

WC 260-273 PP 274-284: Account of First Crusade and Arabic Account

Chronology

1071	Battle of Manzikert- Byzantine defeat and loss of E. Mediterranean territory
1094	Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus petitions Pope for aid against Muslim Seljuk Turks
1095	Pope Urban II proclaims "armed pilgrimage" at Council of Clermont
1095-99	FIRST CRUSADE: several waves of peasants and armed knights travel to Eastern Mediterranean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Crusaders kill all Jews in E. Europe as they travel towards Jerusalem • People's Crusade wiped out • French Crusaders meet with Byzantines and conquer much of E. Med including Jerusalem (1099)
1100-87	Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem
1147-49	SECOND CRUSADE: Led by HRE Conrad III of Germany and King Louis VII of France <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unsuccessful
1174	Salah-el-Din (SALADIN) founds Ayyubid Dynasty (Egypt and Syria)
1187	Reginald of Chatillon rashly breaks truce by attacking an Egyptian trade caravan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle of Hattin • Capture of Jerusalem by Saladin
1189-92	THIRD CRUSADE: Richard the Lionhearted of England recaptures much of Palestine from Saladin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to capture Jerusalem; Crusade ultimately unsuccessful
1204	FOURTH CRUSADE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venetians and Franks sack Constantinople (capital of Byzantine Empire) • Formation of Latin Empire (1204-67)
1212	"Children's Crusade"
1216-21	FIFTH CRUSADE: Entire army surrenders to Egypt
1248-54	"Crusade of St. Louis": King Louis IX of France (later canonized) leads 'crusade' to Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louis IX is taken prisoner and ransomed; goes to Holy Land and rebuilds defenses there.
1261	Byzantines recapture Constantinople with help of Genoese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overthrow Latin Empire and reestablish their own government
1281	Final fall of Acre. last Christian foothold in Levant, falls to Arabs

Star Terms

- Battle of Manzikert
- "armed pilgrimage"
- People's Crusade
- Battle of Hattin
- Sack of Constantinople

Geog. Terms

- Principality of Antioch
- County of Tripoli
- Kingdom of Jerusalem
- Cairo

A. Krac de Chevaliers, 11th-12th century, currently in Lebanon

The Castle of the Knights, described by T.E. Lawrence as “the best preserved and most wholly admirable castle in the world,” is the easternmost of a chain of five castles sited so as to secure the Homs Gap. In 1142 it was given by Raymond, Count of Tripoli, into the care of the Knights Hospitallers, and developed into the most distinguished work of military architecture of its time. It has two concentric lines of defense, the inner ramparts lying close to the outer and continuously dominating them. The outer curtain is furnished on the north and west sides with eight round towers, of which one is later than the Crusader occupation, and of which two form the north barbican, also extended at a later date.



The significance of the castle is in the changes in military landscape and in the introduction of feudalism into the Near East during the Crusades.

B. Crusader map of Constantinople, Sack in 1204, by Florentine cartographer



The Fourth Crusade (1202–1204) was originally intended to conquer Muslim-controlled Jerusalem by means of an invasion through Egypt. Instead, in April 1204, the Crusaders of Western Europe invaded and sacked the Christian (Eastern Orthodox) city of Constantinople, capital of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire). This is seen as one of the final acts in the Great Schism between the Eastern Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church, and a key turning point in the decline of the Empire and of Christianity in the Near East. The crusaders established the Latin Empire (1204–1261) and other "Latin" states in the Byzantine lands they conquered. Byzantine resistance in unconquered sections of the empire such as Nicaea, Trebizond, and Epirus ultimately liberated the capital and overthrew the crusader states. The crusaders inflicted a horrible and savage sacking on Constantinople for three days, during which many ancient and medieval Roman and Greek works were either stolen or destroyed. The magnificent Library of Constantinople was destroyed. Despite their oaths and the threat of excommunication, the Crusaders ruthlessly and systematically violated the city's churches and monasteries, destroying, defiling, or stealing all they could lay hands on; nothing was spared. It was said that the total amount looted from Constantinople was about 900,000 silver marks, divided up between the Crusaders and Venetians.