

# Crusades

- European Christians (Roman Catholics) attempt to reclaim the "Holy Lands" of the Middle East from the Muslims, esp. Jerusalem
- Pope Urban II, in 1095

Organizes 1st  
Crusade at the request  
of the Eastern Orthodox  
Christians of the  
Byzantine (formerly  
Eastern Roman)  
Empire

- pope promised  
volunteers 3  
things

- a. forgiveness of sins
- b. freedom of debts
- c. choice of lands in conquered area

(popular w/ 2nd sons)

- volunteers became "Crusaders" - means "marked w/ a cross"

- all ~~to~~ levels of class & society participated in 9 crusades

importance

I-these were military expeditions, they were only semi-successful (Christians did earn right to visit Jerusalem & other sacred cities)

II-Crusaders were sometimes violent and prone to vandalism,

esp. against Jews,  
this is why other  
religions became  
dis-trustworthy of  
Christians

III-new products &  
ideas brought back  
to Europe re-stimulat-  
ing trade after fall  
of Rome,

• trade helped growth  
of cities,  
helped end feudalism

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• Christians took  
Jerusalem in 1099  
(1st crusade)

• Muslims, under Saladin,  
re-take J. in 1187,  
- starts 3rd crusade

ends in truce  
between Saladin  
and Richard "the  
Lion-Hearted"  
(re-gained un-armed  
access to J.)

Christians took  
Constantinople  
in 1204 (4th Crusade)