

Church History



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



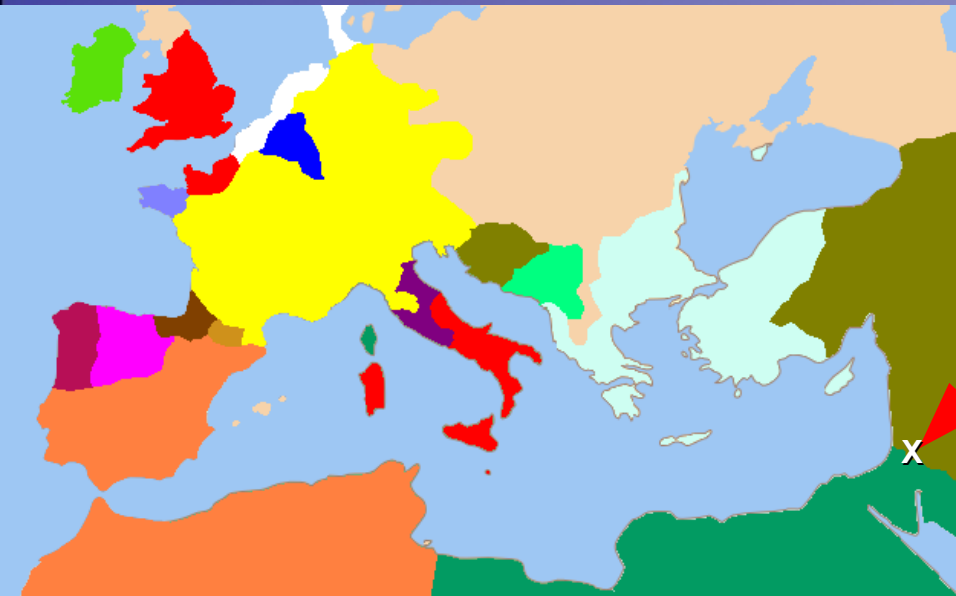
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- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
 - *West vs. East*
 - *The First Crusade(s)*



The Age of Crusades

- The 11th Century was a time of invasions
 - 1086 The Almoravids invaded Spain
 - The Muslim leaders of Spain felt threatened by the growth and power of León-Castile, so they actually invited the Almoravids to come in and defend “Islamic holy lands” from the Christians
 - But in 1090, Yusuf returned with a mandate from the Abbasids, the Fatimids, and even the people of Spain to overthrow those same Muslim leaders who'd invited him earlier, since they weren't perceived to be devout enough Muslims
 - Almost overnight, the Almoravids conquered all of the Muslim lands on the Iberian peninsula
 - But while all of this was going on in the West, the Muslims were also moving in the East...
...and the Fatimids and Seljuks were converging on Jerusalem...



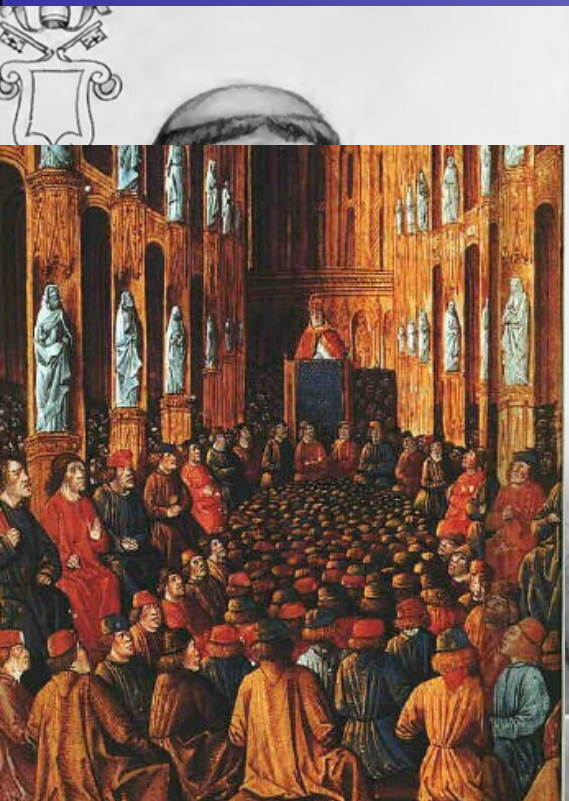
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 - 1095 Alexios I asked for aid against the Turks
 - Pope Urban II had been installed in 1088 and he quickly demonstrated a gift for politicking
 - He was able to turn the various kings and dukes against one another
 - He even encouraged the Empress Adelaide to bring a suit against her own husband, Emperor Heinrich IV



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 - For instance, at the Synod of Melfi in 1089, he made use of earlier decisions by Popes like Leo IX that demanded total celibacy by all clergymen
 - To enforce that decision—and to ingratiate himself to the nobles—he declared that the wives and children of any clergy could be rightfully confiscated by secular authorities and sold into slavery



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 - By 1093, Urban had consolidated his power base and allied himself with the new King of Italy, the former Duke Conrad of Lorraine
 - But Europe was still teeming with adversaries and potential war...

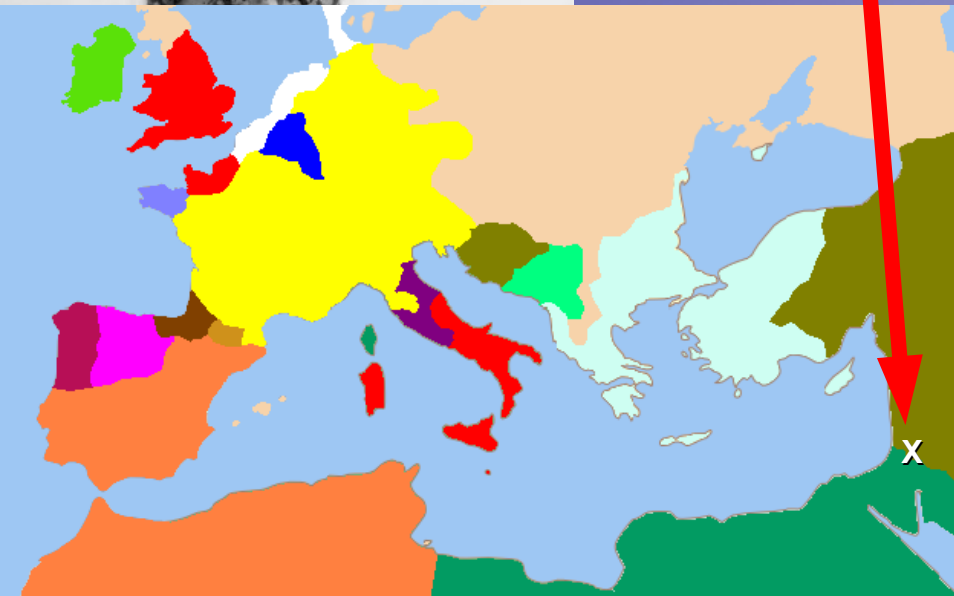


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The Age of Crusades

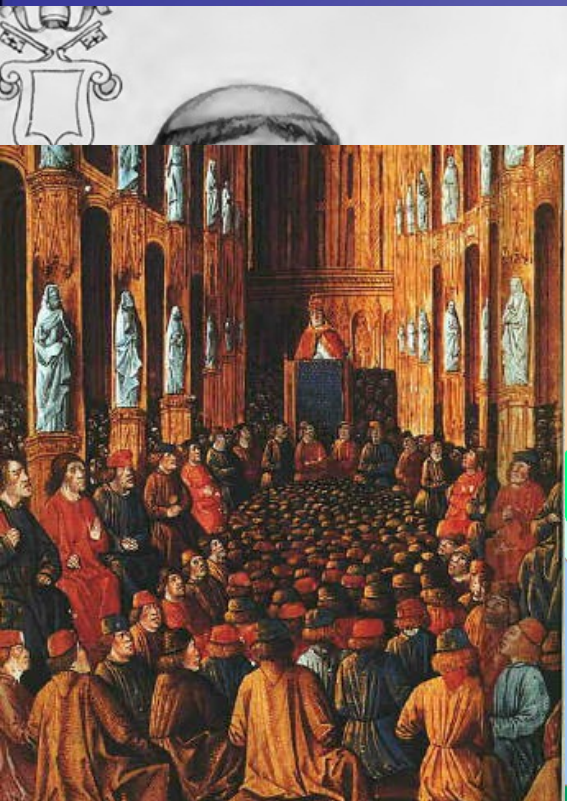
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 - The Muslims were advancing in the East
 - The Seljuk Turks and Fatimids squeezed out the long-reigning Abbasids and began encroaching further into Byzantine territory
 - They also began fighting over who would control Jerusalem



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 - **Byzantine Emperor Alexios I used Jerusalem's fall to lend support for his request that the Pope send military aid to Constantinople to fend off the encroachment of Islam**
 - Faced with domestic troubles in Europe—and, it seems, genuinely convicted to help Jerusalem—Pope Urban convened a council in Clermont, calling for a military pilgrimage to the Holy Land:

“Let those who have been accustomed unjustly to wage private warfare against the faithful now go against the infidels and end with victory this war which should have been begun long ago. Let those who for a long time, have been robbers, now become knights. Let those who have been fighting against their brothers and relatives now fight in a proper way against the barbarians. Let those who have been serving as mercenaries for small pay now obtain the eternal reward. Let those who have been wearing themselves out in both body and soul now work for a double honor.”



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 - The rallying cry of the Crusaders became "*Deus vult!*"—"God wills it!"



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Because God willed that all Christian princes and knights go on this armed pilgrimage, then doing so constituted an act of sacrificial worship
 - And since, in Catholic theology, the act of sacrifice was connected less with intentional selflessness and more with balancing a “spiritual ledger”... then making this sacrifice should count positively toward balancing that ledger—a “pre-payment” of a penance that might have been required for a sin
 - Thus, at the Council of Clermont in 1095, Pope Urban declared that all knights and princes who went on this pilgrimage would be granted an “indulgence” for their subsequent sins while on crusade
 - They weren't automatically forgiven for all sins, but they would not have to perform any penance for any sins that they committed while on the march
 - They could thus rape and pillage all that they wanted, because it was part of a campaign that God willed
 - Later Popes would sell indulgences to help pay for subsequent Crusades...



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 - The first to answer the call was a French priest named Peter the Hermit
 - While the nobles of Europe prepared their knights, charismatic speaker Peter called the common peasants to rally behind him and march to the Holy Land to take it back from the Muslims
 - By the time he left France, Peter was backed by an army of 40,000 peasants, and even a few knights who couldn't wait for their princes
 - Along the way, they took the opportunity to slaughter 4,000 to 8,000 Jews in Europe—especially in the Rhineland
 - The theological rationale for these violent actions was that the Jews had crucified Jesus, and thus were under the wrath of God
 - The sociological rationale for was that European Jewish populations tended to be fairly wealthy, and the Crusaders needed their finances to keep the Crusade going
 - Then again, many of the peasants thought any large city was probably Jerusalem, so they killed any “foreigners” they found...



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 - The French knights in Peter's "army" also broke away from the main column at one point to ransack the Hungarian countryside for provisions and robbed a market in Zemun, only to get beaten and captured by the garrison at Belgrade
 - Once Peter's main body caught up to them, a huge fight ensued
 - In the end, the Hungarians lost 4,000 men, the Crusaders lost 10,000 men, and the city of Belgrade burned to the ground



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 - When they all arrived at Constantinople in 1097, Emperor Alexios was surprised—he'd been expecting Urban's professionals to arrive
 - He sent them on into Anatolia, but warned them not to engage the Turks until the main force arrived to lead them
 - The knights were aggressive and took charge from Peter, facing the main body of the Seljuk Turks at Xerigordon without waiting
 - The Turks beat them soundly, and those who would not convert to Islam were killed
 - Only 3,000 of the original 40,000 Crusaders survived



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 - Hugh of Vermandois (the second son of King Henry I of France) was particularly motivated by Urban's preaching about being God's warriors
 - On his way to the Holy Land, he and his 35,000 professional troops stopped by Rome and invaded it for Urban's sake, forcing Clement to retreat to a nearby castle, never to rise to power again



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 - **When Hugh approached Constantinople, he sent a letter to Emperor Alexios, saying:**
 - "Know, O King, that I am King of Kings, and superior to all, who are under the sky. You are now permitted to greet me, on my arrival, and to receive me with magnificence, as befits my nobility."
 - Strangely, Alexios didn't really appreciate that, and he kept Hugh and the leaders all locked up until they swore their allegiance to him



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(after which, a Muslim relief column laid siege to the *Crusaders* in Antioch for a month—and again, the Christians almost starved)



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 - They promised the city safety if they would surrender—after which, the Crusaders killed all of the Muslim troops anyway, knowing they'd be forced to winter within the city walls
 - They sent Hugh back to ask Alexios for reinforcements and supplies, but he was still bitter about his earlier interactions with the prince, and refused to help



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 - Lacking proper provisions, they ultimately to resort to cannibalism, eating most of the remaining women and children left in the city
 - As a snapshot of the perspectives of the day, a contemporary European historian wrote,
 - "The Christians did not shrink from eating not only killed Turks or Saracens, but even *dogs*..."



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 - Finally, the 12,000 Crusaders who remained from the original 35,000 laid siege to Jerusalem for a month in the middle of the Summer
 - When they finally breached the walls, they knew that they didn't have the numbers to *hold* it, so they slaughtered every Muslim (and Jew) that they could find in the city limits
 - Luckily, the Eastern Christians of the city had been expelled from the city earlier, so we'll never know what the Crusaders would have done with them had they still been around



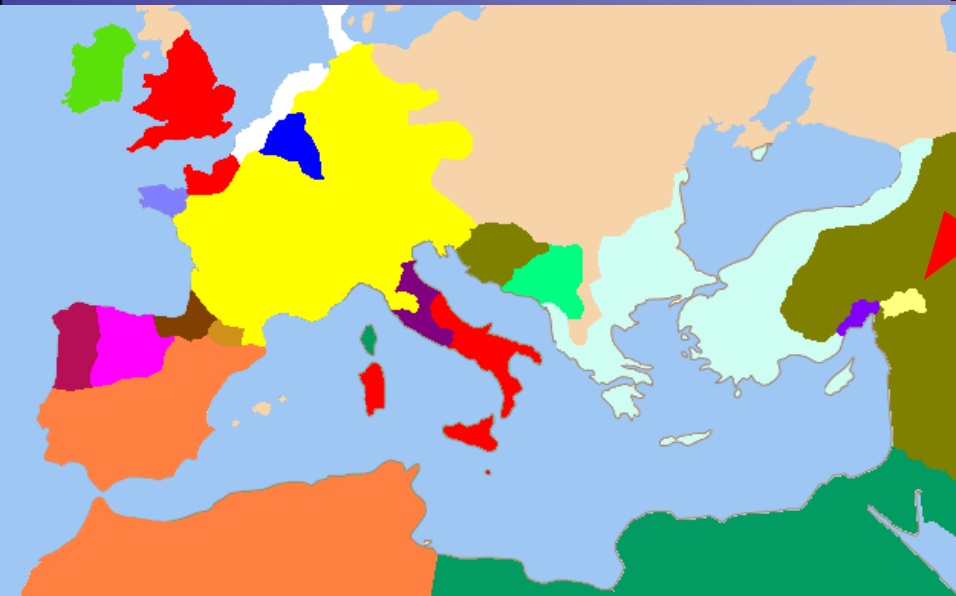
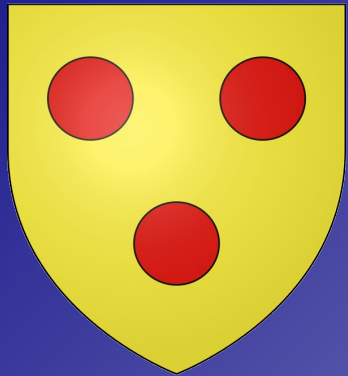
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 - First, Armenian Cilicia gained its independence from both the Muslims and the Byzantines
 - But there were also four new, "Crusader" states:
 - The County of Edessa (under Count Baldwin)



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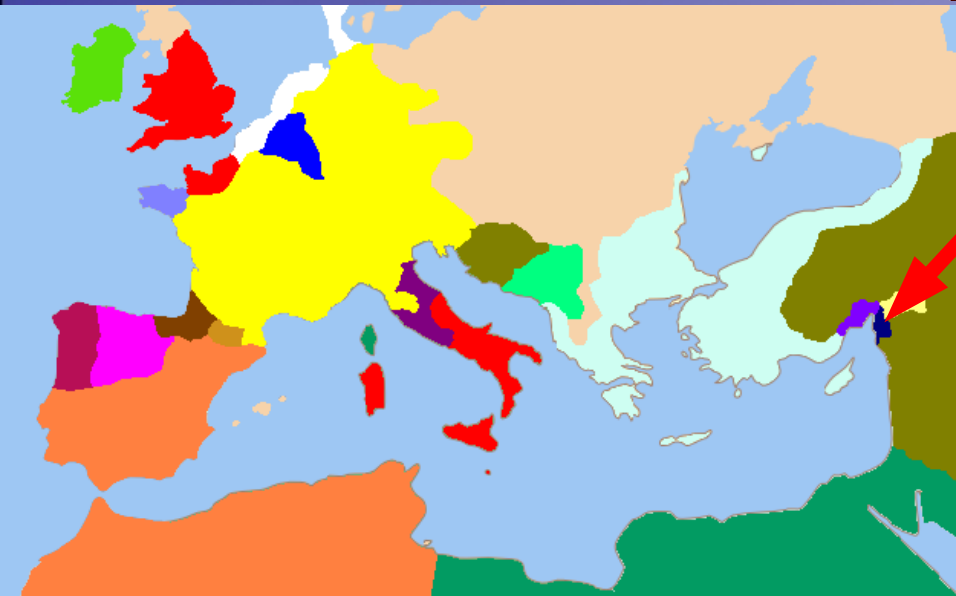
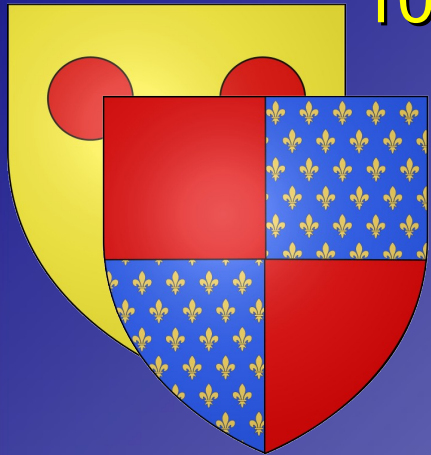
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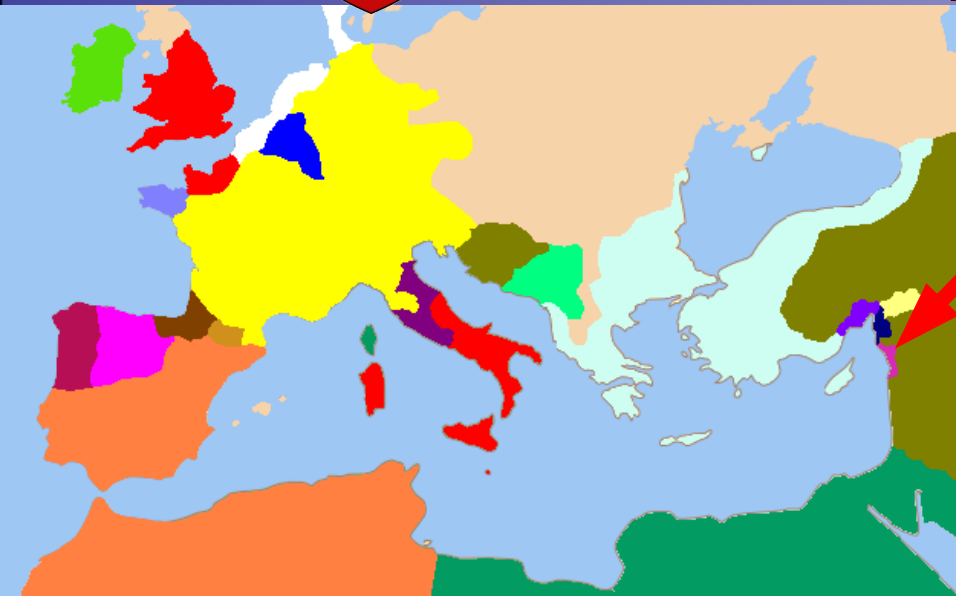
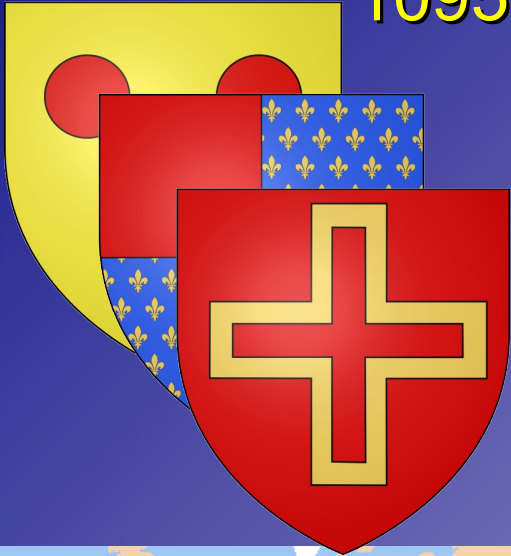
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 - **The County of Tripoli**
(under Count Bertrand)



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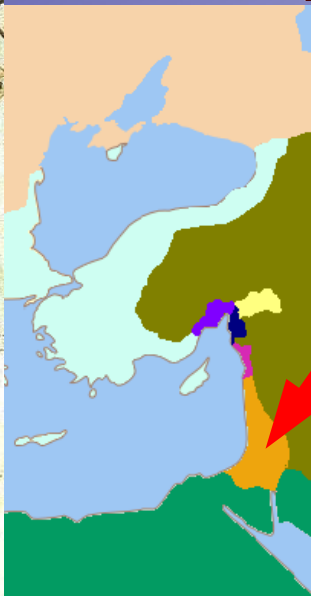
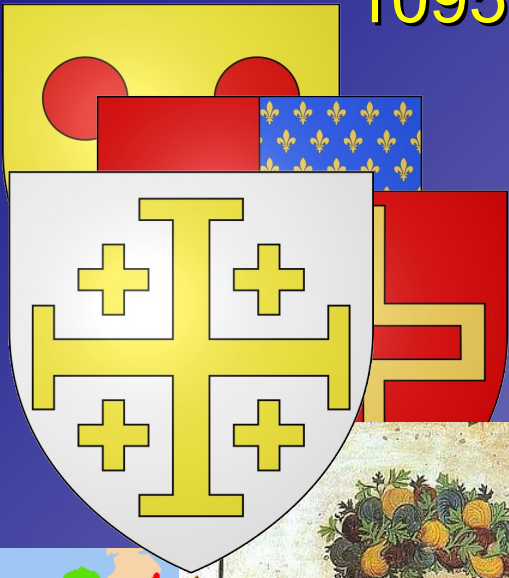
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- The County of Edessa
- The Principality of Antioch
- The County of Tripoli
- The Kingdom of Jerusalem (under Prince Godfrey)

- (who didn't like the title, "King," but rather "*Advocatus Sancti Sepulchri*"—"Defender of the Holy Sepulchre")



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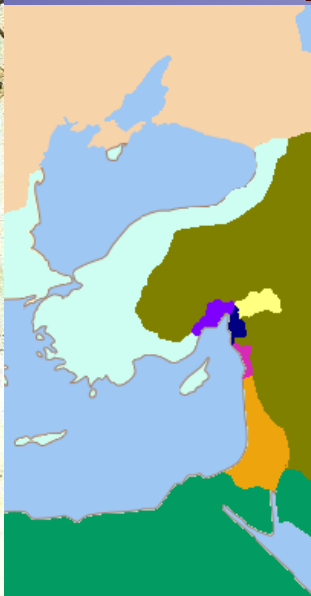
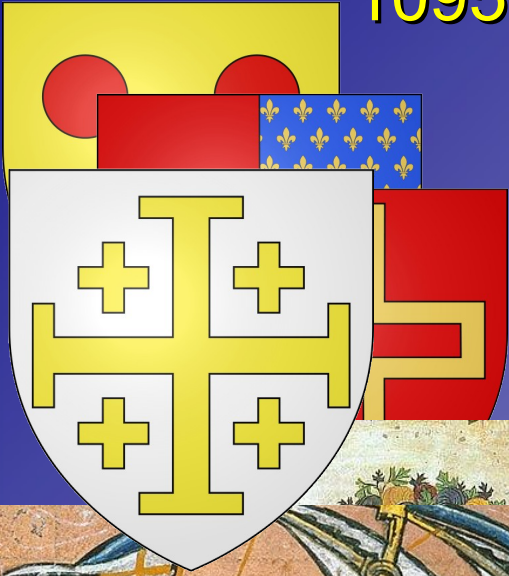
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 - The Kingdom of Jerusalem
 - Interestingly, Bishop Dagobert convinced Godfrey to turn the Kingdom over to him as a new, *Latin Patriarch*



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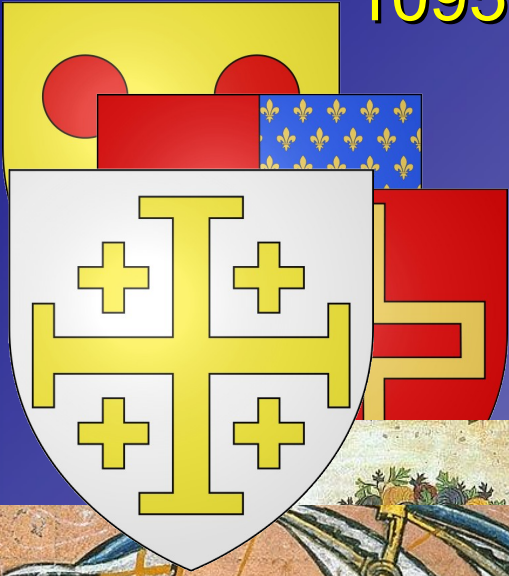
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- The Principality of Antioch
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- The Kingdom of Jerusalem
 - But when he stole from the new King Baldwin, Dagobert was driven out of his own see and unsuccessfully tried to foment a civil war between Antioch and Jerusalem



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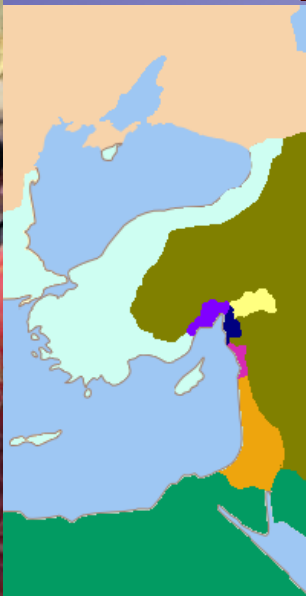
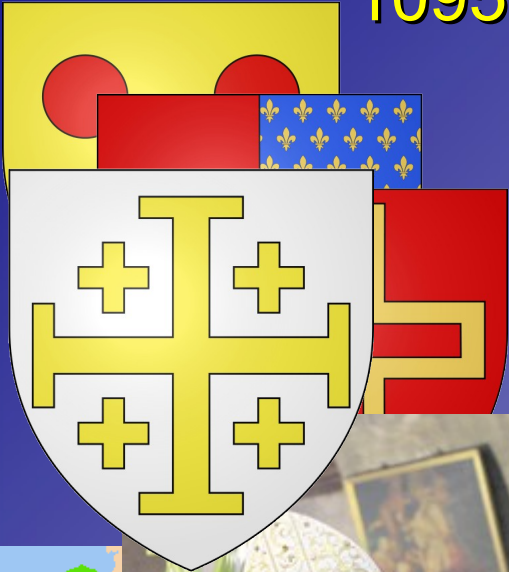
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- But since then, the Catholic Church has continued to appoint Latin Patriarchs for Jerusalem—even when they had to reside in Rome, once Jerusalem was again lost



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- From a purely strategic standpoint, the First Crusade was basically a "win" for Christendom
- Then again, it drove a wedge between Western Europe and Eastern European countries like Hungary
- And it drove more of a wedge—ironically enough—between Rome and Constantinople due to the Emperor's relationship with the various groups of Crusaders
- More importantly, the Crusade cemented in the European mindset the concepts of "Christendom" and "God's warriors," mixing Christianity, Eurocentrism, and holy military orders for the next several centuries

