

## 11.4 Christians and the Crusades

For crusaders, the religious wars were a costly ordeal. But European Christians also reaped many benefits from the crusades.

### Impact on Christians as a Group

Crusaders suffered all the terrible effects of war. Many were wounded or killed in battle. Others died from disease and the hardships of travel.

The impact of the crusades reached far beyond those who fought in the wars. The crusades brought many economic changes to Europe. Crusaders needed a way to pay for supplies. Their need increased the use of money in Europe. Some knights began performing banking functions, such as making loans or investments. Kings started tax systems to raise funds for crusades.

The crusades changed society as well. Monarchs grew more powerful as nobles and knights left home to fight in the Middle East. The increasing power of monarchs helped to end feudalism.

Contact with eastern cultures had a major impact on Christians' way of life. In the Holy Land, Christians learned about new foods and other goods. They dressed in clothing made of muslin, a cotton fabric from Persia. They developed a taste for melons, apricots, sesame seeds, and carob beans. They used spices like pepper. After crusaders returned home, Euro-

pean merchants earned enormous profits by trading for these goods.

## 11.6 Jews and the Crusades

The violence unleashed by the crusades caused great suffering for Jews. Crusaders in the Holy Land slaughtered Jews as well as Muslims. Other Jews became slaves. The crusades also dramatically worsened the lives of Jews in Europe.

**Impact on Jews as a Group** During the First Crusade, European Jews suffered a series of violent persecutions. As crusaders crossed northern France and Germany, some of them murdered whole communities of Jews. They destroyed **synagogues** and holy books. They looted homes and businesses. Some crusaders tortured Jews to make them accept Christianity.

**Anti-Semitism**, or prejudice against Jews, spread among non-crusaders as well. Religious prejudice combined with envy of Jews who had become prosperous bankers and traders. Riots and massacres broke out in a number of cities in Europe.

By the end of the crusades, Jews' place in society had worsened. Jews could no longer hold public office. Christians took over trading businesses that had been run by Jews. In 1290, England expelled all Jews. France did the same in 1394. Many Jews relocated to eastern Europe.

**Segregation** of Jews spread throughout Europe during the 14th and 15th centuries. Jews were forced to live in crowded neighborhoods called *ghettos*. Typically, walls and gates separated the ghettos from the rest of the town or city.

## 11.5 Muslims and the Crusades

The crusades brought fewer benefits to Muslims than they did to Christians. Muslims did drive the crusaders from the Middle East, but they lost their lands in Iberia. In addition, the contact between cultures benefitted Muslims less than Christians. Muslim society was more advanced, so Muslims had less to gain.

**Impact on Muslims as a Group** The crusades were a terrible ordeal for many Muslims. An unknown number of Muslims lost their lives in battles and massacres. Crusaders also destroyed Muslim property.

Muslims did gain exposure to some new weapons and military ideas during the crusades. Like Europeans, they began to adopt a standing (permanent) army. Muslim merchants, especially in Syria and Egypt, earned riches from trade with Europe. This money helped to fund projects such as new mosques and religious schools. The crusades also brought political changes as Muslims banded together to fight their common foe. The Ayyubid dynasty founded by Salah al-Din ruled Egypt and parts of Syria and Arabia until 1250.