



SESSION 22: THE CRUSADES - CONTENT

- Humbert's excommunication of the Patriarch of Constantinople was a defining act in the separation of the Roman church of the West from the other four patriarchates. But it did not end there. In 1059 the Roman Synod established the election of popes by the Cardinals of the Western church, perhaps foreshadowing the growth of papal authority in the coming years. Europe continued to fragment into independent nations. Feudalism continued to grow, with its negative effects for common people. Armed bands of 'knights' appeared across Europe, fighting one another because they had nothing else to do. Famine struck Europe and gave rise to the idea of its overpopulation. Kings of new nations sought to control the Western church, and popes resisted by exercising authority. While this conflict for power raged in the West, the Eastern Empire came under new threats from Turks and Arabs.
- Here are two examples of Western conflict between kings (state) and popes (church), both resulting in increased power of the papacy. The first occurred between 1075 and 1080. Emperor Henry IV appointed the archbishop of Milan. In response Pope Gregory VII called a synod and excommunicated Henry. A lay assembly then decided that, unless Henry was released from excommunication within a year, he would be deposed as Emperor. Henry then met Gregory for three days in Tuscany, penitent and barefoot. Gregory released Henry from excommunication. Three years later Henry deposed the pope and appointed Clement III. The second example began in 1190. Upon the death of Emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa), his son Henry VI sought to control the church by excommunicating the pope. In 1197 Henry died as Pope Innocent was elected by Cardinals. Pope Innocent deposed Henry's brother Philip in favor of Otto IV. Civil war ensued in Europe for ten years, and Philip was killed. Otto then sought to control the church, whereupon Innocent excommunicated him. Later, Emperor Philip Augustus of France married a Danish princess and then rejected her for a third wife. In response Innocent placed all France under penance, forbidding communion. King John of England, who had a similar marital issue, appointed a new Archbishop of Canterbury against Innocent's will. Innocent called for Philip of France to lead a crusade to England. King John capitulated and Innocent called off the crusade. John then signed the Magna Carta in 1215, limiting the power of the king.
- In that year Pope Innocent III held the Fourth Lateran Council, which decided that local bishops should actively seek out all heresies and destroy them. Papal authority reached its apex under Innocent III (1198-1216).
- In the late 1000's and early 1100's pilgrimages to the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem, became common. They were seen as one of the highest acts of personal devotion, and as an imitation of the monastic life. And pilgrimages were imposed as penance for sinners. But in 1071 the Seljuk Turks

conquered Asia Minor and reduced the Byzantine Empire by over half. In 1079 they took Jerusalem and pilgrimages stopped. The Eastern Emperor appealed to Pope Gregory VII for help, but there was no response. In these muslim-occupied territories and cities Jews and Christians (i.e. Orthodox) were allowed to exist as self-regulated units. Religious heads were held responsible for their followers' behavior; Christians were left in relative peace as long as they paid heavy taxes and caused no trouble. Sons of Christians were frequently taken, forcibly converted to Islam, and placed in the army as Janissaries.

5. In 1094 Eastern Emperor Alexis I appealed to Pope Urban II for help. In July of 1095 Urban held the Council of Clermont in France, delivering a decisive sermon to French nobility. He talked about rampant violence in Europe, about the need to help 'Greek Christians', in graphic detail about muslim atrocities on Christians, about a new kind of war (i.e. a crusade), and of rewards in heaven for those who might die. He urged people to "Take the Cross", and recover the Holy Land. In the remainder of 1095 and part of 1096 he traveled throughout France and Germany, preaching about crusade. This served to incite Europeans. Great famine in Europe served as a stimulating backdrop.
6. In 1096 Urban declared it "the will of God that the churches of the West and East be restored". He appointed Bishop Adhemar of Puy to lead a crusade (the first) to retake Jerusalem. But in Europe an uncontrolled mob of thousands followed Peter the Hermit in a march to Jerusalem, taking food and killing Jews on the way. First they converged on Constantinople, being welcomed by Eastern Emperor Alexis. Alexis soon found them so unruly that he encouraged them to leave, whereupon they took Nicea in 1097. In 1098 the crusaders laid siege to Antioch and were losing the battle. An Armenian Christian in the city opened the gates to the city, and the crusaders defeated a larger Turkish army within, recording, "As for Turkish women, we did nothing evil to them, but simply speared them through". Crusader knights refused to return conquered lands to the Byzantine Empire.
7. On July 15 of 1099 the crusaders took Jerusalem. All defenders, whether muslim, Jew or Christian were killed. Women were raped, and children and babies were thrown from or against walls. Many Jews were burned in their synagogues. Baldwin of Bouillion (French) took the title King of Jerusalem. Many crusaders returned to Europe; their exploits encouraged bands of armed Europeans to make 'pilgrimages' for decades. In 1119 the Knights Templar were founded in Jerusalem; they accumulated great wealth through plunder. That wealth would ultimately lead to their destruction.
8. In 1144 muslims took the city of Edessa. That precipitated the second crusade, called by Pope Eugene III, and led by King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany. Both of their armies were defeated; this crusade accomplished nothing.
9. In 1187 Saladin, the Islamic Sultan of Egypt retook Jerusalem. This precipitated the third crusade, called by Pope Gregory VIII, and led by King Philip II of France, Emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa) who drowned on the way, and Richard the Lionhearted who was captured and ransomed to the King of Germany. Richard had finalized a treaty allowing muslims to retain Jerusalem, but permitting pilgrimages.
10. The continuing muslim occupation of Jerusalem prompted Pope Innocent III to call for the fourth crusade (1202-1204), supposedly going first to Egypt by sea and then to Jerusalem, to be led by Count Boniface of Montferrat and Cardinal Peter of Capua. Thirty five thousand were supposed to

sail from Venice to Cairo, and Venetians built a fleet for that purpose. Only 12,000 arrived in Venice, and they could not pay the Venetians for the fleet. Venetians then changed the purpose of the fourth crusade to commercial purpose in order to regain their expense. While they marched to Constantinople, Innocent demanded that they not attack the city, but his request was suppressed. The fourth crusaders invaded Constantinople, destroyed the great library there, burned much of the city, and looted it.

11. In 1212 a “children’s crusade” occurred, consisting of thousands of all ages gathering in Marseilles, France. About $\frac{3}{4}$ died on their way there, and the remainder were sold as slaves into Egypt.
12. Continued muslim occupation of Jerusalem prompted the fifth crusade (1213-1221), called by Pope Innocent III and his successor Honorius III, and led by King Andrew of Hungary and Duke Leopold of Austria. They too were to retake Jerusalem by first conquering muslims in Egypt. They were defeated.
13. Pope Honorius III then called for the sixth crusade (1228-1229), led by Emperor Frederick II. There was little fighting and much negotiating. Frederick settled with the Sultan of Egypt, getting Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. He proclaimed himself King of Jerusalem, but the cities were retaken.
14. Thus the seventh crusade (1248-1254) was called by Pope Innocent IV and Emperor Frederick, and led by Louis IX of France. Louis sent a letter to the Sultan of Egypt saying, “As you know that I am the ruler of the Christian nation I do know that you are the ruler of the Muhammadan nation. The people of Andalusia give me money and gifts while we drive them like cattle. We kill their men and we make their women widows. We take the boys and girls as prisoners and we make houses empty. I have told you enough and I have advised you to the end, so now if you make the strongest oath to me and if you go to Christian priests and monks and if you carry kindles before my eyes as a sign of obeying the cross, all these will not persuade me from reaching you and killing you at your dearest spot on earth. If the land will be mine then it is a gift to me. If the land will be yours and you defeat me then you will have the upper hand. I have told you and I have warned you about my soldiers who obey me. They can fill open fields and mountains, their number like pebbles. They will be sent to you with swords of destruction”. Confident Louis was promptly defeated, captured and ransomed by the Egyptian army.
15. Having returned to Europe, Louis IX called for the eighth crusade in 1270. It was the first crusade not called by a pope. It was led by Louis and, later, by Prince Edward of England. Their strategy was to attack Tunis, then Cairo, and finally Jerusalem. Lewis and many crusaders died from disease and this crusade ended.
16. The crusades resulted in: a) no permanent conquests of the Holy Land, b) no slowing of the spread of Islam, c) a hastening of disintegration of the Eastern Empire, d) hardening of the schism between eastern and Western Christianity, e) greater enmity between Christianity and Islam, and f) growth of the authority of medieval papacy.
17. The Eastern perspective: a) Crowning of an independent emperor (Charlemagne) by the pope broke unity between East and West, b) To have unilaterally changed the Nicene Creed was an insult to the Ecumenical Councils and to the Holy Spirit, c) To begin using leavened bread in the Divine Liturgy

was an insult to the Holy Spirit, as leavening symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit, and d)
The sacking of Constantinople by the fourth crusade was reprehensible.