

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Age of Crusades* 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



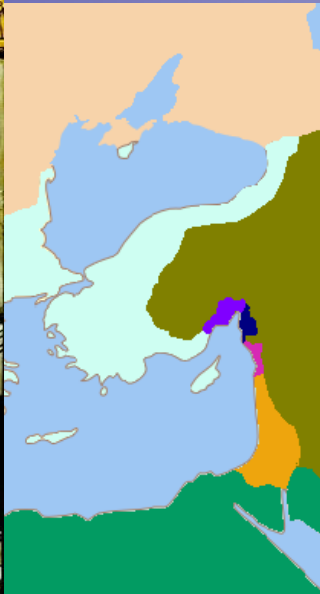
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- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
 - *West vs. East*
 - *The First Crusade(s)*
 - *The Crusades Become a Fad (part 2)*



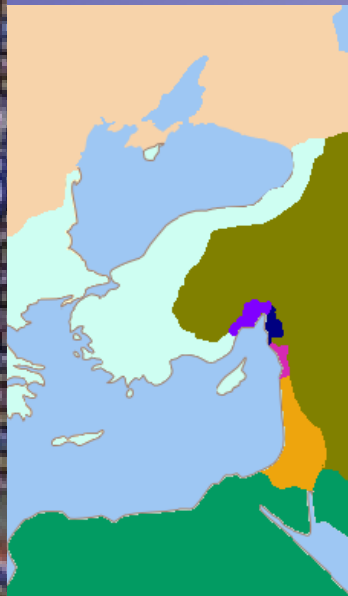
The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Second Crusade was a debacle
 - Pope Eugene III took the papacy in 1145 in large part because no one else wanted it—too much personal danger and too much politicking
 - One of his first acts was to commission his fellow monk, Bernard of Clairvaux, to preach a new Crusade to support the struggling Crusader States
 - (NOTE: The Crusader State of Edessa had just fallen into the hands of the Seljuk Turks, and the rest of the States were running scared)



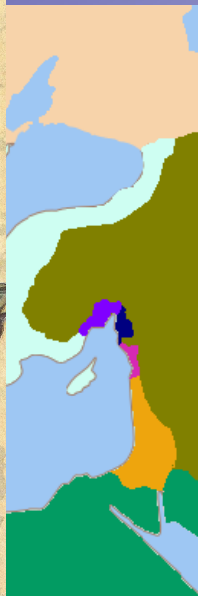
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 - Bernard was such a motivational speaker that he was able to persuade both German King Konrad III and French King Louis VII to take up the Crusade
 - (NOTE: Konrad only led the *southern* Germans to the Holy Land, because the *northern* tribes asked the Pope if they could go crusading against their neighbors, the pagan Slavs, instead)



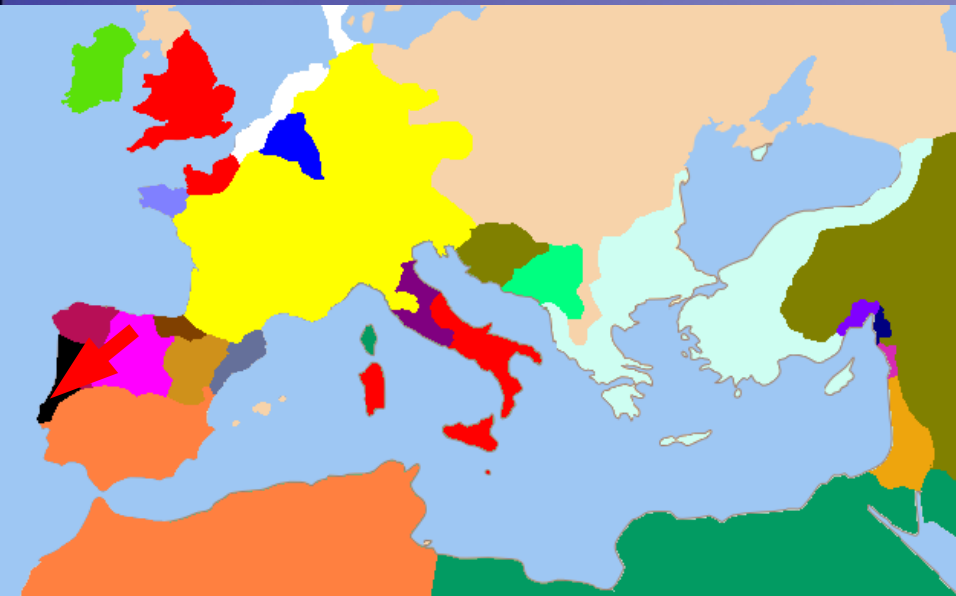
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 - (NOTE³: Eleanor unfortunately apparently slept with half of Europe on the way there, putting a bit of a strain on their marriage)



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 - (NOTE⁴: The Spanish kings continued their Reconquista by attacking Lisbon)



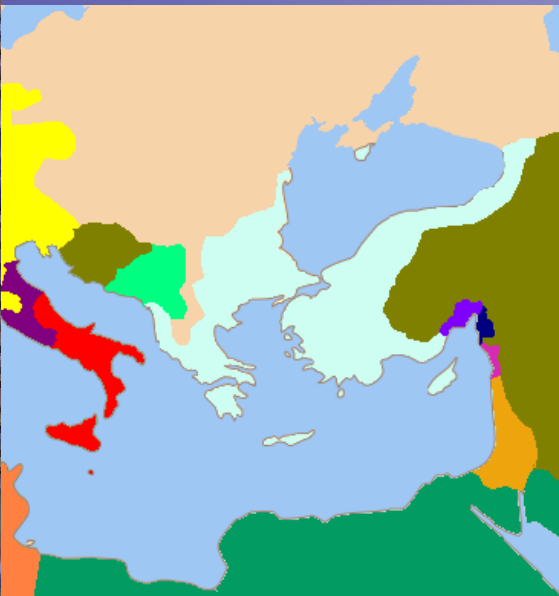
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 - Once the Germans arrived in Constantinople, Byzantine Emperor Manuel I Komnenos locked the gates and posted his own soldiers *against* them, since he was afraid that the Crusaders might attack *him*
 - So the Germans went on toward Antioch alone and were soundly defeated by the Turks
 - Konrad's division barely made it back to Constantinople, and he himself was wounded
 - The other division, led by his brother, Otto, was crushed, and most were captured and sold into slavery by the Turks



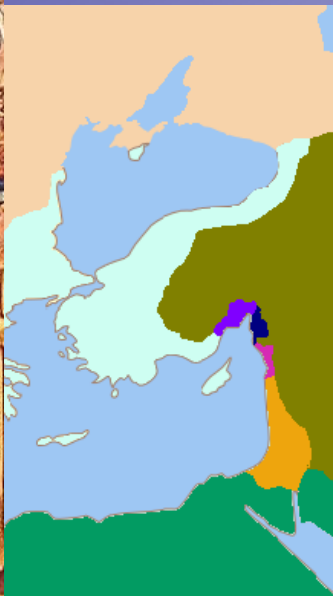
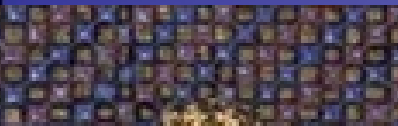
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 - By the time the French arrived, Manuel had made a treaty with the Turks, so that he could ready his forces against the *Crusaders*, if needs be
 - Ironically, this made several French knights want to take Constantinople, but Louis (AKA “Louis the Pious”) stood his ground that they were here to do God's will, and that's to protect Jerusalem (NOTE: That's a little different than their original mandate to reclaim Edessa)



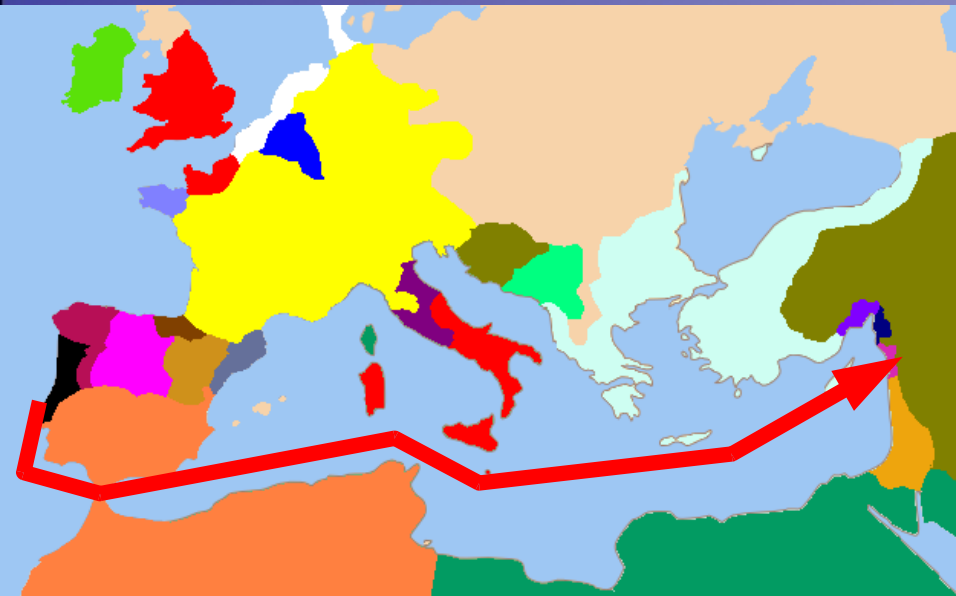
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 - When they arrived at Antioch, they were welcomed by Eleanor's uncle, Raymond—Prince of Antioch
 - Raymond expected them to move East to re-take Edessa
 - The Templars wanted to lay siege to the important Muslim-held city of Damascus
 - But Louis wanted to go South as a personal pilgrimage to Jerusalem
 - While all this was going on, Eleanor supposedly had an affair with Raymond, too (eww...)



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 - Around this time, the Spanish Crusaders had finished attacking Lisbon and had arrived in Tripoli, led by dashing Count Alphonso who was promptly poisoned by his nephew, the Count of Tripoli, who figured that Alphonso was just after his throne
 - The Spaniards all just went home after that...



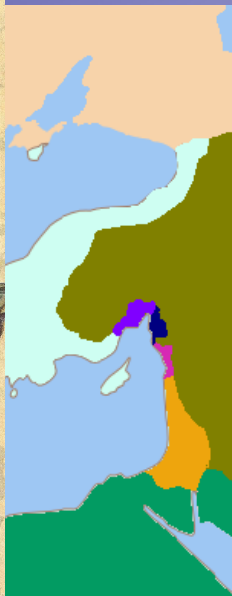
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 - In the end, the siege of Damascus failed, Edessa remained in the hands of the Muslims, the Christian forces all decided that everyone had betrayed everyone else, and no one liked the Byzantines
 - European priests declared that the Crusade had been unsuccessful because the Devil had thwarted them—and his work must therefore be rooted out in Europe



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 - One more ripple effect of the Second Crusade is worth noting here
 - Louis and Eleanor's marriage crumbled, while Count Henri of Anjou had been growing in power
 - When Louis and Eleanor had their marriage annulled by the Pope, Henri married her immediately
 - Henri now controlled more of France than Louis did
 - But he set his sights on England, taking the throne from King Stephen and becoming King Henry II



The Age of Crusades

- Everybody's fighting over religion...
 - 1147 The Cathars emerged in France
 - Near the city of Albi in Southern France, a new movement grew up in opposition to what they saw as moral and theological corruption within the Roman Catholic church
 - Called the “Cathars”
(from *καθαροί* or *katharoi*, meaning “the pure ones”)



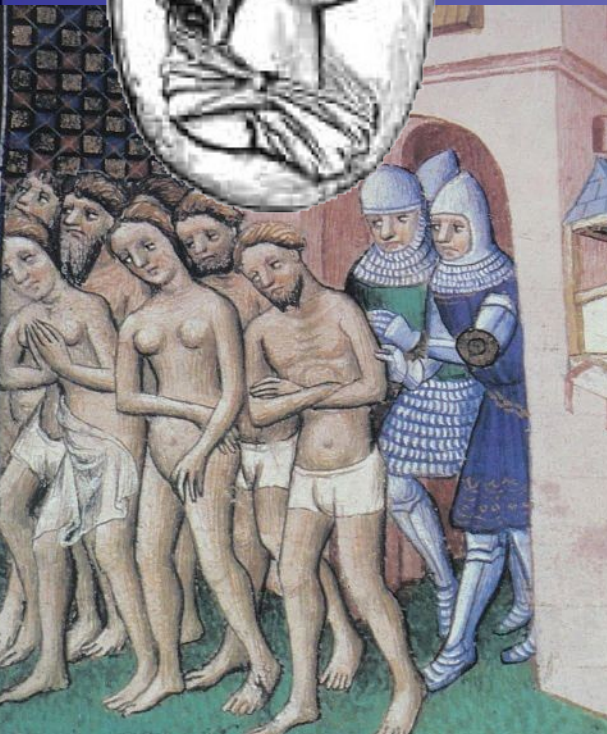
The Age of Crusades

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- Called the “Cathars,” they wanted to get back to a pure Gospel message of total moral purity and Biblical living
- They saw the material world as essentially evil, and strove to achieve moral purity through purging themselves of all fleshly desires
- In fact, their theology derived a great deal from Marcionism



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—*Christology*.

~~Man~~

Marcionism

~~God~~



- Marcion taught that YAHWEH was a *naughty* god from the Jewish “Old” Testament, and Jesus was a *good* god from the Christian “New” Testament
 - Therefore, Jesus *couldn't* have been a human being, since that would have made Him part of YAHWEH's sinfully fleshly Creation—but He wasn't really “God” in the same sense that YAHWEH had been, since they were effectively two *different* gods



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 - The Cathars took Marcion a step farther and incorporated Manichean themes



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - If you'll remember, Mani was a Persian Messianic Jew in the third century
 - Mani preached a message that blended elements of Judaism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism to form a *new* religion
 - Much like Zoroaster had taught in the 6th century BC, Mani taught that the world was being fought over by two celestial powers—a good (but not omnipotent) God, and an evil and nearly equal Satan
 - The world and the human soul are the battleground for this epic struggle
 - He thus explained why we have conflicting natures—because we're all a little bit YAHWEH and a little bit Satan
 - Be honest—Isn't that the way that our modern culture (often even within the Church) tends to view spiritual things?



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 - In fact, their theology derived a great deal from Marcionism
 - But the Cathars took it a step farther and incorporated Manichean themes
 - The Cathars said that Satan created the physical Earth, and God created Heaven, and we all need to reject the physical world in order to achieve moral perfection (which thus also makes them spiritual descendants of gnostics like Montanus and Valentinus)



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 - Their theology reflected that belief:
 - They believed in reincarnation—that you would be re-born again and again until you got things right (just see John 3:1-8)
 - This also led them to renounce sexism—how could you treat women as subordinates if you might have *been* one in your last life?
 - They also thus renounced sex and marriage (since it led to fleshly desires for procreation)
 - (NOTE: Like many “celibate” Catholic priests, many “celibate” Cathars began resorting to sodomy for sexual release)



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- They also thus renounced sex and marriage (since it led to fleshly desires for procreation)
- They also rejected baptism, communion, and other “tangible” acts of worship, since they argued that tainted *material* objects could never draw us closer to the *immaterial* God—only to the material Satan



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 - Their theology reflected that belief
 - The Roman Catholic church cracked down on their heresy, calling local princes to police them and keep them from meeting
 - But though they were regularly rounded up and expelled from various French cities the princes argued that it was difficult, since—unlike the enemy they'd met while on Crusades—not only were the Cathars made up of their own family members and friends but they *also* tended to be better people and less corrupt than the Catholic officials calling for their arrests and expulsions



The Age of Crusades

- Everybody's fighting over religion...


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1153± Sweden launched its own Crusade

- Realize that the nations we now know as “Sweden” and “Finland” didn't exist as such but *this* part of “Sweden” invaded the *tip* of “Finland” to slaughter the pagans still living there
 - King Eric IX of Stockholm took it upon himself to remove the last vestiges of Norse religion in the North countries
 - Eric invaded Finland with the full support of Bishop Henry (an English clergyman who had been installed as an Archbishop in Sweden in 1153)
 - Henry then stayed in Finland to help evangelize the Finns, and was martyred in 1156—killed by the murderer to whom he was administering punishment



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 - Even today, Sweden considers Eric to be a saint, and has attributed several miracles to him
(Note his face on the official coat of arms of Stockholm)
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 - 1147 The Cathars emerged in France
 - 1153± Sweden launched its own Crusade
 - 1155 Pope Hadrian IV issued the *Laudabiliter*
 - More commonly known as Adrian IV, he was the only Englishman ever to be Pope
 - In part emboldened by the Swedish Crusade, Hadrian issued a papal bull called *Laudabiliter* (from “laudable” or “done in a praiseworthy manner”—the opening word of the bull)



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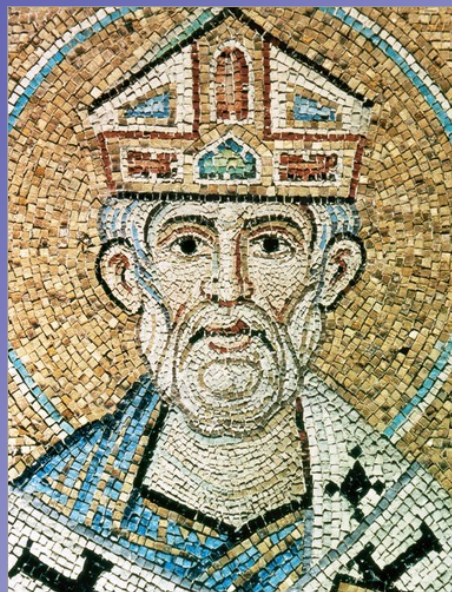
- To help make his point, Hadrian IV cited the Donation of Constantine

- (Do you remember the infamous Donation of Constantine—which Pope Hadrian I had told Charlemagne about way back in 772?)



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Back in 315, the Emperor Constantine contracted leprosy
 - As fate would have it, Pope Sylvester I came and prayed for him, and he was miraculously healed at which point, he was converted and baptised into the Catholic faith
 - In gratitude to the Pope, Constantine issued the Donation of Constantine, which officially gave the Pope supremacy over all other Patriarchs, and complete dominion over the whole of the Western Roman Empire



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Back in 315, the Emperor Constantine contracted leprosy
 - But none of that ever really happened
 - Constantine never contracted leprosy, that's not how he was converted, and he never wrote any such decree (nor *would* he have)
 - The decree was a total forgery—probably commissioned by Pope Hadrian himself (or his predecessor, Stephen II) to put pressure on the Franks to come help Rome
 - (Remember Dante commented on the Donation [which he thought was genuine] in his *Divine Comedy*, lamenting it as the seed of the evil of greed that he considered had terminally infected the papacy)



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- To help make his point, Hadrian IV cited the Donation of Constantine, claiming that Rome had total dominion over Ireland and its people

- He also claimed that the Irish and their obstinate Celtic Church were so barbarous that they would *happily* be willing to lay down their lives and independence in order to be civilized by Rome, through its agent, England

- And they would be *happy* to place themselves under English rule and yet pay their taxes directly to Rome



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- The invasion began in 1169, but kicked in more in force in 1171—and was still going on in 1185 when Henry gave Ireland to his son, John

(NOTE: Up until that point, Prince John had been nicknamed, "John Lack-land," because unlike his elder brother, Richard, he'd had no lands to rule)

(NOTE²: Yes, these are the same Richard and John from the Robin Hood legends)



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- This gave John the title “*Dominus Hiberniae*” (“Lord of Ireland”), which English kings still hold today

- And it finally gave the Roman Catholic church *carte blanche* to demolish the Celtic Church entirely and enforce a strict Roman orthodoxy in Ireland

- Henry gained Ireland, the Pope gained Irish taxes and consistent orthodoxy—everyone was happy... except the Irish...



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 - 1155 Pope Hadrian IV issued the *Laudabiliter*
 - 1165 Prester John wrote a letter to Byzantium
(NOTE: His title, “*prester*,” is a transition word between the Latin “*presbyter*” and the Old English “*preost*”—which became our modern word, “priest”)



The Age of Crusades

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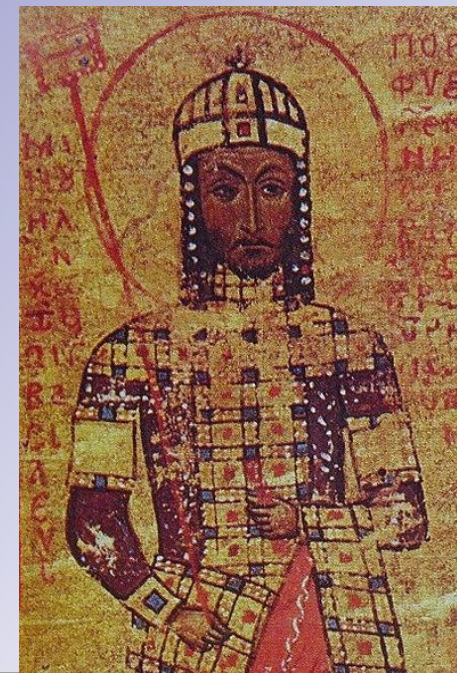
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1165 Prester John wrote a letter to Byzantium

- In 1141, Christian king Prester John had defeated the Seljuk Turks at Samarkand
 - He then created a huge, Christian kingdom in the East, either in Central Asia or—as most period maps showed—taking up all of Eastern Africa
 - He wrote a letter to Emperor Manuel I Komnenos of Byzantium



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- He wrote a letter to Emperor Manuel I Komnenos of Byzantium, stating,

- “I, Prester John, who reign supreme, surpass in virtue, riches and power all creatures under heaven. Seventy kings are our tributaries. I am a zealous Christian and universally protect the Christians of our empire, supporting them by our alms.”



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- “I, Prester John, who reign supreme, surpass in virtue, riches and power all creatures under heaven. Seventy kings are our tributaries...”

- In fact, “We have many ecclesiastics in our retinue of more dignified name and office in the Church, and of more considerable standing than ours in the divine service. For our house-steward is a patriarch and king; our cup-bearer is an archbishop and king; our chamberlain is a bishop and king; our archimandrite—that is chief pastor or master of the horse—is a king and abbot.”



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- This was the epitome of the perfect, Christian kingdom, led by the epitome of the perfect, Christian king—and Prester John wanted to march on the Holy Land to free it once and for all for Christianity

- All of Europe was excited, and the letter circulated wildly

- Pope Alexander III even wrote a letter to Prester John in 1177, wanting to open up lines of communication with him



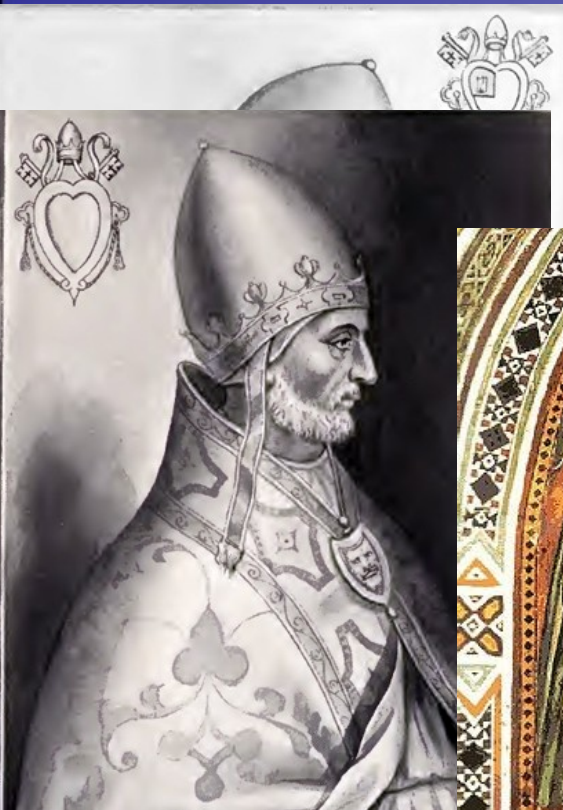
The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Pope Alexander III's papacy really needed a boost like this letter
 - His predecessor, Pope Hadrian IV, may have endeared himself to King Henry II of England but he'd alienated Emperor Frederick I (who, due to his striking red facial hair, was known as "Barbarossa"—or "redbeard")



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 - His predecessor, Pope Hadrian IV, may have endeared himself to King Henry II of England but he'd alienated Emperor Frederick I
 - When the imperial hopeful had kissed Hadrian's feet but then neglected to hold his stirrup as the Pope rose to his horse, Hadrian refused to crown him the new Emperor until he did so
 - Frederick later complied, but relations between the two were strained from then on



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 - His predecessor, Pope Hadrian IV, may have endeared himself to King Henry II of England but he'd alienated Emperor Frederick I
 - Alexander had been the head of the opposition party of cardinals against Frederick, and Hadrian's personal choice to become the next Pope
 - So when Hadrian died in 1159, it seemed like a no-brainer that Alexander would be elected
 - But remembering the controversy of the 1130 elections of Anacletus II and Innocent II (when Anacletus was elected by the majority of cardinals and Innocent was elected by the much smaller but more properly authorized College of Cardinals, and they had to fight it out)



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 - But remembering the controversy of the 1130 elections of Anacletus II and Innocent II, the church decided to follow Pope Nicholas II's rules from 1059 and have the College elect the new Pope by a unanimous vote
 - Unfortunately, it turned out to be a split decision, with the anti-imperial group voting for Alexander, and the pro-imperial cardinals voting against him
 - So naturally, Frederick supported Antipope Victor IV and went to war against Italy and the Roman Catholic church for the next twenty years



The Age of Crusades

- Everybody's fighting over religion...

1147 The Cathars emerged in France

1153± Sweden launched its own Crusade

1155 Pope Hadrian IV issued the *Laudabiliter*

1165 Prester John wrote a letter to Byzantium

- In 1141, Christian king Prester John had defeated the Seljuk Turks at Samarkand

- He then created a huge, Christian kingdom in the East, either in Central Asia or—as most period maps showed—taking up all of Eastern Africa

- He wrote a letter to Emperor Manuel I Komnenos

- This was the epitome of the perfect, Christian kingdom, led by the epitome of the perfect, Christian king—and Prester John wanted to march on the Holy Land to free it once and for all for Christianity

- To a beleaguered Alexander III, Prester John's letter was a breath of fresh air—he was desperate to connect himself to John's obvious political and religious strength

- (NOTE: Later, this was Marco Polo's primary, stated motivation for setting out in 1266—to find Prester John's kingdom)



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- Unfortunately, there was no Prester John

- The whole thing was the product of a terrified Western mind that saw Christendom cracking at the seams and Islam breathing down its neck
- Rather than deal with that directly, all of Europe found comfort in a pipe dream of a Christian ruler who—like Constantine or Charlemagne—would swoop in with his political strength and make everything perfect again, like it *used* to be
- When Saladin rose to power as Emir of Egypt in 1169 and began taking over neighboring Christian kingdoms such as Nubia, the hope of aid from Prester John gave Europe the encouragement to begin a *Third* Crusade...

