

The Crusades Islamic Perspectives

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coinciding with the 900th anniversary of the crusades this book is the first general introduction to some of the wider aspects of the history of the crusades prepared by carole hillenbrand a leading authority with a world wide reputation the the crusade is unique in covering the crusades from the muslim perspective it is also a timely reflection on how the phenomenon of the crusades influenced the muslim world then and now militarily culturally and psychologically the crusades discusses a group of themes designed to

highlight how muslims reacted to the alien presence of the crusaders in the heart of traditional muslim territory ideological concerns are examined and the importance of the concept of jihad is assessed in the context of the gradual recovery of the holy land and the expulsion of the crusaders there are also chapters devoted to an analysis of the warfare arms battles sieges fortifications on the basis of written sources and extant works of art also extensively discussed is the complex issue of the interaction between muslims and crusaders in a social economic and cultural setting the epilogue traces the profound impact of the crusades on muslim consciousness up to the present day the crusades is also lavishly illustrated with 500 black and white pictures and two full color plate sections

this comprehensive work of cultural history gives us something we have never had a view of the crusades as seen through muslim eyes with breathtaking command of medieval muslim sources as well as the vast literature on medieval european and muslim culture carole hillenbrand has produced a book that shows not only how the crusades were perceived by the muslims but how the crusades affected the muslim world militarily culturally and psychologically as the author demonstrates that influence continues now centuries after the events in the crusades the reader discovers how the muslims reacted to the franks and how muslim populations were displaced the ensuing period of jihad the careers of nur al din and saladin and the interpenetration of muslim and christian cultures stereotypes of the franks in muslim documents offer a fascinating counter to western views of the infidel of legend for readers interested in the middle ages military history the history of religion and postcolonial studies the crusades opens a window onto a conflict we have only viewed from one side the crusades is richly illustrated with eighteen color plates and over five hundred line drawings and black and white photographs

at the 900th anniversary of the crusader capture of jerusalem it is timely to reflect on how the phenomenon of the crusades influenced the muslim world then and now militarily culturally and psychologically this book discusses a group of themes designed to highlight how muslims reacted to the alien presence of the crusaders in the heart of traditional muslim territory ideological concerns are examined and the importance of the jihad is assessed in the context of the gradual recovery of the holy land and the expulsion of the crusaders two chapters are devoted to an analysis of warfare arms battles sieges fortifications on the basis of written sources and extant works of art and the neglected aspect of the navy is brought into prominence one chapter deals with the complex issue of the interaction between muslims and crusaders in a social economic and cultural setting the epilogue traces in

outline the profound impact of the crusades on muslim consciousness until the present day this is not a chronological survey of the events of the period 1099 to 1291 and even beyond for that has already been done several times instead this is a general book intended to introduce some of the wider aspects of the history of the crusades from the muslim side accordingly as a deliberate policy an attempt is made here to view the phenomenon of the crusades entirely through the prism of medieval muslim sources this naturally involves bias but such a bias is salutary given the cumulative impact of centuries of eurocentric scholarship in this field and it should help to create a more balanced picture of this fascinating and momentous period of christian muslim confrontation and interaction

for many centuries the history of the crusades as written by western historians was based solidly on western sources evidence from the islamic societies that the crusaders attacked was used only sparingly in part because it was hard for most westerners to read and in part because much of it was inaccessible even for historians who did speak arabic carole hillenbrand set out to re evaluate the sources for the crusading period not only looking with fresh eyes at known accounts but also locating and utilizing new sources that had previously been overlooked her work involved her in conducting extensive evaluations of the new sources assessing their arguments their evidence and their reasoning in order to assess their value and using the critical thinking skill of analysis a powerful method for understanding how arguments are built to place them correctly in the context of crusade studies as a whole the result is not only a history that is more balanced better argued and more adequate than most that have gone before it but also a work with relevance for today at a time when crusading imagery and mentions of the current war on terror as a crusade help to fuel political narrative hillenbrand s evaluative work acts as an important corrective to oversimplification and misrepresentation

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the crusades continue to exert a fascination in the west as a story of perceived gallantry and battles against impossible odds yet what is less often considered is their effect on the holy land and in particular the response of the muslim world to the invasions of european crusaders in this book w b bartlett author of four books on the crusades looks at these great events from the muslim point of view one of the effects was to unite a previously divided islamic world against a common enemy in the process they gave an unstoppable impetus towards the declaring of jihad against the west a holy war against christendom they also helped to shape the careers of some important figures most notably saladin but also other great men like sultan baibars and nur al din the rise of these great leaders is traced in this book as are the many great battles that were fought by men just as devoted to their cause as the crusaders were

this volume collects 20 papers on the crusades by one of the world's leading experts on medieval islamic history it explores the distinctive nature of islamic jihad as expressed in poetry sermons and inscriptions the development of the counter crusade and the careers of major muslim leaders including zengi and saladin

the crusades as seen through the eyes of muslims a significant contribution to the understanding of the medieval holy wars between christians and muslims this volume brings together the best and most complete eyewitness account of the crusades from the perspective of a medieval muslim writer focusing on twelfth century arab aristocrat usama ibn munqidh's book of contemplation but also including extracts from the book of the staff and kernels of refinement this volume offers a strikingly human portrayal of islamic perspectives on day to day existence warfare and the curious european invaders for more than seventy years penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the english speaking world with more than 1 700 titles penguin classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors as well as up to date translations by award winning translators

contesting the middle ages is a thorough exploration of recent arguments

surrounding nine hotly debated topics the decline and fall of rome the viking invasions the crusades the persecution of minorities sexuality in the middle ages women within medieval society intellectual and environmental history the black death and lastly the waning of the middle ages the historiography of the middle ages a term in itself controversial amongst medieval historians has been continuously debated and rewritten for centuries in each chapter john aberth sets out key historiographical debates in an engaging and informative way encouraging students to consider the process of writing about history and prompting them to ask questions even of already thoroughly debated subjects such as why the roman empire fell or what significance the black death had both in the late middle ages and beyond sparking discussion and inspiring examination of the past and its ongoing significance in modern life contesting the middle ages is essential reading for students of medieval history and historiography

in the race for paradise paul m cobb offers an accurate and accessible representation of the islamic experience of the crusades during the middle ages cobb overturns previous claims and presents new arguments such as the idea that the frankish invasions of the near east were something of a side show to the broader internal conflict between sunnis and shi ites in the region the race for paradise moves along two fronts as cobb stresses that for medieval muslims the contemporaneous latin christian expansion throughout the mediterranean was seen as closely linked to events in the levant as a consequence of this expanded geographical range the book takes a broader chronological range to encompass the campaigns of spanish kings north of the ebro and the norman conquest of sicily beginning in 1060 well before pope urban ii s famous call to the first crusade in 1095 finally the race for paradise brilliantly combats the trend to portray the history of the crusades particularly the islamic experience in simplistic or binary terms muslims did not solely experience the crusades as fanatical warriors or as helpless victims cobb writes as with any other human experience of similar magnitude the crusades were experienced in a great variety of ways ranging from heroic martyrdom to collaboration to utter indifference publisher information

explores the juxtaposition of conflict and co existence in twelfth century syria presenting numerous interconnected insights into life in greater syria in the twelfth century this book covers a wide range of themes relating to crusader muslim relations some chapters deal with various literary sources including little known crusader chronicles a jihad treatise a lost muslim history of the franks biographies letters and poems other chapters look at material culture from coins to urban development internal relations between sunni and shi ite muslims and between crusader and oriental christians and the role of the

turkmen new insights into the career of saladin are revealed for example through the work of a little known propagandist at his court and saladin s use of gift giving for political purposes as well as neglected aspects of the rule of his family dynasty the ayyubids which succeeded him special attention is paid to the christians residing in the middle east from italians to melkites and armenians key features analyses valuable little known primary sources in arabic armenian syriac latin and old french about a key period in middle eastern history highlights the role of oriental christian communities in syria sheds new light on saladin s career contributes significantly to the ever expanding field of crusader studies carole hillenbrand is professor emerita of islamic history at the university of edinburgh and professor of islamic history at the university of st andrews she is the author of islam a new historical introduction 2015 turkish myth and muslim symbol the battle of manzikert 2007 the crusades islamic perspectives 1999 a muslim principality in crusader times 1990 and the waning of the umayyad caliphate 1989

essay from the year 2010 in the subject history miscellaneous grade 79 0 durham university language english abstract this essay focuses on how ideas of jihad developed at the time of the first crusade focusing on the kitab al jihab of al sulami and the changes in the theory of jihad since the time of the prophet muhammad and the ummayad caliphate

muslims and crusaders supplements and counterbalances the numerous books that tell the story of the crusading period from the european point of view enabling readers to achieve a broader and more complete perspective on the period it presents the crusades from the perspective of those against whom they were waged the muslim peoples of the levant the book introduces the reader to the most significant issues that affected their responses to the european crusaders and their descendants who would go on to live in the latin christian states that were created in the region this book combines chronological narrative discussion of important areas of scholarly enquiry and evidence from primary sources to give a well rounded survey of the period it considers not only the military meetings between muslims and the crusaders but also the personal political diplomatic and trade interactions that took place between muslims and franks away from the battlefield through the use of a wide range of translated primary source documents including chronicles dynastic histories religious and legal texts and poetry the people of the time are able to speak to us in their own voices

muslims and crusaders combines chronological narrative discussion of important areas of scholarly enquiry and evidence from islamic primary sources to give a well rounded survey of christianity s wars in the middle east 1095 1382 revised expanded and updated to take account of the most recent

scholarship this second edition enables readers to achieve a broader and more complete perspective on the crusading period by presenting the crusades from the viewpoints of those against whom they were waged the muslim peoples of the levant the book introduces the reader to the most significant issues that affected muslim responses to the european crusaders and their descendants who would go on to live in the latin christian states that were created in the region it considers not only the military encounters between muslims and crusaders but also the personal political diplomatic and trade interactions that took place between the muslims and franks away from the battlefield engaging with a wide range of translated primary source documents including chronicles dynastic histories religious and legal texts and poetry muslims and crusaders is ideal for students and historians of the crusades

this volume brings together papers by crusades experts from england france canada and the united states discussing the confrontation between the franks and muslims in twelfth century syria balancing the traditional european view with an islamic perspective each author s individual contribution lies in the new ideas and insights to a particular topic such as new interpretations in crusade studies latin jurists in the levant the italian colonies propagation of violence and propaganda the role of individual popes the impact on islamic society as reflected in literature religious propaganda and diplomatic relations

the crusades through muslim eyes a reversed perspective presents a deeply researched and powerfully narrated alternative to the traditional western centric accounts of the crusades drawing on the works of influential muslim chroniclers such as ibn al athir usama ibn munqidh and baha al din ibn shaddad this book provides an insightful reexamination of one of history s most turbulent periods author amira zahran guides readers through the political cultural and theological dimensions of the crusades as experienced by the islamic world from the initial shock of the first crusade to the unifying leadership of salahuddin the narrative reveals how muslim societies responded to conquest displacement and religious warfare the book also explores the development of jihad the legacy of key figures like zengi and nur al din and the lasting influence of this era on modern muslim western relations by centering muslim voices this work offers a crucial counter narrative that challenges prevailing myths and brings to light the intellectual spiritual and human dimensions of the crusader period from an islamic perspective it is an essential read for anyone seeking to understand the broader historical forces that continue to shape contemporary interfaith and geopolitical dynamics

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