

The Effects of the Crusades

The Crusades were a series of wars between Christians and Muslims during the Middle Ages. Western European Christians sought to gain control of Palestine, the land where Jesus lived, died, and according to Christians, was resurrected, from the Muslims. While Christian Crusaders never achieved more than temporary control of Jerusalem, the Crusades had many lasting effects on Western European societies. These effects profoundly changed the lives of Western Europeans.

One of the many effects of the Crusades was that the pope and the kings of Western Europe became more powerful. In addition, Europeans began to trade with the Middle East. Trade increased as Western Europeans began to buy products like sugar, lemons, and spices. Naturally, increased trade led to increased cultural diffusion. Crusaders and traders learned about Arab art, architecture, medicine, and mathematics. Since the Arabs were very advanced in science and mathematics, Western European knowledge increased. Finally, after traveling to the Middle East, many Western Europeans began to see their small villages as uninteresting and even boring. Many Western Europeans began to seek adventure. Exploration increased.

Questions:

1: What were the Crusades?

2: Who ultimately won the Crusades?

3: What were the effects of the Crusades on Western European society?

4: Some historians refer to the Crusades as the most successful failure in Western European history. Why were the Crusades failures and yet successes?

Of course, the Crusades were not completely beneficial to Western Europeans. A negative effect of the Crusades was that Christians began to kill Jews simply because they were not Christians. This persecution and

hatred of Jews is called Anti-Semitism. In fact, religious intolerance increased during and after the Crusades. During the 200 years of the Crusades, Christians killed thousands of Muslims and Muslims killed thousands of Christians. In fact, some Western European Christians killed Eastern European Christians because they dressed like Muslims! This caused a lasting split between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Questions:

5: What is Anti-Semitism?

6- Why do you think Anti-Semitism increased during the Crusades?

7- What increased during and after the Crusades?

8- Why do you think it increased during and after the Crusades?

9- Why did some Western European Christians kill Eastern European Christians during the Crusades?

10- Why did a lasting split occur between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church?

Do you remember King Asoka of the Mauryan Empire? After witnessing a bloody battle, he renounced violence and converted to Buddhism. He also became religiously tolerant. How does Asoka's policy of religious toleration differ from the perspectives of returning Crusaders?

In Europe, a long-term effect of the Crusades was

1. the strengthening of the feudal system

2. the adoption of Islamic religious practices
3. an increased demand for goods from the East
4. increased European isolation

What were two indirect results of the Crusades?

1. trade and commerce increased and the feudal system was strengthened
2. trade and commerce declined and the feudal system was strengthened
3. trade and commerce increased and the feudal system was weakened
4. trade and commerce declined and the feudal system was weakened

One important effect of the Crusades on Western Europe was that they

1. led to a decline in the importance of the church in Western Europe
2. furthered cultural diffusion throughout Western Europe
3. introduced the Industrial Revolution to Western Europe
4. ended the western European quest for an overseas empire

One major result of the Crusades was the

1. permanent occupation of the Holy Land by the Europeans
2. long-term decrease in European trade
3. conversion of most Muslims to Christianity
4. spread of Middle Eastern culture and technology to Europe

The Crusades have been called “history’s most successful failures.” Which statement best explains this expression?

1. The Crusades did not achieve their original goals, but they brought about many desirable changes in Europe.
2. Although the Crusaders captured the Holy Land, they were unable to bring about democratic reforms.
3. The Crusades helped bring about the fall of the Roman Empire
4. The Crusaders prevented the Turks from capturing Constantinople for many centuries

A major goal of the Christian Church during the Crusades (1096–1291) was to

1. establish Christianity in western Europe
2. capture the Holy Land from Islamic rulers
3. unite warring Arab peoples
4. strengthen English dominance in the Arab world

Perhaps the most significant effect of the Crusades was a vast increase in cultural horizons for many Europeans. For every European who went on a Crusade, there were hundreds who knew someone who had gone, or who

had seen the Crusaders march by. Palestine was no longer a quasi-mythical place that people knew only from Bible readings in church; it was a real place where real people went. Once Crusader kingdoms, however fragile, were set up in Palestine, they traded with their kin in Europe, sending finished goods to Europe and importing raw materials. The result was a stimulus to Mediterranean trade. The need to transfer large sums of money for troops and supplies led to development of banking and accounting techniques. If the combatants in the Crusades came mostly from France, Germany and England, the middlemen tended to be merchants from northern Italy. The Crusades launched the economic dominance of cities like Genoa and Venice. The financial burdens of the Crusades, coupled with the need to borrow money to finance them, weakened the power of the nobility and strengthened the merchant classes and the independence of cities.

The cultural and technological enrichment was primarily from East to West; Europe was underdeveloped by Middle Eastern standards and had little to give in return. The principal effects of the Crusades on the Moslem world were negative. Europe lost prestige and military status in the eyes of Moslems, perhaps encouraging the later Turkish incursions into the Balkans. The Moslem world was already becoming more intellectually and theologically conservative; the Crusades accelerated the process and further undermined the long tradition of tolerance in the Moslem world.

Effects of the Crusades:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

“Count Stephen to Adele, his sweetest and most amiable wife, to his dear children, and to all his vassals of all ranks - his greeting and blessing, you may be very sure, dearest, that the messenger whom I sent to give you pleasure, left me before Antioch safe and unharmed and through God's grace in the greatest prosperity. ... You may know for certain, my beloved, that of gold, silver and many other kind of riches I now have twice as much as your love had assigned to me when I left you.” Crusader