

# The Crusades



# Crusaders

# Defensive Wars

- The Crusades were not against the Muslim religion; they were a response to Turkish aggression.



# Seljuk Warrior



# Pope Urban II



“Your brethren who live in the east are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid which has often been promised them. For, as most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and conquered the territory of Romania [the Greek Empire] as far west as the shore of the Mediterranean and the Hellespont. They have occupied more and more lands of those Christians and have overcome them in seven battles... On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ’s heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade 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 also meant for those who are absent. Moreover, Christ commands it.” -

“All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested...With what reproaches will the Lord

overwhelm us if you do not aid those who, with us, profess the Christian religion!”

“Let those who have been accustomed unjustly to wage private warfare against the faithful now go against the infidels and end with victory this war which should have been begun long ago.

Let those who, for a long time, have been robbers, now become knights. Let those who have been fighting against their brothers and relatives now fight in a proper way against the barbarians. Let those who have been serving as mercenaries for small pay now obtain the eternal reward.”

- Pope Urban II



“Deus vult, Deus vult, Deus vult!”

# Peter the Hermit





# **Massacre of the Jews (1096) by People's Crusade and by Count Emicho of Leiningen**





# The First Crusade







# Massacre at Antioch (1098)

“All the squares of the city were already everywhere full of the corpses of the dead, so that no one could endure it there for the excessive stench. No one could go along a street of the city except over the bodies of the dead.” - Anonymi Gesta Francorum

# Procession around Jerusalem (Anonymi Gesta Francorum, 1099)





# Victory at Jerusalem



# Summary of Crusades

(People's Crusade, 1096)

- First Crusade (1096-1099)
- Second Crusade (1146-1148)
- Third Crusade (1189-1191)
- Fourth Crusade (1201-1204)

(Children's Crusade, 1212)

- Fifth Crusade (1218-1221)
- Sixth Crusade (1228-1229)
- Seventh Crusade (1248-1254)
- Eighth Crusade (1270)



# The Second Crusade



# The Third Crusade





# The Fourth Crusade





# The Children's Crusade





# The Fifth Crusade



**Francis and the  
Sultan (Giotto)**



# The Sixth Crusade





# The Seventh and Eighth Crusades



# The Just War Theory

- St. Augustine developed this theory in *The City of God* and St. Thomas Aquinas refined it in the *Summa Theologiae*. The basic tenets of the Just War Theory are as follows:
- Just Cause – defense against or punishment of a lasting, grave, and certain danger or evil
- Legitimate Authority – the war must be declared by a valid government
- Right Intention – no ulterior motives besides defense or punishment
  - Armed conflict should be the last resort after peaceful means of diplomacy have been tried unsuccessfully.



- There should be a reasonable chance of victory.
  - The proposed weapons and methods of warfare should not produce still greater evils than the war prevents or punishes.
- The conditions above determine whether or not a war is just at its inception (*ius ad bellum*). However, there is another condition for the just waging of the war itself (*ius in bellō*): all efforts must be made to protect non-combatants, wounded soldiers, and prisoners.
- cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Rome 1993, #2309 and #2313

Good Consequences	Bad Consequences
The delay of Muslim expansion for 400 years.	Countless deaths of Christians, Muslims & Jews; many non-combatants.
The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.	Failure to regain control of the Holy Land.
Peaceful coexistence of Christians and Muslims between the First and Second Crusades (led to mutual cultural enrichment).	Harm to Catholic-Jewish relations and Catholic-Orthodox relations, and aggravation of hatred between Christians and Muslims.
Unification of Western Christians against a common enemy, increasing religious fervor in the West.	Detraction from the Church's credibility as an institution of Christian love and peace.



Good Consequences	Bad Consequences
New trade routes, new missionary efforts and exploratory expeditions.	
Improvement of military technology and tactics.	
Introduction into Western Europe of Aristotle's writings, Arabic mathematics and medicine, Arabic art, architecture and astronomy.	
Better food – pepper, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, sugar, rice, sesame, melons, lemons, peaches, cherries, dates.	
Better clothes – silk, velvet, dyes.	
Better hygiene – more frequent bathing, scents and perfumes.	

# How Can the Church Justify the Crusades?

- The Crusades were defensive wars.
- Crusaders fought at great personal cost.
- The objectives of the Crusades were noble.
- Perhaps more diplomacy could have been tried first, though it likely would have failed.
- Slaughters happened on both sides and were common practice in medieval warfare, but were in no way condoned by the Church.



# Crusades Song

- To the tune of “I’m Yours” by Jason Mraz.
- Singers: SMA students from the class of 2017.
- Recorded on March 19, 2015