

The First Crusade The Call From The East

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the first crusade received its name and shape late to its contemporaries the event was a journey and the men who took part in it pilgrims only later were those participants dubbed crusaders those signed with the cross in fact many developments with regard to the first crusade like the bestowing of the cross and the elaboration of crusaders privileges did not occur until the late twelfth century almost one hundred years after the event itself in a greatly expanded second edition edward peters brings together the primary texts that document eleventh century reform ecclesiology the appearance of new social groups and their attitudes the institutional and literary evidence dealing with holy war and pilgrimage and most important the firsthand experiences by men who participated in the events of 1095 1099 peters supplements his previous work by including a considerable number of texts not available at the time of the original publication the new material which constitutes nearly one third of the book consists chiefly of materials from non christian sources especially translations of documents written in hebrew and arabic in addition peters has extensively revised and expanded the introduction to address the most important issues of recent scholarship

in this work michael foss casts new light on the reality of and motives behind the crusades in general and in particular the first crusade which set the tone for all those that followed as the eleventh century came to an end the christian lands of western europe were in trouble afflicted by repeated invasions from the north by the collapse of internal order and safety by the increasing laxity and ignorance of the clergy and by the unrestrained tyranny of the feudal lords life in the west was as one philosopher described it nasty brutish and short to make matters worse the seljuk turks recently converted to islam had overrun the holy land pope urban ii searching for a way out of the increasing anarchy and to rid himself of unruly marauding knights exhorted the faithful at the council of clermont in 1095 to free jerusalem from the infidels the response was immediate and enthusiastic proud knights poor peasants artisans armed with pikes and bows and arrows and often only sticks or clubs set out on the great adventure fighting or negotiating their way through strange exotic lands until four long years later the ragged remnants of the once proud army stood below the forbidding walls of jerusalem michael foss tells the stories of these men and women of the first crusade often in their own words bringing the time and events to life through these eyewitness accounts the cliches of history vanish the distinctions between hero and villain blur the saracen is as base or noble as brave or cruel as the crusader in that sense the fateful clash between christianity and islam teaches us a lesson for our own time for the attitudes and prejudices expressed on both sides in the first crusade became the basic currency for all later exchanges down to our own day between the two great monotheistic faiths of mohammed and christ

tells the story of the first crusade that established the christian kingdom of jerusalem

first published in 2005 is justly acclaimed as the most complete and fascinating account of the historic journey to save the holy land from the infidel

the chilling reverberations of the brutal first crusade still echo in the world today as revealed in this gripping account of the titanic three year adventure maps

the story of the first crusade as witnessed by contemporary writers o day so ardently desired o time of times the most memorable o deed before all other deeds the fall of jerusalem in the summer of 1099 to an exhausted and starving army of western european soldiers was one of the most extraordinary events of the middle ages it was both the climax of a great wave of visionary christian fervour and the beginning of what proved to be a futile and abortive attempt to implant a new european kingdom of heaven in an overwhelmingly muslim world this remarkable collection brings together a wide variety of contemporary accounts of the first crusade including pope urban ii s initial call to arms of 1095 as well as the first hand writings of priests knights a jewish pilgrim a destitute noblewoman an iraqi poet and the historian anna comnena together they provide a vivid and nuanced picture of the first crusade and the people who were swept up in it edited with an introduction and notes by christopher tyerman

according to tradition the first crusade began at the instigation of pope urban ii and culminated in july 1099 when thousands of western european knights liberated jerusalem from the rising menace of islam but what if the first crusade s real catalyst lay far to the east of rome in this groundbreaking book countering nearly a millennium of

scholarship peter frankopan reveals the untold history of the first crusade nearly all historians of the first crusade focus on the papacy and its willing warriors in the west along with innumerable popular tales of bravery tragedy and resilience in sharp contrast frankopan examines events from the east in particular from constantinople seat of the christian byzantine empire the result is revelatory the true instigator of the first crusade we see was the emperor alexios i komnenos who in 1095 with his realm under siege from the turks and on the point of collapse begged the pope for military support basing his account on long ignored eastern sources frankopan also gives a provocative and highly original explanation of the world changing events that followed the first crusade the vatican s victory cemented papal power while constantinople the heart of the still vital byzantine empire never recovered as a result both alexios and byzantium were consigned to the margins of history from frankopan s revolutionary work we gain a more faithful understanding of the way the taking of jerusalem set the stage for western europe s dominance up to the present day and shaped the modern world

to its contemporaries the first crusade was a journey and its participants were pilgrims the identifying terminology of crusade came about nearly a century later in a greatly expanded second edition edward peters brings together primary texts that document 11th century events leading to what we now call the first crusade

includes medieval illustrations depicting important people places and events discusses the facts and legends surrounding the first crusade and what was written about it includes a bibliography for further reading i or rather the lord beseech you as christ s heralds to publish this everywhere and to pers e all people of whatever rank foot soldiers and knights poor and rich to carry aid promptly to those christians and to destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends i say this to those who are present it is meant also for those who are absent moreover christ commands it pope urban ii 1095 when a crusader army of western european franks took jerusalem by storm on july 15 1099 it was one of the more unexpected conquests in history everything seemed to be against them for the previous three years of crusade right up to the final siege and yet they finally prevailed and when they did they massacred most if not all of the population before establishing a christian realm in a region that had been taken over by the muslims in 634 ce the first crusade is a difficult and polarizing event even among modern historians for some the crusaders were heroes and saints and for others they were devils who disrupted the peaceful local sects of muslims jews and christians establishing an alien colony that heralded modern european imperialism to serve the needs of whatever story they want to tell some historians will begin their tale at some convenient point in history that makes their side look good in fact the first crusade is also a signal example of why it is unwise to choose sides in history because neither side was correct and the situation was highly complex though it went largely unremarked in the islamic world at the time the first crusade has since become a contentious symbol of european imperialism in the middle east debate over whether the crusades can truly be perceived as an early example of european colonialism continues in medieval historiography though the evidence for this is thin the territory taken by the franks from the turks had previously belonged to eastern christians and had only recently been seized by the turks themselves the crusader states were relatively small and weak and were reconquered centuries before modern european colonialism began the crusaders themselves saw it as a holy war of reclamation of previously lost albeit almost mythical territory to them the muslims were the first aggressors they were somewhat bolstered in this view by the support that they largely held from local christians the medieval world of the first crusade was quite different from the world of modern colonialism however the question of the connection between the two worlds is important the first

crusade was a remarkable victory that galvanized the christians of western europe to expand their world while it remains unclear how much that world expanded in practical terms such as trade or how it affected later attitudes during the expansion to the new world and other regions it definitely engaged the european mind in both positive and negative ways as such it soon achieved near mythic status in the european literature and has become one of the most important events of the middle ages legends of the middle ages the first crusade chronicles the historic events that preceded the crusade the call to arms and the important people and battles along with pictures of important people places and events you will learn about the first crusade like you never have before in no time at all

of the many campaigns during the middle ages few are as remarkable or seemingly impossible to win at the start as the first crusade 1095 99 and the true crowning achievement of that crusade which resulted in two centuries of western european christian states in the middle east and the permanent firing of the european imagination was the conquest of jerusalem on july 15 1099 after three weeks of siege that victorious siege came four years after the call for a crusade first went out and had the crusaders not taken jerusalem the first crusade would not likely have been followed by any more and the campaign might have been no more than an historical footnote of what could have been as it turned out the siege of jerusalem and the crusade as a whole says much about the first major clash of western and eastern military tactics after the fall of the roman empire as well as the power of faith and even fanaticism to motivate people beyond ordinary human endurance for better and worse the siege and fall of jerusalem to the crusaders has become a fundamental piece in the current view of the west in that part of the world indeed to this day the first crusade remains a polarizing event even among modern historians for some the crusaders were heroes and saints and for others they were devils who disrupted the peaceful local sects of muslims jews and christians establishing an alien colony that heralded modern european imperialism in fact the first crusade is a good example of why it is unwise to choose sides in history because neither side was correct and the situation was highly complex what s often forgotten about the crusades is that they started inauspiciously for the europeans and the first army to arrive in the middle east had an extremely checkered history even before it was decimated on october 21 1096 in the proximity of helenopolis which is now known as the village of hersek in bithynia a contingent of crusader pilgrims was massacred by the seljuk turkish army which had strategically positioned itself in anticipation of an ambush the event took place in a significantly symbolic location in the christian tradition indeed the name helenopolis is derived from the legend that helen the mother of constantine and a notable proponent of her son s conversion was born there this was where the castle of kibotos also known as civetot once stood constructed under byzantine emperor alexius comnenus s orders it was near this castle that crusader pilgrims established their encampment leaving behind women children and the elderly as they prepared to launch an attack on the turkish forces in anatolia the surprise attack was brought to a swift end by the turkish forces superior tactics and equipment which ultimately resulted in the massacre of the christian population and the capture of numerous prisoners though it went largely unremarked in the islamic world at the time the first crusade has since become a contentious symbol of european imperialism in the middle east debate over whether the crusades can truly be perceived as an early example of european colonialism continues in medieval historiography though the evidence for this is thin the territory taken by the franks from the turks had previously belonged to eastern christians and had only recently been seized by the turks themselves the crusader states were relatively small and weak and they were reconquered centuries before modern european colonialism began the crusaders themselves saw it as a holy war of reclamation of previously lost albeit almost

mythical territory to them the muslims were the first aggressors and they were somewhat bolstered in this view by the support that they largely held from local christians the first crusade 1096 1099 was an extraordinary undertaking the repercussions of which have reached down to the present day this book re examines the sources to provide a detailed analysis of the various social classes that participated in the expedition and the tensions between them

riley smith marshals his case lucidly times literary supplement riley smith s analysis of the formation of crusading ideology offers a provocative new interpretation his scholarship is impeccable and he supports his contentions with

near the end of the eleventh century western europe was in turmoil beset by invasions from both north and south by the breakdown of law and order and by the laxity and ignorance of the clergy searching for a way out of the increasing anarchy pope urban ii launched an army of knights and peasants in 1095 to fight the turks who had seized the holy land michael foss tells the stories of these men and women of the first crusade often in their own words bringing the time and events brilliantly to life through these eyewitness accounts the clichés of history vanish the distinctions between hero and villain blur the saracen is as base or noble as brave or cruel as the crusader in that sense the fateful clash between christianity and islam teaches us a lesson for our own time foss reveals that the attitudes and prejudices expressed by both christians and muslims in the first crusade became the basic currency for all later exchanges down to our present day conflicts and misunderstandings between the two great monotheistic faiths of mohammed and jesus christ

focusing on the ways in which the first crusade changed the direction of warfare religion and perhaps history itself first crusade helps you gain a deeper understanding of the crusading ethos by exploring this time in history through the theme of prophecy

a paperback of john france s new analysis of the strategies and battles of the first crusade

this book delves into the crusade s organization its finances and the division of authority and responsibility among its leaders and their relationships with one another and with their subordinates

the cataclysmic collision of two great religions as the seljuk turks pressed ever closer to the byzantine empire the stage became set for a conflict of faith and political interest which would bathe the known world with blood and create lasting animosities the ramifications of which would be felt through the centuries to the present day the original ideological mission clearly offered opportunities of the most material kind which were readily apparent to the soldiers of fortune of northern europe what began for some as essentially a relief mission quickly acquired a new objective which because of its inspirational as well as its financial potential soon became its primary one the

taking of the city of jerusalem sacred to both religious factions the first crusade was to become the precursor of many wars of belief and power between the west and east it brought to the fore men of great military ability avarice and influence on both sides it was a long hard campaign fought across the middle east and brought collisions in open battle and the sieges of great cities and citadels both assaulted and defended this book chronicles that crusade s history

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The First Crusade The Call From The East

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