



Causes and Effects of the Crusades

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: Discuss the causes and course of the religious Crusades and their effects on the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish populations in Europe, with emphasis on the increasing contact by Europeans with cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean world.

Details of the Crusades

Reasons for the Crusades

In 1093, the Byzantine emperor asked for help. The Muslim Turks had attacked the Holy Land of Palestine and taken over Jerusalem. People across Europe decided to support the Crusades. Some joined because Christian pilgrims could not visit the Holy Land. Some European kings and the Church also wanted to get rid of troublesome knights. Princes joined in, hoping to become famous. Merchants wanted trade routes to the East.

The Crusades

The First Crusade reached the Byzantine Empire in 1096 and captured key cities including Jerusalem. After their victory, the Crusaders divided the Holy Land into four states. When Muslim Turks recaptured one, a second Crusade returned in 1147. It was defeated at Damascus, but the Crusaders kept the other three states. When the Muslim leader Saladin captured Jerusalem in 1189, the pope called for a third Crusade, led by Richard the Lion-Hearted. Saladin and Richard made a treaty. Muslims kept Jerusalem, but Christian pilgrims could travel there safely. When this truce failed, a fourth Crusade set off in 1202. It did not reach

Palestine, but attacked Constantinople instead. Later Crusades had little effect.

Effects of the Crusades

The Crusades caused a shift in power in Europe. The failures of the Crusades weakened the pope's power. The feudal system also was weakened as many nobles did not return from the Crusades. This strengthened the position of kings. As trade with Asia developed, towns grew, and merchants became more powerful. The Crusades led Europeans to think that all non-Christians were enemies. Christian persecution of Jews in Europe worsened.