**AP World History Modern**

**Impacts of the Crusades**

**Origins of the Crusades: Sourcing Practice**

When we analyze and use sources as evidence, we need to keep in mind the source to consider how it may enhance or limit our understanding of the event or time period. For example, if I read an eyewitness account of a crime that was written 20 years AFTER that person witnessed the crime, I might wonder how accurate the account is.

| **Call to Crusade: Pope Urban II, 1095 CE**  *Pope Urban II called for the Crusade after receiving pleas for help from Byzantine Emperor Alexios I Komnenos, who was struggling to fight the invading Seljuk Turks.*  "Although, O sons of God, you have promised more firmly than ever to keep the peace among yourselves and to preserve the rights of the church, there remains still an important work for you to do...For your brethren who live in the East [Byzantines] are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid which has often been promised them...Turks and Arabs have attacked them...They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians...They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire…  I, or rather the Lord, beseech [beg] you as Christ's heralds [messengers] to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race [Muslims] from the lands of our friends...Moreover, Christ commands it. All who die in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission [forgiveness] of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent God and is made glorious with the name of Christ! |
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Source 1: Pope Urban’s Call for a Crusade

| Learn: What can we learn or get out of the source? | Limitations: Is there a purpose or motivation behind the source? Does the author’s background/point of view, purpose or intended audience impact what was said or written? | So what? How can we use this source as evidence? What should we keep in mind about its credibility (good or bad), and how does that impact the conclusions we can draw? |
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| **Anna Komnene, *The Alexiad*** *Anna was the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexios, who had called for Pope Urban’s help. She was 14 when crusaders arrived in Constantinople to begin the First Crusade and greatly disliked the crusaders, who she considered to be barbarians. She wrote her account of the crusades when she was around 55.*  As we said above, there were among the Latins such men as Bohemund and his fellow counsellors [leaders of the Crusades], who, eager to obtain the Roman Empire for themselves, had been looking with avarice [greed] upon it for a long time. Seeing an opening for their plans in the expedition, they stirred up this huge movement...they feigned a crusade against the Turks to regain the Holy Sepulchre and sold all their possessions.  ...At that time, too, came Count Godfrey, who had crossed the sea with the other counts and was accompanied by an army of 10,000 knights and 70,000 foot soldiers...The real reason, to state the matter simply, was that he was awaiting the arrival of Bohemund and the other counts…[who] were awaiting an opportunity...dreaming that if they were of one mind [if they were united] they could take Constantinople itself... |
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Source 2: Anna Komnene

| Learn: What can we learn or get out of the source? | Limitations: Is there a purpose or motivation behind the source? Does the author’s background/point of view, purpose or intended audience impact what was said or written? | So what? How can we use this source as evidence? What should we keep in mind about its credibility (good or bad), and how does that impact the conclusions we can draw? |
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**Part 2: Crusade Choose your own adventure**

*You will be accompanying the Crusader army on the Fourth Crusade to the Holy Land. On your way there and back, you will encounter some changes in Europe that have been due, in part, to the Crusades and the increased contact with the east. Some changes likely would have happened even without the Crusades, but perhaps not as quickly or completely.*

Who are you traveling as? What is your background?

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As you choose your way through this crusading adventure, take note of the changes in Europe. Some have already started before you even reach your destination, while others will be evident during your return trip. Remember, not everything is a direct result of the Crusades, but there are at least some loose causal links.

**Changes observed on your way to Venice (you will know when you have reached Venice). These categories can overlap, so you choose what changes to include under what category; there is no right or wrong. If you do not use a box, that’s fine.**

| **Social/Cultural** | **Political** | **Economic or Innovative** |
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**How did you respond to the proposal regarding Zara? What do you think was the motivation behind the actions of the Crusaders and Venetians? What were the ulterior motives?**

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**How did you respond to the issue of Constantinople? What do you think was the motivation behind the actions of the Crusaders, Venetians, and the pope? What were the ulterior motives?**

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**Changes observed after the Crusade/traveling back to Europe. These categories can overlap, so you choose what changes to include under what category; there is no right or wrong. If you do not use a box, that’s fine.**

| **Social/Cultural** | **Political** | **Economic or Innovative** |
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**What do you think were the most significant changes that occurred in Europe after 1200? Explain.**

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**Final Thoughts/Something to Ponder:** While some monarchs began consolidating their power, the Holy Roman Empire remained divided between the Holy Roman Emperor, the pope, and various princes, all three of whom struggled to assert their own authority. By the 15th century, Muslim observers in Europe could claim that “Christendom has no head whom all will obey—neither the pope nor the emperor receives his due.” According to the College Board, Europe was “characterized by decentralized monarchies, feudalism, and the manorial system.” Do you think these are accurate assessments of Europe at this time? How did Europe compare with the Islamic world? Could one argue that it, too, was decentralized?