

The Crusades

Not as much to say for this lesson. It becomes Lachrymose

Situation- Papacy wants more power, but had just had a split with the Eastern Orthodox; the Byzantine Emperor wants help against the Turks, who are weak right now.

Answer- a holy way to capture the land of Israel for the Catholic church.

First Crusade proclaimed in 1096- Crusaders should wear a red cross, go to Israel and “liberate” it. Reward is remission of sins, plus whatever you can steal.

Crusaders think: why go all the way there to kill Muslims when there are perfectly good Jews to kill right here?

Massacres in the Rhineland, esp. Mainz, Worms

Some Christian authorities helped Jews, like the bishop of Speyer (Johann vom Kraichgau I, (1090–1104), but not a whole lot.

Further readings:

A History of the Jewish People by H.H. ben-Sasson

The Jew in the Medieval World, a sourcebook, Jacob Marcus ed.

Church, State, and Jew in the Middle Ages, Robert Chazan, ed.

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