

19. The 4th Crusade



Palma Le Jeune
Les croisades de Constantinople
(1620)

HIST 302

Spring 2012

Characters in our Tragedy



EAST

House Komneni

Old Emperor

- Manuel I

Deposed Emperor

- Andronikos I

House Angeli

Blind Emperor

- Isaac II Angelos

Rebel Son

- Alexios IV

Thieving Older Brother

- Alexios III

WEST

Italians Pirates

- Venetians

Old Doge

- Dandolo

Greedy Merchants

- Genoese

- Pisans

Crusaders

- Villehardouin



CONSTANTINOPLE

The Last Komnenoi Emperors

John II (1118-43)

- tried to cancel special privileges to Venice
 - they seized some Greek islands and trade renewed
 - 1137 John besieges, wins Antioch from Crusaders

Manuel I (1143-80)

- Pro-Western
 - gave high positions to Latins
 - participated in jousts

Manuel I Maritime Policy

1169 Manuel made alliances with Genoa

1170 “ “ Pisa

1171 had every Venetian arrested and goods confiscated

- tendency to hire Italian naval mercenaries
 - people were being crushed by tax burdens
- feudal process had weakened the power and authority of the state with its own people

1180

- death of Manuel I
- his widow, the Latin princess Maria of Antioch acted as regent to her infant son Alexios II Komnenos
- notorious for favoritism
 - Latin merchants
 - big aristocratic land-owners

Massacre of the Latins (1182)



~60,000 Latins lived in Constantinople

A String of Usurpations

- April 1182 overthrown in by Andronikos I Komnenos
- Andronikos the nephew of Manuel I
 - entered the city in a wave of popular support
- 1185 Andronikos I Komnenos deposed
- Isaac II Angelos (Angeli Dynasty)
- 1195 Isaac II Angelos deposed
- his older brother **Alexios III Angelos**
 - has brother blinded and imprisoned
- 1202 Isaac II's son escapes to the West
 - will go to Venice and cut a deal with Crusaders



The Beginning

- Pope Innocent III comes to power
 - Preaches of a fourth crusade
 - Not taken seriously by other monarchs
 - Fulk convinced everyone
- 1200 French barons meet at Compiegne for a tournament

The Crusades (BBC, 1995)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqBYEpykQz8&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBx8BDJdzfy>



VENICE



New Agenda

- Crusaders attack Zara and pay off debt
 - Zara, once controlled by Venice, now under protection of King Emeric of Hungary
 - still not enough
 - Pope threatens to excommunicate all who participated

Arrival of Alexios IV Angelos

- Son of deposed and blinded Isaac II asks for help in reconquering Constantinople
 - promises to end Schism, pay, transport to Holy Land
- meets flotilla at Corfu
- makes Crusaders promise not to harm City

Crusaders Arrive in Constantinople

- June 1203 Galata was taken
- boom that barred ships into the Golden Horn was broken
- 17 July 1203 City was occupied
- Alex III fled with the imperial treasure and regalia
 - Blind Isaac II was “restored” to the throne
 - Alex IV crowned as co-Emperor

From Dream to Nightmare

- No money to pay the Crusaders
 - Venice wants payment right away
- Jan 1204 Popular Revolt in City
- Alex III and IV are killed
 - March 1204 treaty drawn up
 - divide Byzantium
 - 13 April 1204
 - CONSTANTINOPLE FELL TO CRUSADER ARMIES

Sacking of Constantinople 1204

Nicholas Mesarites "Epitaphios"

- On the Sack

Niketas Choniates, "Historia"

- On the Destruction of Art by the Franks

A Short Review of Sieges

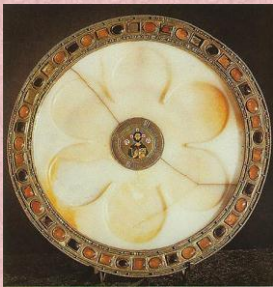
	Avar-Slavic	Arab	Bulgar	Rus'	Civil War	Franks
7 th C	626	Umayyad 674-8				
8 th C		Abd al-Malik 717-18				
9 th C			Krum 813	860	Thomas Slav 823	
10 th C			Symeon 922	Igor Kiev 941		
11 th C					Leo Tornikios 1047	
12 th C						
13 th C						1204











Alabaster Paten



11th century Chalice of the Patriarchs, in sardonyx, silver gilt, gold cloisonné enamel, gemstones, and pearls

Explaining the Sack of 1204

Ostrogorsky:

- “Inevitable”
 - Schism b/t W. and E. Churches
 - The pre-Western Stance of Manuel I
 - followed by the Anti-Western stance of Andronikos
 - fuelled hatred
 - obviously weak and helpless Byzantine state under the Angeli

The Norman aspect of the Equation

The idea to “capture” Constantinople became talk as early as 2nd Crusade

- Louis VII
- 3rd Crusade of Fred. Barbarossa
 - “seemed imminent”
- Henry VI (heir to Barbarossa and Norman kings)
- once Venice threw its weight behind it
 - done deal
