

Religious Crusades

“The War of the Cross”



# What Were the Crusades?

- Europeans launched the Crusades against the Muslims.
  - In 1096, Muslims captured Jerusalem.
  - Series of wars that lasted almost 200 years— occurred during the High Middle Ages.
- Jerusalem: Holiest Places for 3 religions
  - Jews: City where King David ruled and where the great Temple stood.
  - Christians: City where Jesus had lived, preached, and been crucified.
  - Muslims: City where their leader, Muhammad, ascended into heaven.



# What Caused the Crusades?

- Jerusalem was full of people from all different religions
  - Lived peacefully
  - Many visitors came to visit the holy land
- Seljuk Turks
  - Group of Muslims that took over in 1071
  - Marched on Constantinople in the Byzantine empire—asked Pope Urban II for help
  - Turks stopped allowing Christians to visit Jerusalem
- Pope Urban II (1095 AD)
  - Called for a crusade against the Muslims



*He gave this promise to all crusaders: “All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the Muslims, shall have immediate forgiveness of sins.”*

# Multiple Reasons for Fighting



- Regain the Holy Land
- Fighting=Forgiveness of sins
- Stop Muslim aggression in Byzantine Empire
- Chance to travel and make money
- Opportunity for nobles to get new land in the Middle East
- Possibility of opening new trade routes between Europe and the Middle East

# Who Went on Crusade?

- All types of people
  - Peasants, laborers, knights, kings, and queens.
  - Young and old
  - Poorly trained



# Series of Attacks

- There were 4 major Crusades and several smaller ones.
  - The first one was the only success
- The Children's Crusade—Myth or Truth??
  - Took place after the 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade, which was a disaster for the Christians.
  - May 1212, a 12 year old boy-- Stephen of Cloyes, appeared in the court of King Philip of France.
  - Cloyes delivered a message which he claimed was from Jesus— calling the children of the country to go on a crusade and deliver the holy land.
  - The king brushed him off, but Cloyes traveled through towns and villages persuading children to join his crusade.
  - 2 of their ships sank and many were never heard from again.



# What was the Outcome of the Crusades?

- The Crusades are mainly seen as failures.
- The Pope temporarily gained prestige and military authority.
- Made no permanent conquests of the holy land—longest period of control was 90 years
- Increased tension between Muslims and Christians.
- New products from trade—opened Europeans eyes to the rest of the world.
- Increased medical knowledge—Muslim medicine was more advanced.
- Introduced Europeans to soap
- Brought wealth and trade to port cities in Europe.
- Thousands died on both sides

