

The Crusades

Hunter Perry

Unsplash: Robert Bye

Why Were the Crusades Significant?

The crusades are significant because of the impacts, deaths, and lessons learned from it. The crusades impacted trade so it affected everyone in some way. Families and children fought in the war to loot money because they were poor. The crusades open a window into a larger world of wars and with every war, we get better and better at solving issues and preventing them. We still study the crusades in school today because it can help us understand more about the past, which can help us with the future.



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Who Fought and What Were They Fighting Over?

Mainly knights fought in the crusades but families and children also pitched in to loot and take money because they were poor. The Christians and Muslims we're fighting over sacred sites in Jerusalem that the Christians wanted back after the fall of the Roman Empire so they could pray there. The Muslims also wanted back sites they had there because they would also pray, because both religions wanted control over their sacred sites, that is what caused the war.

When and Where Were the Crusades?

The crusades took place in Europe and mainly the Middle East around Jerusalem. There were no more than 9 Crusades over the roughly 2 century span of the war. The war lasted from 1096 to 1291 with a total around 2,000,000 (2 million) deaths. Compared to WW2 and WW1 that isn't a big loss but back then, when the crusades started, the world population was around 300 million people which made it more tragic at the time.

Why Were They Fighting?

The crusades were a war between the Muslims and Christians. They were fighting over sacred sites they both considered sacred around the city of Jerusalem. The Christians had two empires that emerged after the fall of the Roman Empire, The Holy Roman Empire, and the Byzantine Empire. Both of these empires were Christian. The Muslims had one big Empire called the Islamic Empire and they were Muslim. The Christians had control over sacred sites in Jerusalem during the Roman Empires time, but when it fell, the Muslims got control over Jerusalem and had their own sacred sites, therefore, the war was about trying to get the sacred sites they prayed at back.

Muslim Perspective

The Muslims lost Jerusalem in the first Crusade but from there it just went back and forth between the Christians and Muslims. When the Muslims had it, they would make religious journeys called pilgrimages to religious sites, and they blocked Christians from doing that. The Muslim perspective would have been simpler to the Christian's because they both have the same goal. The Muslims might have been scared knowing that the knights were being violent and that families were also joining from the Christian side.



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Christian Perspective

The Christian's perspective was different from the muslims in multiple ways. The Pope would use strong words and make the muslims sound bad to excite the knights. The result was that the knights would be extremely violent towards the muslims.

On both perspectives. Europe was way behind with science and mathematics because of the dark ages, a lot of people were poor. As a result of this, families and children would fight in the war just to loot homes in hope of getting money.



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How did the Quest for Power Impact People's Lives?

When someone has power, it can show a side of them, you never knew. When someone wants power they can go out of their way to get it, they can forget what is right or wrong, and impact the lives of many in different ways, people could die, loose loved ones, have a family crisis, and it could mess peoples life's up forever. In history, this has happened countless times and with every war that comes and goes, we learn something new and can help prevent future wars.



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Aftermath

The aftermath of the crusades helped shaped our world today because of the new goods Europe received. Without the crusades, Christianity would be a way smaller religion because the crusades helped Christianity expand. The crusades stopped because people were tired of dying, it was getting to expensive, and everyones mindset started to shape differently after having experienced a war.



Unsplash: Irina Shishkina



Thank you for listening!

Unsplash: Mike Henson