

What were the Crusader states?

Enquiry: Who lived in the Crusader states?

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Crusader states

The Crusader states were four parts of the Holy Land which were taken over by Christian knights. Previously, these areas had been controlled by Muslims. The crusader states were fought over during the First Crusade. This territory covered the coastal areas of modern Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine, also referred to as the Levant.



Crusader states

Crusaders established a series of independent states with Christian rulers: the **Principality of Antioch**, the **County of Edessa**, the **County of Tripoli**, and – most important – the Kingdom of **Jerusalem**.

The Crusader states, known collectively in the West as “**Outremer**” (beyond the sea), rapidly became a melting pot for culture and a breeding ground for art and science.



The Holy Land

The city of Jerusalem and the surrounding area was known as the Holy Land. It is an area which is important for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Jerusalem is holy for these religious groups because:

- The Great Jewish Temple is built here.
- **Jesus Christ** died here.
- Muslims believe that **Muhammad** was taken up to heaven from here to meet God.



Who ruled and lived in the Holy land and when?

**Greek
Christians**

**Arab
Muslims**

**Turkish
Muslims**

**Europeans
Christians**

395

658

1077

1099

2000

Fourth
century

Seventh
century

Eleventh
century



Who ruled and lived the Holy land and when?

395

Greek Christians ruled the Holy Land as part of the Byzantine Empire. Most people were **Christians** but some were **Jews**.

638

Arab Muslims took control of the Holy Land. Christians and Jews still lived here but had to pay a tax to be able to worship. Many converted over time.



Who ruled and lived the Holy land and when?

1077

Turkish Muslims called **Seljuks** took control over Holy Land. When they invaded the area, the Byzantine Emperor called for help from Western Christians and the Pope.

1099

European Christians, known as **Franks** or Crusaders joined in this 'holy war' and captured Jerusalem. The Crusaders took over parts of the Holy Land. Christian Crusaders and Muslims then fought over Jerusalem for 450 years!



What groups of people lived in the crusader states?

The Turkish and Arab elites that had controlled the wealth of the territories conquered by the Crusaders were either killed or fled as the. They left behind a population of peasants, craftsmen and traders. This population consisted of a varying mix of **Orthodox Christians — Greeks, Maronite, Syrian/Jacobite, Coptic** — as well as **Samaritans, Jews** and **Muslims**. The exact mix varied from place to place, with Greek and Jacobite Christians more prevalent in the Principality of Antioch, Armenians more common in the County of Edessa, Maronites in the County of Tripoli, and Coptics and Samaritans mostly found in the Kingdom of Jerusalem.



What about the other crusader states? Who lived there?

Muslims

The Western European settlement lasted nearly 200 years. The First Crusaders arrived in the Middle East, the territories they conquered had communities already living there, including **Shi'a** and **Sunni Muslims** (often viewed with suspicion). Probably no more than 50% of the population was Muslim, and these were predominantly natives of the region who had converted to Islam over the centuries, often more money and to be accepted within the community rather than out of deep belief in the religion.



Christians:

The **Greeks** and **Syrian Christians** were on the whole loyal to the Crusaders. They benefited from no longer having to pay special taxes like they had under the Arabs and Turks - so they saw **Frankish** rule as an improvement. The **Maronites** and Armenians were also loyal Christians to the crusaders and were also good fighting men. Altogether, the **Orthodox Christians** made up a fundamentally loyal lower and middle-class component in crusader society, but still remained fundamentally “alien” because of the language barrier. While these elements of the population were Christian in faith, they had become predominantly Arabic speakers and had adopted many of the social customs and fashions of their conquerors over the previous centuries.



Jews

Jews and Samaritans were more likely to be city dwellers with urban occupation. They were also allowed to continue living according to their own laws and traditions beyond being subject to an additional tax — just as they had under the Muslims. While not viewed with as much suspicion as the Muslims, they were certainly not trusted with arms.



Glossary

Shi'a - Muslims who rely more heavily on their Ayatollahs, whom they see as a sign of God on earth

Sunni - Muslims who mainly rely on the Sunnah, a record of the teachings and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad to guide their actions

Frankish - Western Europeans who settled after the first crusade

Orthodox Christian - Eastern Christians who do not follow the Pope

Jacobite Christian - Syrian Christians

Samaritan - People from Israel

Maronites - Eastern Catholics



Comprehension Questions

1. Why was the 'Holy Land' important?

Sentence starter: The Holy Land is important because...

2. What were the Crusader states?
3. How did the population vary between locations?
4. Why were Orthodox Christians considered lower in society?

Challenge: Which groups of people are unlikely to have lived in the Crusader states? - Please look at the next slide to work this out.



Challenges: which groups of people are unlikely to have lived in the Crusader states?

Sunni
Muslims

Catholic
Christians

Orthodox
Muslims

Shia
Muslims

Protestant
Christians

Samaritans

Orthodox
Christians

Orthodox
Jews

Eastern Christians

Buddhists



What does this source tell us about the people of the Crusader states?

He who was a Roman or a Frank has in this land been made into a Galilean or a Palestinian. He who was of Rheims or Chartres has now become a citizen of Tyre or Antioch. We have already forgotten the places of our birth; already these are unknown to many of us or not mentioned any more. Some already possess homes or households by inheritance. Some have taken wives not only of their own people but Syrians or Armenians or even Saracens....Words of different languages have become common property known to each nationality...Indeed it is written, "The lion and the ox shall eat straw together"

