

Church History



Church History

- *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 Crusades Become a Fad*
 - *Kill 'em All—Let God Sort 'em Out...*



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...

- 1199 Richard died from that crossbow wound and Philip *immediately* turned on his once-ally, the newly crowned King John
- Between Philip reconquering his former territories (and thus declaring independence from the Holy Roman Empire), the growth of a new, stronger kingdom in Hungary, etc., the face of Europe was changing again
 - And everybody was happily slaughtering everyone, seeing this a time for *payback*...



The Age of Crusades

- **The bloodshed continues...**

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1202 **The Fourth Crusade began**

- Pope Innocent III took the throne in 1198, and quickly asserted himself as a powerful ruler
 - Having tried to preach a new crusade and failed, Innocent insinuated himself into the power struggle to decide who would be the next king of Sicily—who would then be in line to become the next Holy Roman Emperor



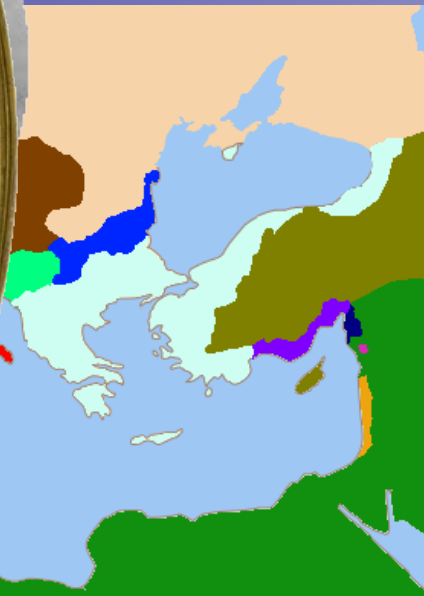
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 - Richard and Philip had backed different contenders, naturally
 - Innocent backed Richard's nephew, Otto, since Otto's family had traditionally opposed the Holy Roman Emperor's dominant Hohenstaufen clan
 - (this served to further intertwine Rome and England quite dramatically)



The Age of Crusades

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- Pope Innocent III took the throne in 1198, and quickly asserted himself as a powerful ruler
 - As part of a means of settlement, Innocent ruled that the German princes could decide the King of Sicily, but that the Pope must be allowed to decide if a king is *worthy* of his crown (otherwise, how could the Church ever make sure that a Pope wouldn't be forced to bless the coronation of a heretic or a pagan?)



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 - As part of a means of settlement, Innocent ruled that the German princes could decide the King of Sicily, but that the Pope must be allowed to decide if a king is *worthy* of his crown
 - If a Pope decides that a king is un-worthy, the princes would then be forced to pick another one (until they finally find one that the Pope liked enough to allow to become king)
 - Thus, Innocent controlled not only who gets to be installed as the Emperor, but also who gets to be in the *pool* of people who *might* get to be installed as the Emperor...



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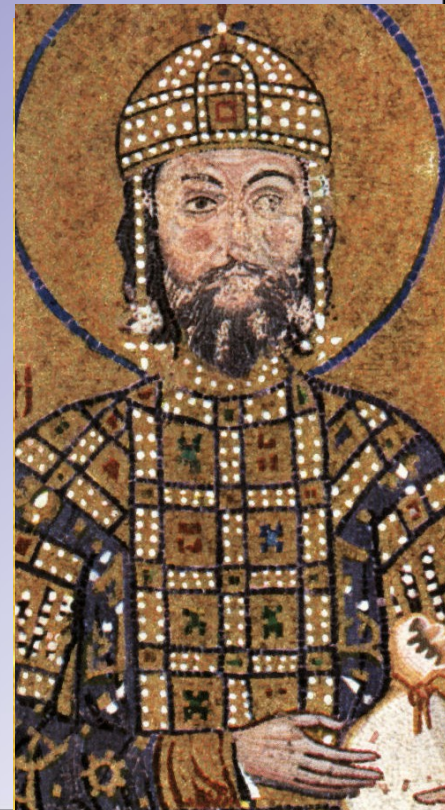
- **Innocent called French priest Fulk of Neuilly to preach a new Crusade**

- Among those converted to the cause was the powerful Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester and the Venetian Boniface of Montferrat, who was elected to be the leader of the Crusade



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - If you'll remember, back in 1180, the Venetians in Constantinople became very powerful, thanks to their royal patronage by the Empress Maria
 - They were so powerful that when Maria was deposed and replaced with the new Emperor Andronikos I in 1182, the people of the city rioted and slaughtered Latin Christians by the hundreds—including children and the sick
 - The remaining Venetians had been expelled from the city, and from all other Byzantine ports and cities



The Age of Crusades

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - If you'll remember, back in 1180, the Venetians in Constantinople became very powerful, thanks to their royal patronage by the Empress Maria
 - **Since this Crusade would be a naval exercise, focused on attacking the Ayyubids in Egypt, Venice happily offered to convoy the Crusaders to the East, supplying them with one third of the Venetian population to travel alongside of them**
 - But they required a huge sum as payment for all of this—all but bankrupting the Crusade at its start
 - To help with all of this cost, the Venetian leaders demanded that the Crusaders refinance themselves by raiding Byzantine ports along the way...



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 - **Simon de Montfort refused to participate on ethical grounds, but Boniface of Montferrat supported Venice's demands**
 - But the first port they attacked was actually the *Catholic* port of Zara, in Dalmatia (a longtime Venetian rival)



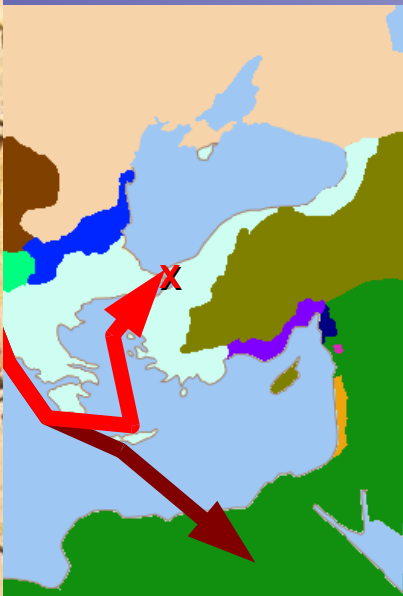
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 - Since this Crusade would be a naval exercise, focused on attacking the Ayyubids in Egypt, Venice happily offered to convoy the Crusaders to the East
 - **The people of Zara loudly proclaimed that they, too, were orthodox Catholics, but the Venetian Crusaders didn't care, and looted the city anyway**
 - **The Pope excommunicated all of the Venetians, but their leaders never told any of the soldiers, since they didn't want to undermine the success of the Crusade itself**
 - **Boniface himself wasn't there at the time, because he was meeting in secret with exiled Byzantine prince, Alexios IV**



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Alexios really, *really* wanted to get back home to Constantinople and be Emperor
 - So he offered to pay the entire debt owed to the Venetians, give 200,000 silver marks to the Crusaders personally, supply 10,000 Byzantine professional troops for the Crusade (as well as 500 knights) and the service of the Byzantine navy to transport the entire Crusader Army to Egypt and he promised to place the Eastern Orthodox Church under the authority of the Pope
 - All that the Crusaders had to do was to make a quick pit stop at Constantinople and conquer it, placing *him* on the throne...



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...

1199 Richard died from that crossbow wound

1202 The Fourth Crusade began

- In 1203, the Crusader army laid siege to Constantinople and strangled it until the populace agreed to at least declare Alexios as co-emperor with his reinstated father, Isaac II
 - In the process, a chunk of Constantinople was destroyed by fire, and 20,000 were left homeless
 - But Alexios realized that he couldn't make good on all of his promises, so he asked the Crusaders to hang on for another six months, until he could solidify his power base

- To help cover the Crusaders' costs, he melted down priceless religious icons, but there was *still* not enough
- In desperation, he took half the troops and sought out the deposed Emperor to get the money that his predecessor had stolen from the city treasury

- While he was gone, the city rioted against the Crusaders, who set *another* fire that left 100,000 more people homeless



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...

1199

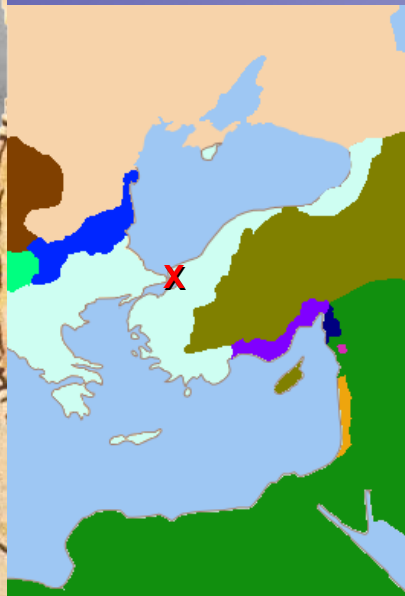
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- In 1203, the Crusader army laid siege to Constantinople and strangled it until the populace agreed to at least declare Alexios as co-emperor with his reinstated father, Isaac II
- The Pope declared that all of this has apparently ultimately been part of God's design, and that the Crusaders were doing God's work by bringing the Eastern Church under its proper Roman rule

- The Crusaders broke through the city walls and set fire to it *again*, leaving another 15,000 homeless
 - (NOTE: The famed Varangian Guard—descendants of Vikings—held them off for a while, but then the Varangians tried to negotiate for more pay from the city leaders, only to back off from fighting when the leaders balked)
 - (NOTE²: Always pay your troops well...)



The Age of Crusades

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1199

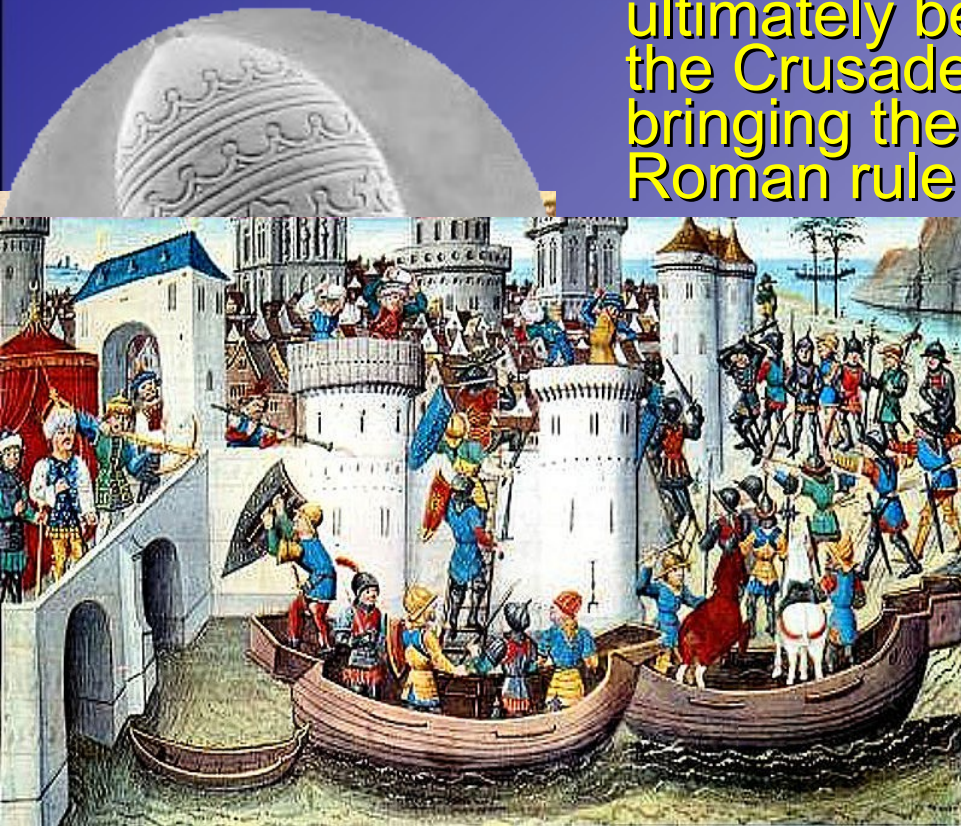
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- The Crusaders then completely sacked the Christian city of Constantinople, slaughtering thousands...



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - What began as a simple (though massive) raid on the city soon escalated into an all-out frenzy of payback for the Latin Massacre of 1182
 - The Crusaders burned libraries (even the Imperial Library) containing precious, irreplaceable books; they burned paintings and melted down icons; they raped nuns (and priests), looted homes and hospitals, and otherwise laid waste to the last, great, European bastion of ancient Roman civilization



The Age of Crusades

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - What began as a simple (though massive) raid on the city soon escalated into an all-out frenzy of payback for the Latin Massacre of 1182
 - **As one modern historian has described it,**
“The Crusaders vented their hatred for the Greeks most spectacularly in the desecration of the greatest Church in Christendom—they smashed the silver iconostasis, the icons and the holy books of the Hagia Sophia, and seated upon the patriarchal throne a whore who sang coarse songs as they drank wine from the Church's holy vessels... The Greeks were convinced that even the Turks, had they taken the city, would not have been as cruel as the Latin Christians...”



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...

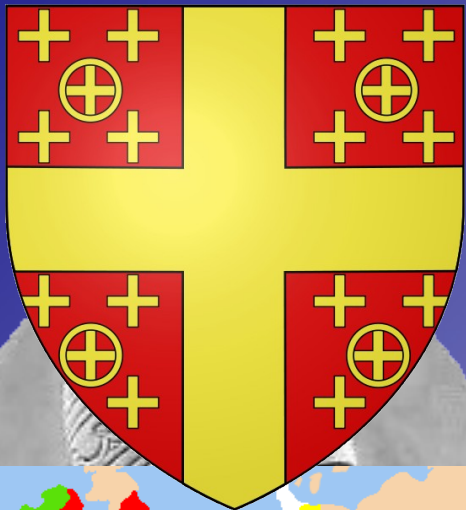
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The Fourth Crusade began

- A few Crusaders actually did continue on to the Holy Land, but most returned to Venice and Rome with the spoils of Constantinople in hand
 - Pope Innocent welcomed them back with open (and receiving) arms
 - And the world map changed again dramatically:
 - The charred corpse of the great Byzantine Empire became the *Latin* Empire of the East and the remnants of the Byzantine leadership created the weak Nicene Empire further East
 - Soon, one of Boniface's vassals—Michael I Komnenos Doukas—broke away and formed the new Despotate of Epirus, providing a safe haven for thousands of suddenly dispossessed Greeks
 - But the glories of a continuous Greek civilization from the classical period were forever lost to history...



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...

1199 Richard died from that crossbow wound

1202 The Fourth Crusade began

1206 Temüjin took power in the East

- In 1204, the Persian Ghurids invaded northern India, killing thousands and forcibly converting the rest to Islam

- This eastward growth of Islam brought many of the existing Mongol tribes into a closer union with one another as a form of self-protection

- But *that* also made several of the tribes become jealous of one another

- In 1171, the Tatars murdered Yesügei, the chieftain of the powerful Khamag tribe, leaving his family destitute when their tribe subsequently abandoned them

- Young Temüjin—Yesügei's third son—rose to become the Alpha male of the family when he was willing to kill one of his own brothers over their meager rations of food

- (NOTE: He had red hair and green eyes, which is not uncommon among the Mongols—even today)



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- **In 1177, Temüjin was captured by the rival Tayichi'ud tribe, but soon escaped with the help of a sympathetic guard and a new friend named Jamukha, with whom he became a blood brother**



The Age of Crusades

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- In 1178, 16-year-old Temüjin claimed Börte—the bride that his father had arranged for him back when the family had been important

- But soon after their wedding, Börte was captured by the rival Merkit tribe

- But Temüjin found her and, with the help of Jamukha and Temüjin's mentor, Toghrul, they were able to ride in to her rescue and save her





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- Every setback seemed to give Temüjin the chance to bounce back stronger than before
 - With Toghrul's army of 20,000 horsemen behind him, brilliant strategist Temüjin began a series of campaigns that brought him not only fame, but political power among the Mongols
 - NOTE: He never lost a battle—but he also made *allies* out of the armies that he beat—rather than killing the losing soldiers and then destroying their villages (as was the custom of the Mongols), he would integrate them into his growing army and take their children as protected members of his own tribe
 - Soon, his army was absolutely *huge*...





a form of self-protection

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 - NOTE: He never lost a battle—but he also made *allies* out of the armies that he beat
 - NOTE²: But that was for the *tribes* he beat—Temüjin had little respect for the *cities* (which he tended to loot and then burn to the ground)
 - NOTE³: Many of the cities of Central Asia were *Christian* cities—the civilized outposts of Eastern Orthodoxy





- But again, his successes brought rivalry
 - Toghrul's son resented Temüjin, and schemed to remove him from power
 - Toghrul refused to take sides, so Temüjin attacked and conquered the Kerait tribe and killed everyone loyal to Toghrul's bloodline
 - Jamukha escaped the bloodshed by joining the neighboring Naiman tribe



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- **Every setback seemed to give Temüjin the chance to bounce back stronger than before**
 - The Naimans then elected Jamukha to be their khan, overseeing *multiple* Mongol tribes... so that's when Temüjin killed *him*, too...
 - As Jamukha put it before his death, "There was room for only one sun in the sky, there was room only for one Mongol lord..."



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- In 1206, the united Mongol tribes elected Temüjin as their “strong khan” (AKA, “Genghis Khan”), and he began a bloody swath through the known world

- By the time of his death in 1227, not only was almost all of Asia under Genghis Khan's direct power, but he had also levelled almost every city in Central Asia, killing 40 million people in his campaigns

- That was 11% of the world's population



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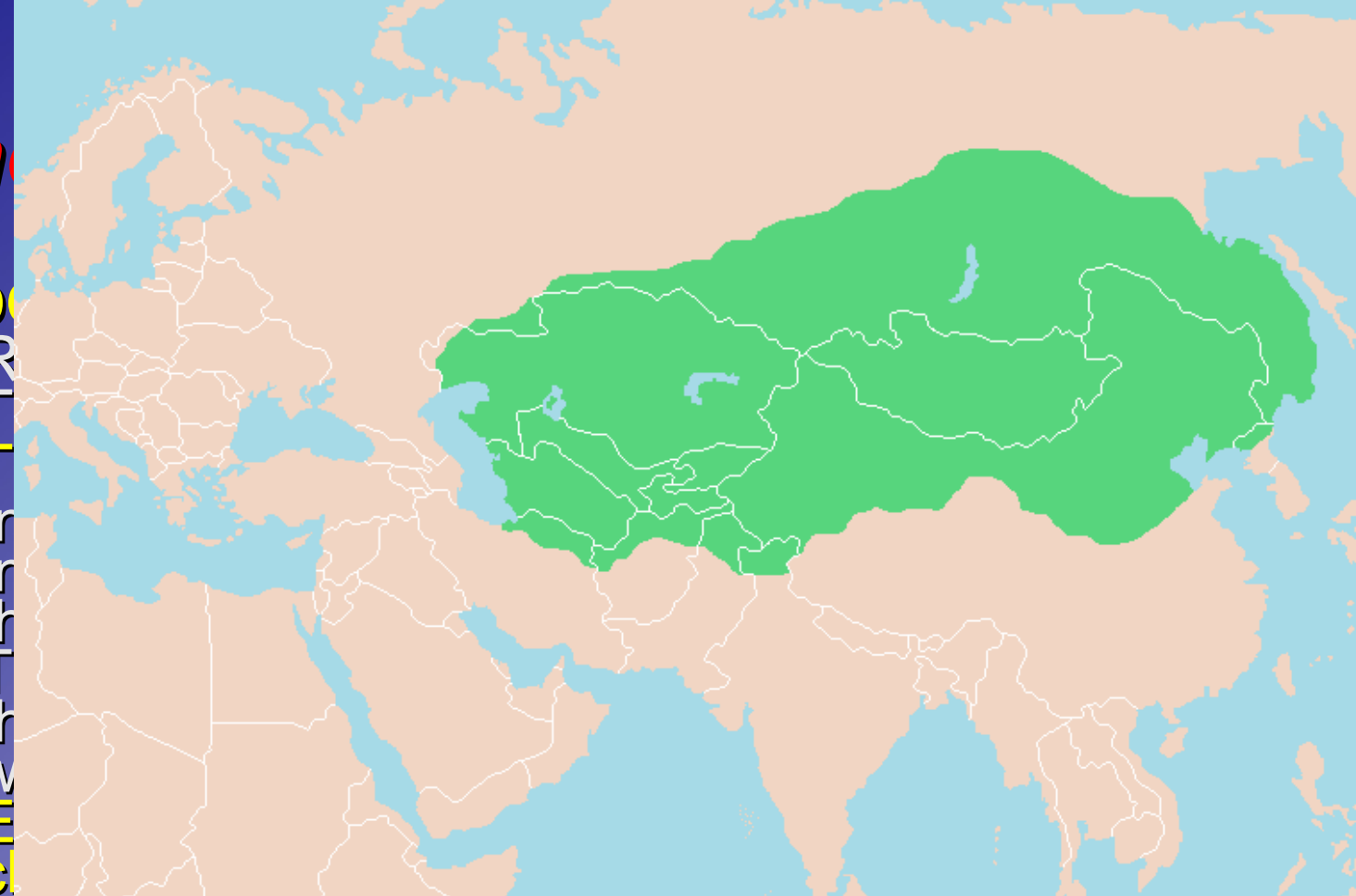
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- It was also much of what was left of Eastern Orthodoxy's educated leadership, leaving the church in disarray



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The common Mongol religious practice was to allow each individual to have his own beliefs, and not to judge or try to convince one another (since they believed that all religions were, really, just human constructs anyway)
 - How might history have run a different course if—instead of following the Mongol practice of blithe tolerance (or the more murderous practices of the Muslim *jihads*, or the European Crusades)—How might history have run a different course if the Christian Toghrul Khan had *discipled* a lost and starving young Temüjin and his destitute family, bringing them to Christ?



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...
 - 1208 The Albigensian Crusade began
 - You should remember the Cathars, who were Gnostics who taught that moral purity as a Christian could only be attained by removing yourself from everything impure in this Satan-created world and embracing total spirituality so that you could be reincarnated time and again as better and better people, until you attain oneness with God



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...
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 - You should remember the Cathars
 - And all of us *really* should remember the Waldensians, who were proto-Reformers who taught such doctrines as salvation by faith, the priesthood of all believers, the authority of Scripture, the need to present the Gospel in the language of the people, that Purgatory and transubstantiation are false and harmful superstitions, etc.



The Age of Crusades

- The bloodshed continues...

1208

The Albigensian Crusade began

- You should remember the Cathars
- And all of us *really* should remember the Waldensians
- Pope Innocent III really wanted to put a stop to all of this nonsense going on in France
 - It didn't help that Raymond VI, Count of Toulouse, openly supported the Cathars
 - The Papal legate, Pierre de Castelnau, excommunicated Raymond when the Count refused to help the church persecute the Cathars so Raymond, in turn, had Pierre quietly murdered
 - King Philip decided to do nothing about any of it so Pope Innocent called for a new Crusade... in France
 - To lead the Crusade, Innocent called on someone whom he knew that he could trust—Simon de Montfort



The Age of Crusades

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The Albigensian Crusade began

- You should remember the Cathars
- And all of us *really* should remember the Waldensians
- Pope Innocent III really wanted to put a stop to all of this nonsense going on in France
- For the next nearly fifty years, France was a constant battleground, with Cathars and Waldensians and anyone else seen as a possible heretic slaughtered without trial
 - For instance, when the Crusaders came to the city of Béziers, they asked the Pope how they were to sort the heretics from the true Catholics
 - “Kill them all!” Innocent told them. “Surely the Lord discerns which ones are his...”
 - More than 20,000 people were killed on that single day—many of whom were devout, orthodox Roman Catholics



The Age of Crusades

- But there were *good* things going on, too
 - 1209 Francis of Assisi began a new order
 - A nobleman from Italy, Francis had enjoyed being young and rich (as had so many of the “great monks” that we’ve talked about in this class so far)

