

What was the cause of the Crusades?

What caused Christians to travel over 1450 miles to fight in the Crusades over a period of 196 years?

Revisionists (people who change history to fit a political point of view) are attempting to convince the world that it was due to hostile, greedy Christian aggression against peaceful Muslims who were minding their own business. Nothing could be further from historical truth! In fact, Islam had been invading Europe for over 400 years prior to the first crusade! From 711 A.D. to 1095 A.D. Islam had invaded and conquered: Spain (800* years), Portugal (600* years), France, Italy, Sicily, Austria, Bosnia, Serbia (400* years), Coratia, Hungary (150* years), Rumania (400* years), Wallachia, Albania, Moldavia, Bulgaria (500* years), Greece (500* years), Armenia, Georgia, Poland, Ukraine, and eastern and southern Russia.

Crusaders invasion of the Middle East lasted less than 150 years. The Crusades were a defensive action with the goal of driving the Muslims out of Europe and recapturing Christian lands.

*Total years of occupation.

Fregosi, Paul. *Jihad in the West*. Prometheus Books, 1998 pp. 23-24

I have heard some historians claim that the term “Jihad” means an inner struggle of the soul. Is that true? This is again a revisionist attempt to tame the term “Jihad.” To understand the Jihad we must be clear in our minds about what it is and what it is not. To start, it is *not* what most people think it is. Its purpose is not to convert unbelievers to Islam by force. This may have been so in its first century of life, when the choice given to the defeated was conversion to Islam or death, but this was soon changed to conversion to Islam, death or tribute in the form of a special tax. It was a case of “your money or your life”! The purpose of the Jihad was, and basically still is, to expand and extend Islam until the whole world is under Muslim rule. The Jihad is essentially a permanent state of hostility that Islam maintains against the rest of the world, with or without fighting, for more sovereignty over more territory. We should at this point recall the words of Jacques Ellal who, in his forward to Bat Yeor’s *The Decline of Eastern Christianity* (p. 19), reminds us of an almost forgotten basic fact concerning the Jihad: “*Jihad* is a religious obligation. It forms part of the duties that the believer must fulfill; it is Islam’s normal path to expansion.” The Jihad is an institution in Islam, which in Christian language we could call a sacrament. It is part of the normal functioning of the Muslim world, a religious duty, which the devout Muslim has to perform if, called upon.

Fregosi, Paul. *Jihad in the West*. Prometheus Books, 1998 pp. 20

How does Islam view Christianity and Judaism since they all claim Abraham as their forefather? These three religions may claim the same forefather, but Islam’s

view of Christianity and Judaism is not favorable. Serge Trifkovic, in his book, *Defeating Jihad*, presents this sobering insight: “Of all the ‘people of the book’ only Muslims are fully human, in Allah’s favor, worthy of another Muslim’s respect, and only they attain salvation. Jews and Christians may be distinguished from pagans, but their refusal to acknowledge Muhammad as the Prophet dooms them to discrimination and lowly status in this life, and eternal suffering after death.”

Trifkovic, Serge, *Defeating Jihad*, Regina Orthodox Press, 2006, p. 35

I have heard that Islam is a peaceful religion and that only a few extremists have hijacked this belief system. This is a common politically correct falsification of Islam. In fact Islam is built on world conquest for Allah, and the sword has been the traditional means of conquest. Serge Trifkovic summarizes this well when he writes: “The alleged distinction between the ‘extremists’ and ‘moderates’ among them reflects a Eurocentric mindset rooted in the liberal tradition alien to the Islamic world. The divide between mere Islam ‘conservatives’ (supposedly good) and ‘fundamentalist’ (bad) is equally artificial. The difference between them may concern the methods to be applied but not the final objective: to rekindle the ‘glory that was Islam’ under the Prophet and his early successors. In both cases the myth of the complete and perfect homo Islamicus is divorced from history. ‘It is with this mystical conception of knowledge that the (Muslim) intellectual completes his homemade construction.’”

Fregosi, Paul. *Jihad in the West*. Prometheus Books, 1998 p. 50

Why have we heard so much about the Crusades and the sins connected with it but virtually nothing about this Islamic invasion? The majority of western historians have ignored the Islamic causes of the Crusades and focused primarily on the sins of the Church. In the last century it has become popular among the liberal scholars to attack the Roman Catholic Church and Christianity in general. The result has been so called historical revisionists who have intentionally ignored reliable historical truths in order to push their own agenda. The outcome has been both a people and a church that are largely ignorant of the past. This ignorance is both dangerous and foolish. With modern day Islamic terrorism, Christians need to be lovingly bold and historically accurate when speaking to the culture around them. Failure to know the truth of the past will only result in being doomed to relive its mistakes. Christians must be willing to admit the mistakes and sins of the Crusades, but we must be abundantly clear as to the causes that moved men and women of faith to take such a course of action.