

# An Overview of The Crusades

Religion and Society: Fall 2009

## Chronology

- 1071 Battle of Manzikert: Seljuqs conquer much of Asia Minor from Byzantines
- 1094 Alexius Comemnus sends embassy to Pope for aid against the Seljuqs
- 1095 Pope Urban II calls for a crusade at the Council of Clermont
- 1096 People's Crusade – Peter the Hermit
- 1096-9 First Crusade –Crusader states
- 1147-9 Second Crusade – battle of Damascus – Nur-al-Din
- 1187 Saladin takes Jerusalem
- 1189-92 Third Crusade – siege of Tyre, Acre – Richard “Lionheart/arse,” Saladin
- 1202-4 Fourth Crusade – sack of Constantinople
- 1209-29 Albigensian Crusade
- 1217-72 Fifth through Ninth Crusades
- 1291 Acre taken by Abuyyid Sultanate – last “Crusader state” on mainland

## Why the Crusades?

- “Reconquista” – campaign against al-Andalus by Visigoths, Franks, Spanish kingdoms, 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Victories against Islamic (Saracen) forces in Sardinia, Sicily
- Feudalism – desire for lands by landless nobility
- Papal desire for greater unity among Catholic nobility