

The Crusades

The crusades were a very vicious time in the Christian history. It was initially sanctioned by Pope Urban II to help Alexius against the Turkish invaders in 1095. After almost 200 years it turned from taking back land once though a Christian holy land in the early crusades, to killing anybody who was not a Christian or was thought to be standing in the way of Christianity. The first crusade mostly consisted of peasants and farmers that did not stand a chance. They were fighting to earn their place in heaven. The very inexperienced warriors were slaughtered by the Muslim fighters, who were under the impression that they were just defending their home.

The early crusades from 1096-1192 did result in several Christian kingdom states set up in Judea. The local kingdoms tried to introduce feudalism which worked in certain areas and failed in others. Muslim warriors, under the leadership of Saladin and his successors, slowly and systematically pushed the Christians out of their homeland.

The rest of the crusades never really went the way the pope and his followers wanted it to go. The latter part of the crusades, which is considered to be crusades 4-8, is the timeframe that most local Christian leaders used the crusades for personal gain.