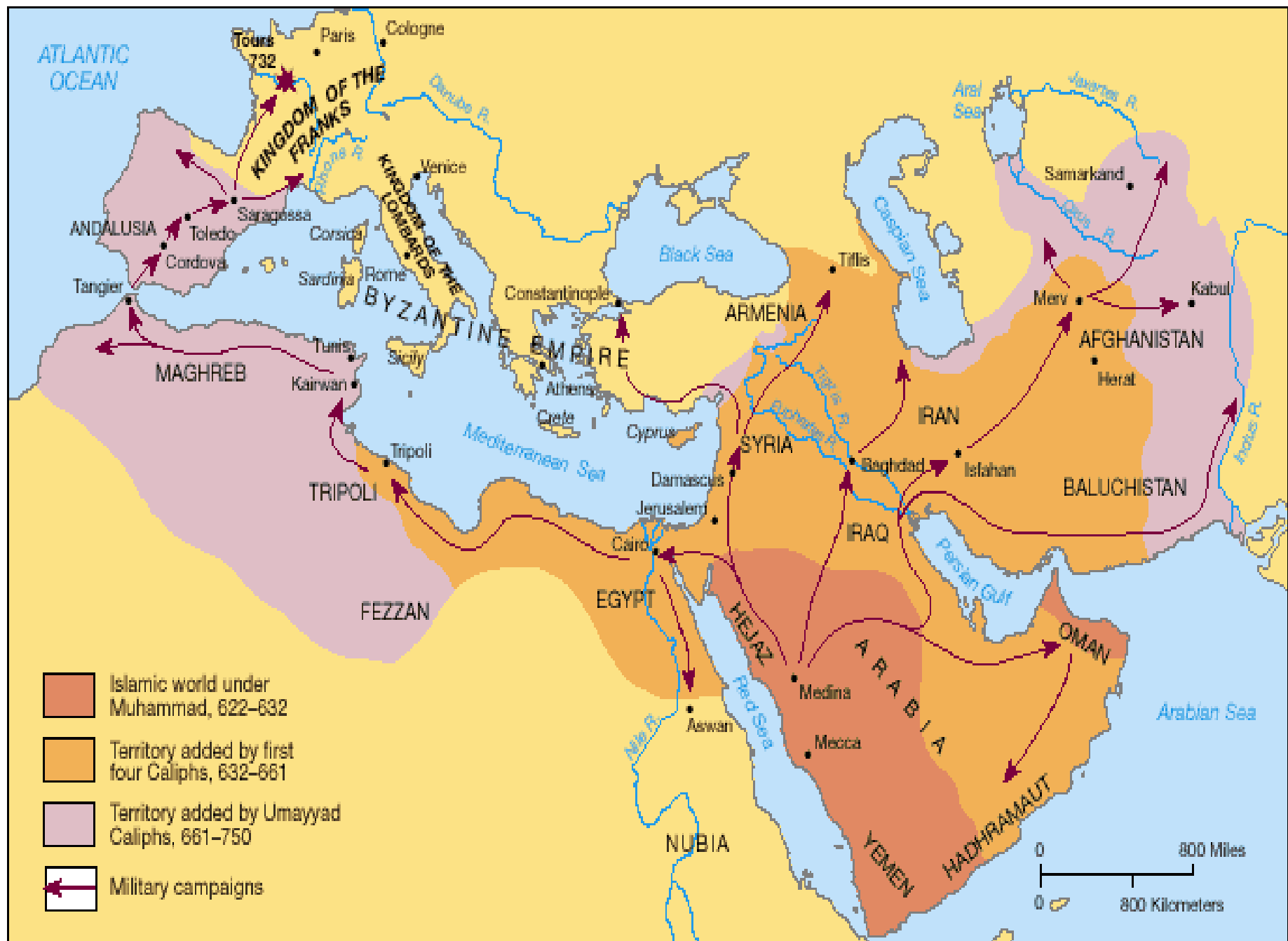
In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century AD, Islamic forces of the Muslim Seljuk Turks defeated armies of the Christian Byzantine Empire, cut off Christian access to holy sites in and around Jerusalem, and threatened to overrun all of Asia Minor and, through the Iberian Peninsula, into Western Europe. In response to this, and to pleas for help from the Eastern Emperor in Constantinople, Christian Western Europe launched almost two centuries of military campaigns to free the Holy Land from Muslim control.

# State of Christianity c.AD 565



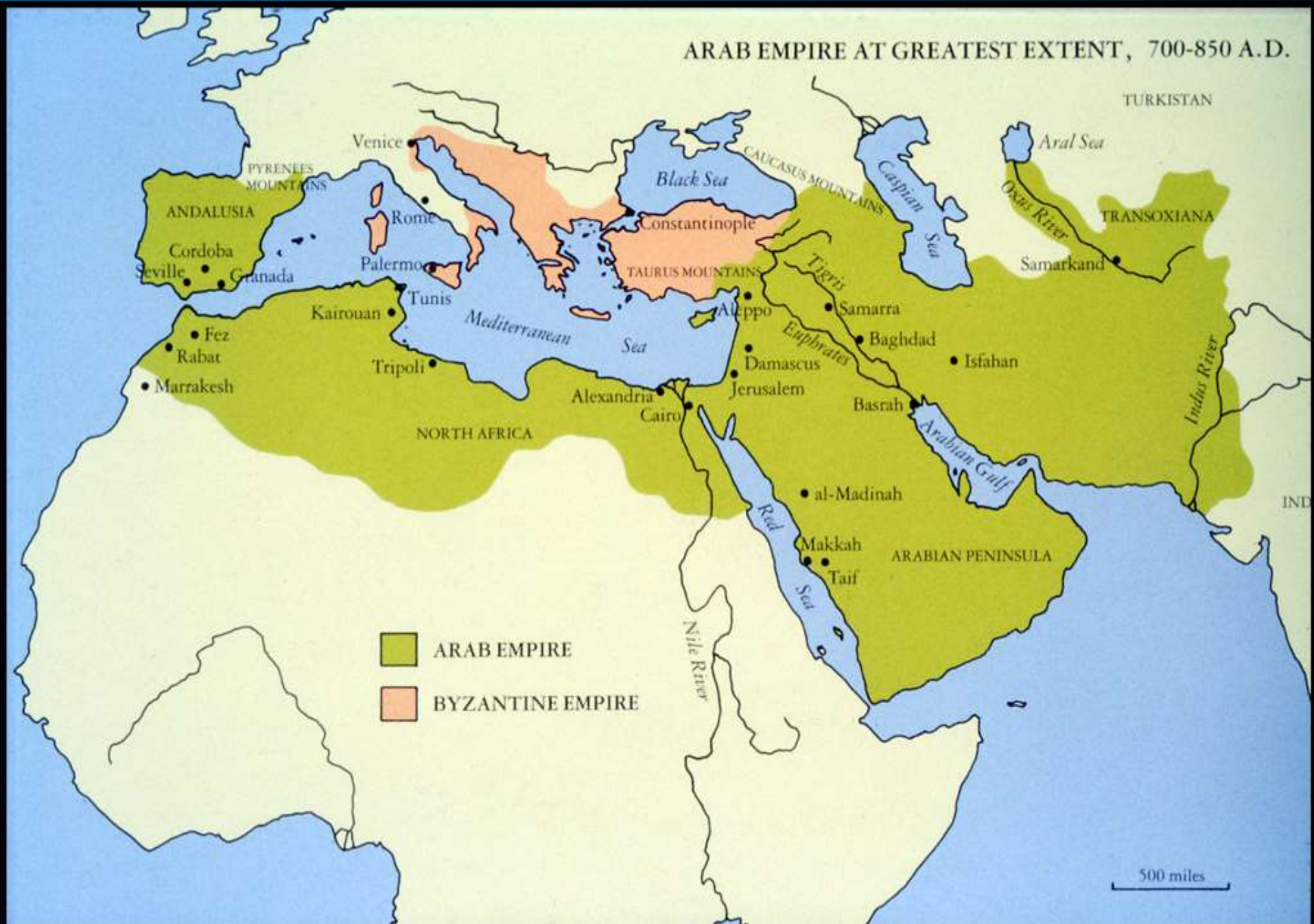
# Events Leading Up to the Crusades

- 622-750 AD – Islam is born & rapidly expands, engulfing Christian areas of North Africa, Middle East & even the Iberian Peninsula.

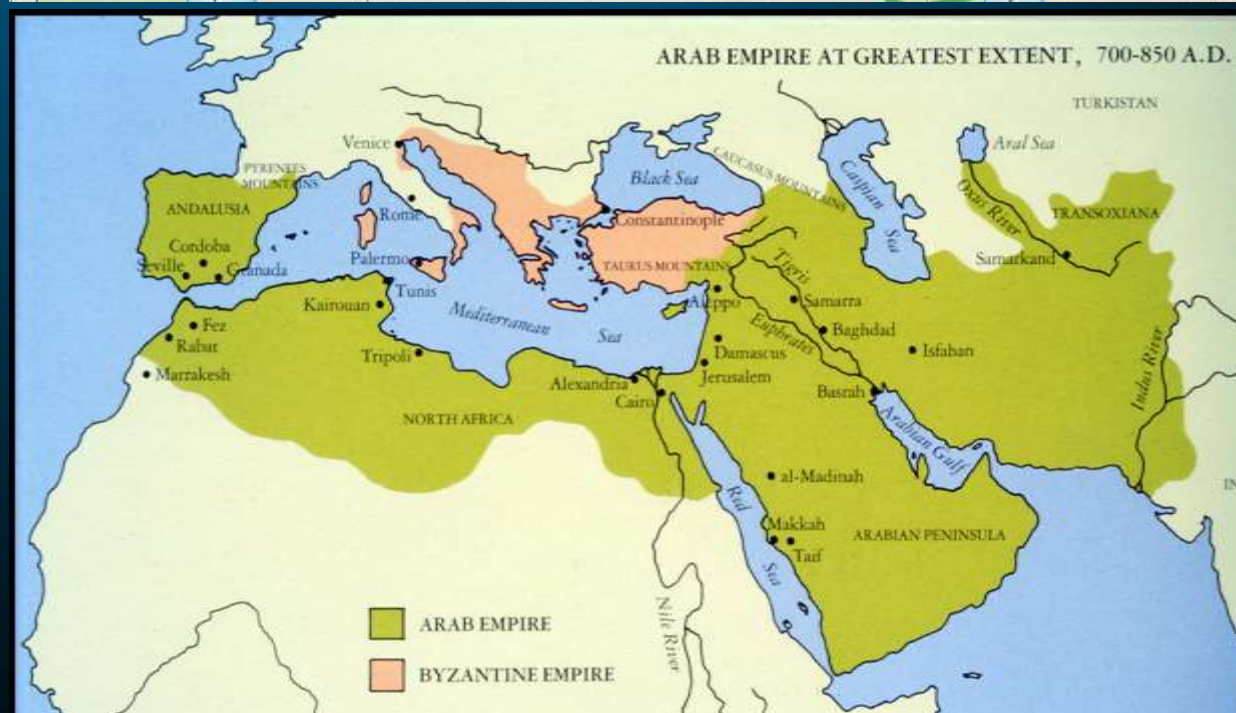




ARAB EMPIRE AT GREATEST EXTENT, 700-850 A.D.







# Events Leading Up to the Crusades

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- 1009 – Fatimid Caliph Al-Hakim of Egypt calls for destruction of Christian shrines in Holy Land.
- 1021 – Byzantine protectorate of shrines.
- 1040 – Seljuk Turks take over Muslim Persia.
- 1054 – Great Schism splits Eastern (Orthodox) from Western (Roman Catholic) Christianity.

# State of Christianity After 1054 “Great Schism”



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- 1054 – Great Schism splits Eastern (Orthodox) from Western (Roman Catholic) Christianity.
- 1071– Seljuks defeat Byzantines at Manzikert; Muslims begin occupation of Anatolia region.
- 1095 – Byzantine Emperor begs for Western help against the Seljuk Turks.





The Muslim Seljuk Empire in 1092

# Reasons for the Crusades

- Response to Byzantine Emperor's request for help.
- To defend Christian Europe against further Muslim invasion.
- Hopes of reuniting the two halves of Christendom.
- To establish the authority of Pope Urban II as the leader of Christianity.
- In defense of Christian holy sites and pilgrims.
- To focus energies of Western knights away from internal fighting.
- Belief in the imminent 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ , which (it was believed) required Jerusalem to be in Christian hands.
- For a VERY few, the potential for adventure & gain.



# The Major Crusades (1095-1291)

November 1095 – The Byzantine Emperor pleads for help from the Roman West, and Pope Urban II calls for holy war (*“Deus vult”* or “God wills it”) at the Council of Clermont.



# Peasant's (People's) Crusade - 1096

April 1096 – An impromptu Peasants Crusade, with 40,000 mostly unskilled fighters, departs the West under Peter the Hermit of Amiens. After sacking towns & persecuting Jews all across Europe, and refusing to listen to all counsel to wait, they are massacred outside Nicaea.





# The First Crusades – 1096-99

December 1096 –First *True* Crusade (mostly French & Italian) of about 100,000 persons travel east, besiege Antioch, conquer Jerusalem in July 1099, and set up four Crusader States – the County of Edessa, County of Tripoli, Principality of Antioch and the Kingdom of Jerusalem.







# The Crusader States (1099-1291)



# The Second Crusade – 1147-1149

1147 – Muslim defeat of the Crusader County of Edessa (1144) prompts the Second Crusade (mostly French & German), which fails to accomplish anything except the persecution of European Jews along the way, and providing victory for Muslim armies.





# Crusades





# The Third Crusade – 1189-92

1189 – Finally united under Saladin, Muslim armies retake Jerusalem in 1187, leading to the call for a Third Crusade.

Led by King Richard I (Lionheart) of England, King Philip II of France, and Emperor Frederick Barbarossa of Germany, the crusaders retook Cyprus, Acre and Jaffa, but supply problems kept them from retaking Jerusalem.





# Crusades





# The Fourth Crusade – 1202-1204

1202 – The Fourth Crusade never reaches the Holy Land. Asking Venetian boats to transport them by sea, they are convinced by Venice to pay their fare first by sacking the Christian city of Zara (Croatia), then by sieging and sacking the city of Constantinople! They set up a Latin Empire there that lasts 56 years.





# Crusades





## Key to Crusades

- ..... First 1095-1099
- Second 1147-1149
- Third 1189-1192
- - - Fourth 1202-1204





# The Final Eastern Crusades (1217-1272)

- The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Crusades achieve nothing for the West.
- 1270 – King Louis IX of France dies in North Africa during 7<sup>th</sup> Crusade, which is devastated by disease.
- 1289 – Crusader County of Tripoli falls.
- 1291 – Acre falls & last of Crusaders are driven from the Middle East.

# The Minor Crusades (1096-1291)

- 1096 – Peasant Crusade is massacred.
- 1193-1290 – Northern Crusades against pagans in Germany and northern Europe.
- 1208-1241 – Albigensian (*Cathar*) Crusades in southern France and Bosnia.
- 1212 – the Children's Crusade.
- 1212 - 1492 – 10<sup>th</sup> Crusade (*Reconquista*) to retake Spain from Muslims. (*Western Europe benefits from Muslim libraries left behind.*)



# The OTTOMAN Empire



# The Military Orders

- **Knights Templar** (*Knights of the Temple of Solomon, or Poor Fellow Soldiers of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon*)
  - Officially founded in 1129.
  - Most wealthy & powerful of Christian orders.
  - Became bankers for most of Europe.
  - Friday, October 13, 1307 – Philip IV of France orders the arrest of Templars.
  - November 22, 1307 – Pope Clement condemns the Templars.
  - March 18, 1314 – Jacques DeMolay & other Templar leaders burned at the stake in Paris.





# Knights Templar





# The Military Orders

- **Knights Templar**
- **Knights of St. John** (*Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem*)
  - Officially founded in 1113.
  - 1291 – moved to Cyprus after crusaders driven from the Holy Land.
  - 1309 – Move to Rhodes (“Knights of Rhodes”).
  - 1522 – Driven from Rhodes by Sulieman the Magnificent.
  - 1530 – Given Malta by Charles V of Spain (“Knights of Malta”).

# Knights of St. John



# The Military Orders

- **Knights Templar**
- **Knights of St. John**
- **Teutonic Knights** (*Order of Brothers of the German House of Saint Mary in Jerusalem*)
  - Founded in Acre at end of 12<sup>th</sup> Century.
  - 1211 – Moved to Transylvania to defend borders of Hungary.
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Century – fought in “Prussian Crusade” against non-Christians.
  - 1809 – Outlawed by Napoleon, but continued as charitable & ceremonial body in Central Europe

# Teutonic Knights







Monfort Castle, in Upper Galilee, Israel





Marqab Castle, Syria



Krak des Chevaliers, Syria.





Kyrenia Castle, Cyprus



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# Myths About the Crusades

- The Crusades were simply religious prejudice and intolerance that spilled over into violence.
- The Crusaders did it for money.
- The plan all along was to conquer the Holy Land and drive out all Muslims and Jews.
- The Muslims were noble in the face of Christian atrocities... OR
- The Christians were noble in the face of Muslim atrocities.
- All of Christendom was united against Muslim and Jewish people.

What we THINK the Crusaders were like . . .





# What the Crusaders were REALLY like . . .



# Consequences of the Crusades

- Halt to the expansion of Islam
- Final split between Eastern & Western Christianity
- Re-establishment of trade between East & West, including developments in learning & culture
- Focus and clarification of European culture
- Launch of Western spirit of exploration
- Clarification of papal authority
- Long term enmity between Christianity and Islam





