

New Struggles Between Popes and Emperors

During the 1100s and 1200s, ambitious German emperors sought to master Italy. The emperor Frederick I, called Barbarossa, or “red beard,” dreamed of building an empire that stretched from the Baltic to the Adriatic. For years, he fought to bring the wealthy cities of northern Italy under his control. With equal energy, they resisted. By joining forces with the pope in the Lombard League, they managed to defeat Barbarossa’s armies.

Barbarossa did succeed, however, in arranging a marriage between his son Henry and Constance, heiress to Sicily and southern Italy. That move entangled German emperors even more deeply in Italian affairs.

Frederick II. Sicily, a rich island kingdom in the Mediterranean, had a sophisticated court, where Muslim and Christian influences existed side by side. The child of Henry and Constance, Frederick II, was raised in this rich court. Frederick was bright and well educated, fluent in Arabic, Greek, French, and several other languages. He valued the scientific learning of the Muslim world and saw himself as a man of reason. He was also an arrogant, able, and cynical leader, willing to use any means to achieve his ends.

As Holy Roman emperor, Frederick spent little time in Germany. Instead, he pursued his ambitions in Italy. There, he clashed repeatedly and unsuccessfully with several popes. Like his grandfather, Frederick also tried but failed to subdue the cities of northern Italy.

Consequences. While Frederick was embroiled in Italy, he gave in to many demands of his German nobles. As a result, they grew increasingly independent. Although the Holy Roman Empire survived, it remained fragmented into many feudal states. The emperors thus lost control of Germany at a time when French and English rulers were building the foundations for stable, unified governments. The German people paid a high price for their emperors’ ambitions: They would not achieve unity for another 600 years.

Southern Italy and Sicily, too, faced centuries of upheaval. There, popes turned to the French to overthrow Frederick’s heirs. A local uprising against French rule in Sicily led to 200 years of



A Powerful Pope Innocent III led the Church to the height of power and prestige. He kept strict control over the bishops and other clergy. He asserted his authority over secular rulers. At the time of his death, Innocent was the unquestioned leader of all Christendom. **Impact of the Individual** What methods did Innocent use to exert control?

chaos as French and Spanish rivals battled for power. The region that had once been a thriving center of European culture was left in ruins.

The Church Under Innocent III

In the 1200s, the Roman Catholic Church reached its peak of power. Reforming popes like Gregory VII claimed the right to depose kings and emperors. Gregory’s successors greatly expanded papal power.

The height of papal power. Innocent III, who took office in 1198, embodied the triumph of the Church. As head of the Church, he claimed supremacy over all other rulers. The pope, he said, stands “between God and man, lower than God but higher than men, who judges all and is judged by no one.”

Innocent clashed with all the powerful rulers of his day. More often than not, the pope

came out ahead. As you have read, when King John of England dared to appoint an archbishop of Canterbury without the pope's approval, Innocent excommunicated the king and placed his kingdom under interdict. Innocent ordered the same punishment for France when Philip II tried unlawfully to annul his marriage. The Holy Roman emperor Frederick II also felt the wrath of the powerful pope.

In 1209, Innocent, aided by Philip II, launched a brutal **crusade**, or holy war, against the Albigensians in southern France. The Albigensians wanted to purify the Church and return to the simple ways of early Christianity. Tens of thousands of people were slaughtered in the Albigensian Crusade.

Looking ahead. For almost a century after Innocent's death, popes pressed their claim to supremacy. During this period, though, the French and English monarchies were growing stronger. In 1296, Philip IV of France successfully challenged Pope Boniface VIII on the issue of taxing the clergy. (See page 214.) After Philip engineered the election of a French pope, the papacy entered a period of decline.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

1. **Identify** (a) Holy Roman Empire, (b) Gregory VII, (c) Henry IV, (d) Concordat of Worms, (e) Frederick II, (f) Innocent III, (g) Albigensian Crusade.
2. **Define** crusade.
3. (a) Why was the power of German emperors limited? (b) How did the ambitions of German emperors affect the Holy Roman Empire?
4. (a) Describe two issues that led to clashes between popes and Holy Roman emperors. (b) How was each resolved?
5. **Critical Thinking Comparing**
(a) How did the political development of the Holy Roman Empire differ from that of England and France in the 1100s and 1200s?
(b) What were the causes of these differences?
6. **ACTIVITY** On an outline map of Europe, label the places that you have read about in this section. Illustrate your map to show what happened in each location.

3 Europeans Look Outward

Guide for Reading

- What advanced centers of civilizations flourished around the world in 1050?
- What were the causes of the Crusades?
- How did the Crusades affect Western Europe?
- How did Ferdinand and Isabella increase royal power in Spain?

Nearly 23 weeks after setting out from his home in France, Count Stephen of Blois reached the city of Antioch in Syria. There, on March 29, 1098, he dictated a letter to his wife, Adele. "You may be very sure, dearest, that the messenger whom I send you has left me outside Antioch safe and unharmed," he began. He went on to tell of the battles he had fought and the riches he had won. Many more battles lay ahead before he and his fellow knights achieved their goal—the conquest of Jerusalem.

Stephen of Blois was among thousands of Europeans who joined the Crusades, a series of holy wars launched in 1096 by Christian Europe against Muslim lands in the Middle East. For the first time since the fall of Rome, Western Europeans were strong enough to break out of their narrow isolation and take the offensive against other lands. As they streamed eastward over the next 200 years, Western Europeans learned that the world was much larger than they had ever dreamed. Their encounters outside Europe would serve to stimulate the pace of change.

The World in 1050

In 1050, when Western Europe was barely emerging from isolation, several civilizations in the Middle East and Asia had long been major powers. You will read about these civilizations in other chapters. What follows here is an overview of the world at the time that medieval Europe was first beginning to test its strength.

PARALLELS THROUGH TIME

Good Manners

Books of etiquette, or proper social behavior, date back as far as ancient Egypt and the *Instructions of the Vizier Ptah-hotep*. (See page 23.) Since then, every society has evolved its own system of customs and manners that people are expected to observe. However, ideas about good manners vary from culture to culture and from class to class.

Linking Past and Present How does etiquette at your school cafeteria differ from etiquette at a restaurant? Do you think rules of etiquette are still necessary? Explain.

PAST During the late Middle Ages, as monarchs gained greater prestige, royal courts set the standards for good behavior. The first European etiquette books advised nobles how to behave properly at a court banquet:

"A number of people gnaw a bone and then put it back in the dish. This is a serious offense."

"Do not spit over the table in the manner of hunters."

"Refrain from falling upon the dish like a swine while eating, snorting disgustingly, and smacking the lips."



PRESENT Today, guides to etiquette range from newspaper columns like "Miss Manners" to handbooks for international business travelers. Following are instructions for the proper way to call a waiter in various cultures:

"Africa: Knock on the table."

"Middle East: Clap your hands."

"Japan: Extend your arm slightly upward, palm down, and flutter your fingers."

Islam: An international civilization.

During Europe's Middle Ages, Islam had given rise to a brilliant new civilization. Islamic civilization reached from Spain across North Africa and the Middle East and on to the borders of India.

Muslim traders and scholars spread goods and ideas even farther afield. Trading caravans regularly crossed the Sahara to West Africa. Arab ships touched at ports on the east African coast and sailed on to India, Southeast Asia, China, and Korea. Through contacts with di-

verse cultures, Muslims acquired and passed on a whole range of ideas and technologies.

India and China: Ancient centers of civilization. Beyond the Muslim world lay India and China. Although it was politically divided, India was a land of thriving cities. Hindu and Buddhist traditions flourished, and wealthy princes financed the building of stunning temples and palaces. Indian mathematicians invented a numbering system, which Arabs adapted. Eventually, Western Europeans adopted these Hindu-Arabic numbers.

China had a strong, central government at a time when Europe was politically fragmented. Under the Tang and Song dynasties, China's culture flourished. Its civilization had an influence on neighboring peoples in Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. The Chinese made amazing advances in technology, inventing paper, printing, and gunpowder. In dozens of large cities, traders benefited from the use of coins and paper money, unknown to medieval Europeans.

African and American civilizations. In West Africa, the Soninke people were building the great trading empire of Ghana. Its merchants traded goods, especially gold, that would travel across the Sahara to North Africa, the Middle East, and even Europe.

Across the Atlantic, in Central America and southern Mexico, the Mayas had cleared the rain forests and built large cities dominated by towering temples. In Peru, too, Native Americans were carving out empires and creating great works of art, including elegant pottery, textiles, and gold jewelry. The civilizations of the Americas, however, remained outside the contacts that were taking place among Africans, Europeans, and Asians between 1050 and 1250.

Byzantine civilization. Closer to Western Europe, Byzantine civilization was a rival to Islam in the eastern Mediterranean. Although pounded by invaders, the Byzantine empire was generally prosperous and united at a time when Western Europe was weak and backward. Its scholars still studied the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans. In the markets of Constantinople, the Byzantine capital, Byzantine and Muslim merchants mingled with traders from Venice and other Italian cities. Even Vikings made their way to this bustling city.

In the 1050s, the Seljuk Turks invaded the Byzantine empire. The Turks had migrated from Central Asia into the Middle East, where they converted to Islam. By 1071, the Seljuks had overrun most Byzantine lands in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). The Seljuks also extended their power over Palestine and attacked Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land.*

*Christians called Jerusalem and other places in Palestine where Jesus had lived and taught the Holy Land. Jerusalem was also a holy place for Jews and Muslims.

The Crusades

As the Seljuk threat grew, the Byzantine emperor Alexius I sent an urgent plea to Pope Urban II in Rome. In 1095, he asked for Christian knights to help him fight the Turks. Although Roman popes and Byzantine emperors were longtime rivals, Urban agreed.

At the Council of Clermont in 1095, Urban incited French and German bishops and nobles to action. "From Jerusalem and the city of Constantinople comes a grievous report," he began. "An accursed race . . . has violently invaded the lands of those Christians and has depopulated them by pillage and fire." Urban then called for a crusade to free the Holy Land:

“Seize that land from [the Seljuks], and subject it to yourselves. . . . Undertake this journey eagerly for the [forgiveness] of your sins and with the assurance of everlasting glory in the kingdom of heaven.”

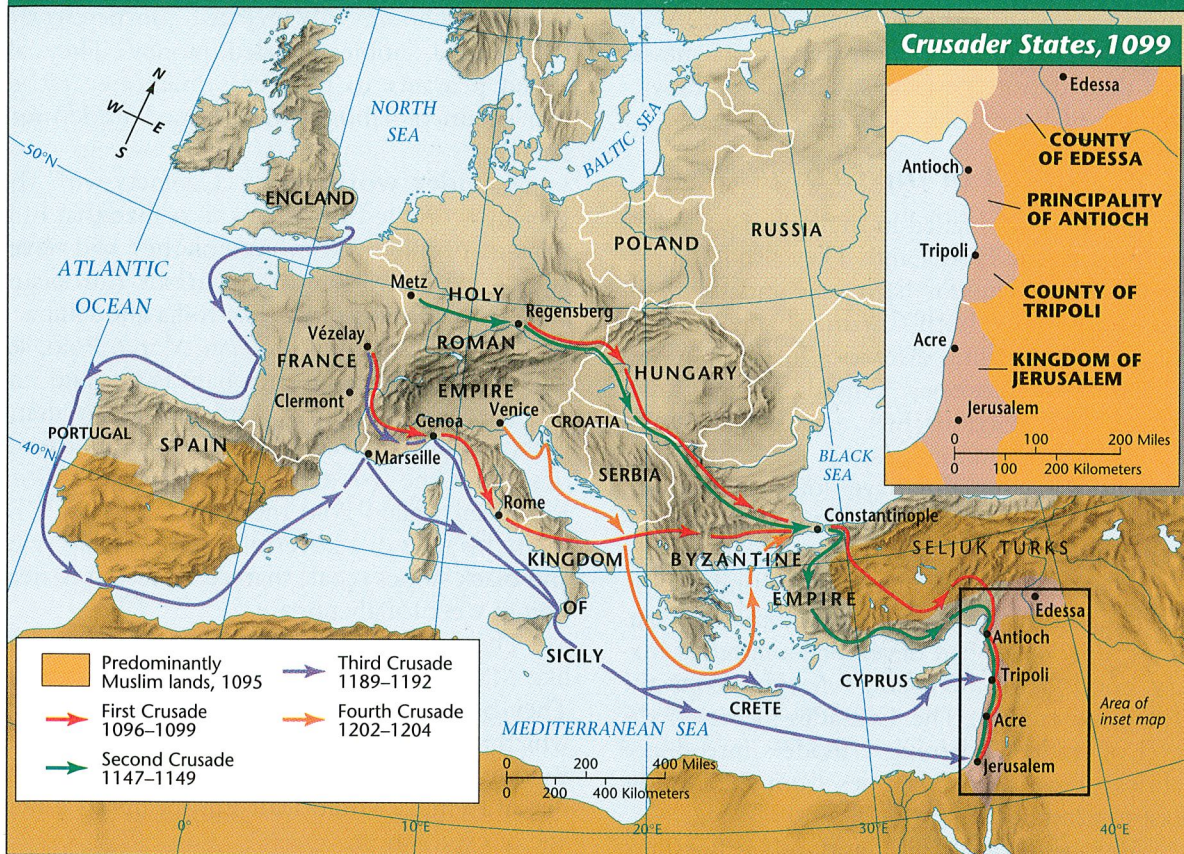
Taking up the cross. *Deus lo volt!* "God wills it!" roared the assembly in response to the pope's words. Soon, thousands of knights were on their way to the Holy Land. Because they sewed large crosses—*cruces* in Latin—on their tunics, they came to be called crusaders. As the crusading spirit swept through Western Europe, armies of ordinary men and women inspired by fiery preachers left for the Holy Land, too. Few returned.

Why did so many people take up the cross? Religious reasons played a large role. Yet many knights also hoped to win wealth and land. Some crusaders sought to escape troubles at home. Others yearned for adventure.

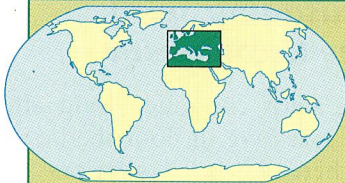
The pope, too, had mixed motives. Urban hoped to increase his power in Europe and perhaps heal the split between the Roman and Byzantine churches. (See page 242.) He also saw lands in the Middle East as an outlet for Europe's growing population. Finally, he hoped that the Crusades would set Christian knights to fighting Muslims instead of one another.

Massacre in Jerusalem. For 200 years, crusaders marched, fought, and for a time occupied parts of Palestine. Only the First Crusade came close to achieving its goals. After a long,

Crusades



GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY



Urged on by Pope Urban, thousands of Europeans joined the Crusades to expel the Muslims from the Holy Land.

- 1. Location** On the map, locate (a) Holy Roman Empire, (b) Kingdom of Jerusalem, (c) Constantinople.
- 2. Movement** Which crusaders traveled to the Holy Land mostly by water?
- 3. Critical Thinking Analyzing Information** Based on the map, why would it be difficult for Europeans to defend the Crusader States?

bloody campaign, Christian knights captured Jerusalem in 1099. They capped their victory with a massacre of Muslim and Jewish residents of the city.

Later crusades. The crusaders divided the captured lands into four small states. (See the map above.) The Muslims repeatedly sought to destroy these Christian kingdoms, prompting Europeans to launch new crusades. By 1187, Jerusalem had fallen to the able Muslim leader Salah al-Din, known to Europeans as Saladin. On the Third Crusade, Europeans tried but

failed to retake Jerusalem. After negotiations, though, Saladin did reopen the holy city to Christian pilgrims.

Europeans also mounted crusades against other Muslim lands, especially in North Africa. All ended in defeat. During the Fourth Crusade, the crusaders were diverted from fighting Muslims to fighting Christians. After helping Venetian merchants defeat their Byzantine trade rivals in 1204, crusaders captured and looted Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine empire itself!

Muslim armies meanwhile overran the crusader states. By 1291, they captured the last Christian outpost, the port city of Acre. As in Jerusalem 200 years earlier, the victors massacred their defeated enemies. This time, the victims were Christians.

Impact of the Crusades

The Crusades failed in their chief goal—the conquest of the Holy Land. They also left a bitter legacy of religious hatred behind them. In the Middle East, both Christians and Muslims committed appalling atrocities in the name of religion. In Europe, crusaders sometimes turned their religious fury against Jews, massacring entire communities.

The Crusades did have some positive effects, however. Beginning just as Europe was emerging from the Middle Ages, they helped to quicken the pace of changes already underway.

Increased trade. Even before the Crusades, Europeans had developed a taste for luxury goods that merchants brought from the Byzantine empire. The Crusades increased the level of trade. Returning crusaders introduced fabrics, spices, and perfumes from the Middle East to a larger market.

Merchants in Venice and other northern Italian cities built large fleets to carry crusaders to the Holy Land. They later used those fleets to open new markets in the crusader states. Even after the Muslims had recaptured Acre, Italian merchants kept these trade routes open. Our words *sugar*, *cotton*, *rice*, and *muslin*, which were borrowed from Arabic, show the range of trade goods involved.

The Church. Enthusiasm for the Crusades brought papal power to its greatest height. This period of enhanced prestige was short-lived, however. As we have seen, popes were soon involved in bitter clashes with feudal monarchs. Also, the Crusades did not end the split between the Roman and Byzantine churches. In fact, Byzantine resentment against the West hardened as a result of the Fourth Crusade.

Feudal rulers. The Crusades also helped to increase the power of feudal monarchs. Rulers won new rights to levy taxes in order to support the Crusades. Some rulers, including the French king Louis IX, led crusades, which added greatly to their prestige.

The money economy and serfdom.

The Crusades further encouraged the growth of a money economy. To finance a journey to the Holy Land, nobles needed money. They allowed peasants to pay rents in money rather than grain or labor, which helped undermine serfdom.

A wider world view. Contacts with the Muslim world led Christians to realize that millions of people lived in regions they had never known existed. Soon a few curious Europeans even visited far-off places like India and China.

In 1271, a young Venetian, Marco Polo, set out for China with his merchant father and uncle. Later he made a second trip. After many years in China, he returned to Venice full of stories about the wonders of Chinese civilization. Europeans called Polo the “prince of liars.” To them, his tales of a government-run mail service and black stones (coal) that were burned to heat homes were totally untrue.

The experiences of crusaders and of travelers like Marco Polo expanded European horizons. They brought Europe into a wider world from which it had been cut off since the fall of Rome. By the 1400s, a desire to trade directly with India and China would lead Europeans to a new age of exploration.

The Crusading Spirit and the Reconquista

The crusading spirit continued long after the European defeat at Acre. It flourished especially in Spain, where Christian warriors had been battling Muslims for centuries.

Muslims had conquered most of Spain in the 700s and carried Islamic civilization there. (See Chapter 11.) Several tiny Christian kingdoms survived in the north, however. As they slowly expanded their borders, they sought to take over Muslim lands. Their campaign to drive the Muslims from Spain became known as the Reconquista, or “reconquest.”



After years of isolation, Western Europeans began to renew contacts with the outside world. What effects does contact between cultures produce?

Marco Polo in China Marco Polo served as an official of Kublai Khan, the ruler of China. He traveled throughout China and also visited Persia, Burma, Sumatra, and India. Polo's story kindled the European imagination and encouraged others to travel and explore. **Economics and Technology** How does this illustration portray China as a land of great wealth?



Christian advances. Efforts by Christian warriors to expel the Muslims began in the 700s. Their first real success did not come, however, until 1085, when they recaptured the city of Toledo. During the next 200 years, Christian forces pushed slowly and steadily southward. By 1300, Christians controlled the entire Iberian Peninsula except for Granada. Muslim influences remained strong, though, and helped shape the arts and literature of Christian Spain.

Ferdinand and Isabella. In 1469, Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon. This marriage between the rulers of two powerful kingdoms opened the way for a unified state. Using their combined forces, the two monarchs made a final push against the Muslim stronghold of Granada. In 1492, Granada fell. The Reconquista was complete.

Isabella and Ferdinand tried to impose unity on their diverse peoples. They joined forces with townspeople against powerful nobles. Isabella was determined to bring religious as well as political unity to Spain.

Under Muslim rule, Spain had enjoyed a tradition of religious toleration. Christians, Jews, and Muslims lived there in relative peace. Isabella ended that policy of toleration. Aided by the Inquisition, a Church court set up to try people accused of heresy, Isabella launched a

brutal crusade against Jews and Muslims. Often, those who refused to convert to Christianity were burned at the stake.

More than 150,000 people fled into exile. The queen achieved religious unity but at a high price. Her policy destroyed two skilled, educated groups that had contributed much to Spain's economy and culture.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

- 1. Identify** (a) Crusades, (b) Council of Clermont, (c) Saladin, (d) Reconquista, (e) Isabella, (f) Ferdinand, (g) Inquisition.
- 2.** What advanced civilizations flourished around the world at the time of the First Crusade?
- 3.** (a) Why did Europeans join the Crusades? (b) What were three results of the Crusades?
- 4.** How did Spain achieve political and religious unity?
- 5. Critical Thinking Analyzing Information** How did the Crusades reflect the growing strength of medieval Europe?
- 6. ACTIVITY** Write two articles reporting on the First Crusade: one from the point of view of a Christian knight, another from the point of view of a Muslim living in Jerusalem.

4 Learning, Literature, and the Arts

Guide for Reading

- Why did a revival of learning occur in the High Middle Ages?
- How did literature reflect the changing culture of medieval Europe?
- What styles of architecture emerged in the High Middle Ages?
- **Vocabulary** *theology, scholasticism, vernacular*

By the 1100s, Europe was experiencing dynamic changes. No longer was everyone preoccupied with the daily struggle to survive. Improvements in agriculture were creating a steadier food supply. The revival of trade and growth of towns were signs of increased prosperity. Within the towns and cities of medieval Europe, a few people were acquiring wealth. In time, towns contributed a vital spark that ignited the cultural flowering of the High Middle Ages.

Medieval Universities

As economic and political conditions improved in the High Middle Ages, the need for education expanded. The Church wanted better-educated clergy. Royal rulers also needed literate men for their growing bureaucracies. By getting an education, the sons of wealthy townspeople might hope to qualify for high jobs in the Church or royal governments.

Academic guilds. By the 1100s, schools had sprung up around the great cathedrals to train the clergy. Some of these cathedral schools evolved into the first universities. They were organized like guilds with charters to protect the rights of members and set standards for training.

Salerno and Bologna in Italy boasted the first universities. Paris and Oxford soon had theirs. In the 1200s, other cities rushed to organize universities. Students often traveled from one university to another. They might study law in



Students in Class Early universities were modeled on medieval trade guilds. In northern Europe, teachers acted as the guild masters, setting the term of study and establishing conditions for receiving a degree. In the schools of Italy, students ran the first guilds. They required teachers to start and finish lectures on time and fined them if they missed class or skipped material. **Continuity and Change** How does the curriculum of medieval universities compare to courses of study today?

Bologna, medicine in Montpellier, and **theology**, or religion, in Paris.

Student life. University life offered few comforts. A bell wakened students at about 5 A.M. for prayers. Students then attended classes until 10 A.M., when they had their first meal of the day—perhaps a bit of beef and soup mixed with oatmeal. Afternoon classes continued until 5 P.M. Students ate a light supper and then studied until time for bed.

Since medieval universities did not have permanent buildings, classes were held in rented rooms or in the choir loft of a church. Students sat for hours on hard benches as the teacher dictated and then explained Latin texts. Students were expected to memorize what they heard.