

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 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
 - *West vs. East*
 - *The First Crusade(s)*
 - *The Crusades Become a Fad*
 - *Kill 'em All—Let God Sort 'em Out... (part 2)*



The Age of Crusades

- Lots of bad things were going on...
 - 1202 The Fourth Crusade began
 - Pope Innocent III wanted to make his mark, so he called on all of Europe to come and help retake the Holy Land
 - Most of Europe didn't answer, but the Venetians—under Count Boniface—were more than happy to lead the charge and convoy the troops to Egypt because it gave them the opportunity to get back at Constantinople by raiding their ports



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 - In fact, exiled Byzantine Emperor Alexios IV used the Crusade as an opportunity to have them attack and conquer Constantinople itself



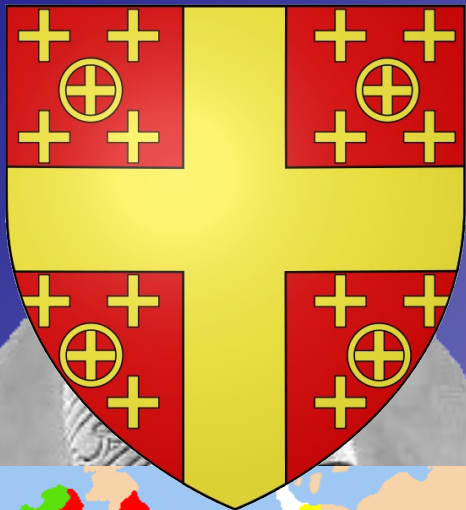
The Age of Crusades

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1202

The Fourth Crusade began

- Pope Innocent III wanted to make his mark, so he called on all of Europe to come and help retake the Holy Land
- The Crusaders burned, raped, and pillaged throughout the last bastion of Greek civilization
 - They established a new *Latin* Empire of the East and the remnants of the Byzantine leadership created the weak Nicene Empire further East
(NOTE: The Fourth Crusade never did make it to the Holy Land)



The Age of Crusades

- Lots of bad things were going on...

1202 The Fourth Crusade began

1206 Temüjin (AKA Genghis Khan) rose to power

- His strategic genius and utter ruthlessness made him virtually unstoppable

- By the time of his death in 1227, not only was almost all of Asia under Genghis Khan's 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



The Age of Crusades

- Lots of bad things were going on...

1202 The Fourth Crusade began

1206 Temüjin (AKA Genghis Khan) rose to power

1208 The Albigensian Crusade began

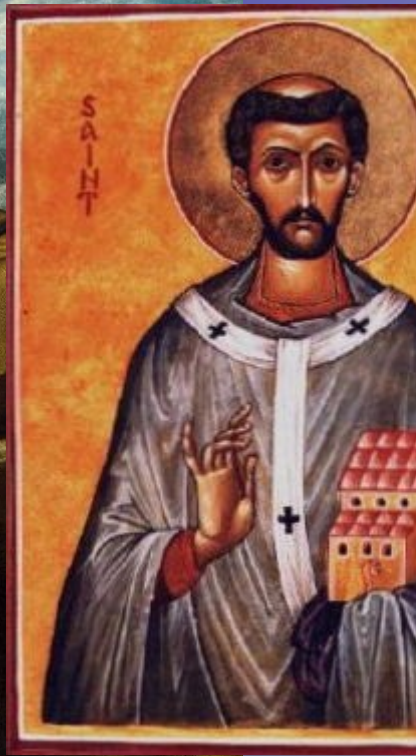
- Pope Innocent III *really* wanted to slap a decent Crusade on *someone*, so he turned his sights on France and decided to call a Crusade against the Cathars and the Waldensians

- To lead the Crusade, he called upon Simon de Montfort—who had shown his integrity by not taking part in the Fourth Crusade
- In one form or another, the Albigensian Crusade went on for nearly fifty years, slaughtering anyone seen as a possible heretic... without trial...
 - 20,000 were killed on a single day, when the Crusaders attacked the city of Béziers
 - It is from this Crusade that we get the modern phrase, “Kill 'em all—let God sort 'em out!”
(the words of Pope Innocent to Simon)



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 leaders of the church” that we’ve talked about in this class so far —remember Augustine? And Patrick? And Colomba? And Thomas à Becket?)
 - Why do you think that was?



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
 - Francis had even made a name for himself as a soldier, fighting for Assisi
 - But in 1204, he'd had a vision from God, and withdrew from his pampered life
 - In fact, he gave away all of his possessions, renounced his father and his rights of noble succession, and became a beggar
 - After hearing a sermon on Matthew 10, he stripped off his luxurious clothes and gave them back to his father, deciding to become a wandering preacher who would never take any money or even a staff with him—only beg for what he needed on any given day—and he encouraged others to join him



The Age of Crusades

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 - A nobleman from Italy, Francis had enjoyed being young and rich
 - In 1209—knowing what had happened to the similarly wandering preacher, Peter Waldo—he asked for Pope Innocent to grant him the proper authority to begin a new monastic order
 - Innocent was reluctant to allow it (since he thought that there were too many religious orders running around already), but he found no fault in Francis, and his cardinals pressured him to support the movement
 - The monks were tonsured, and took on brown or warm gray robes



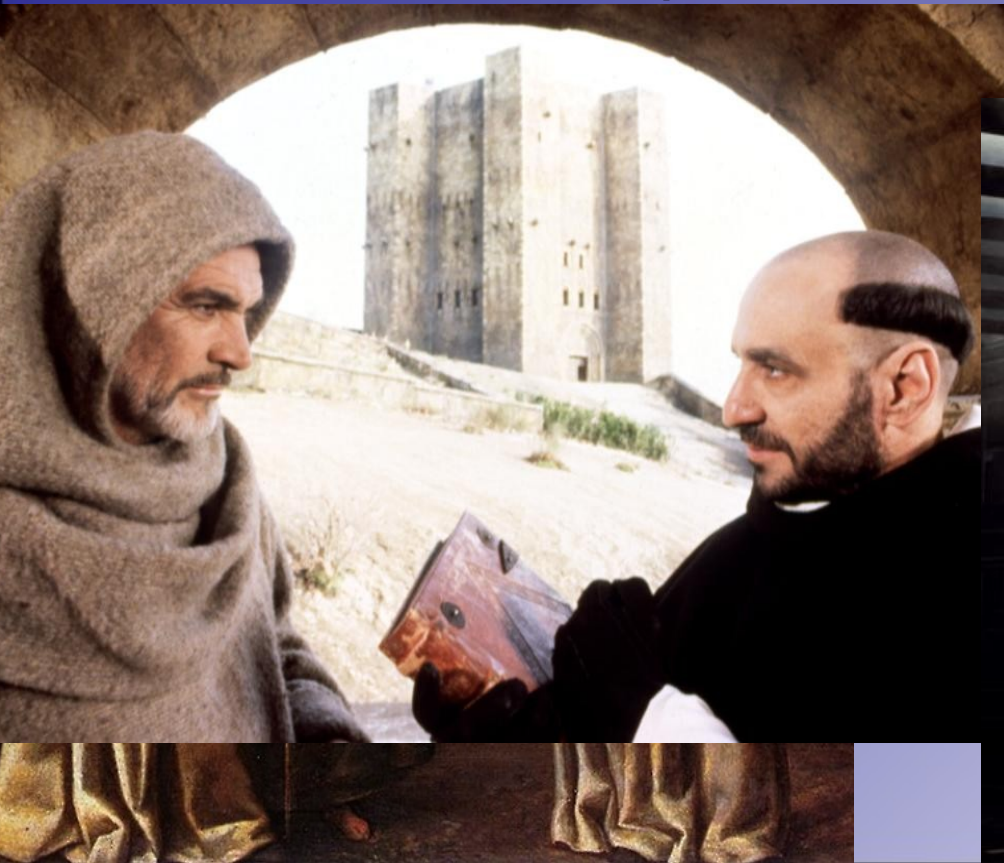
The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Different monastic orders distinguished themselves by having different-colored robes
 - The Augustinians wore black robes
 - The Cistercians wore white robes
 - The Franciscans wore brown or grey robes
 - The later Dominicans wore black mantles over their white robes
 - Thus, Dominicans were known as “blackfriars,” Franciscans as “greyfriars,” etc.



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Since the Dominicans were given the authority of running the Inquisitions, they were often feared
 - Since the Franciscans were devoted to poverty and peace, they were often loved
 - The juxtaposition of these two, duelling orders is *still* a powerful image in popular culture...



The Age of Crusades

- But there were *good* things going on, too
 - 1209 Francis of Assisi began a new order
 - For the next 17 years, Francis travelled all over Europe and the world, preaching total peace and total self-abasement
 - He was so focused on peace that he preached to the birds and to the trees, and he called the sun, “Brother Sun,” and the moon, “Sister Moon”
 - Sara wanted me to make sure that I included the (apocryphal) story about one particular time when Francis preached to the birds—who all listened intently and bowed their heads reverently to the ground in response to him
 - When Francis was finished, he made the sign of the cross over them, and then they all flew away, separating themselves into four bands—one band flying to the North, one to the South, one to the East, and one to the West—in order to share his message to the four corners of the Earth



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 - Francis was also so focused on self-abasement that he was frequently quite ill, and yet called his various illnesses his “beloved sisters,” since they were always with him
 - In fact, he took great comfort in the “devotion” of his afflictions



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 - He was also famous for several “firsts”—
 - In 1223, while visiting the small town of Greccio to celebrate the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, he realized that the hermitage was too small to hold everyone for the Mass
 - So in a niche in the nearby mountainside, he prepared a manger, then brought in hay, an ox, and a donkey, and re-created the scene from the first Christmas—and thus was born the first Nativity Scene...



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 - In 1224, he had a vision of a crucified angel—and then experienced the pain of the crucifixion himself
 - According to legend, wounds supernaturally appeared on his hands, feet, and side, and he bled profusely
 - This is the first recorded instance of the phenomenon now known as “*stigmata*”



The Age of Crusades

- But there were *good* things going on, too

1209 Francis of Assisi began a new order

1214 Dominic saw a vision of a rosary

- The child of a wealthy Spanish family, Dominic's barren mother made a pilgrimage to the abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos to pray for a child

- There, she received her vision of that black and white dog coming from her womb who would set the sinful world on fire
- And so she named the son whom she subsequently bore after the monastery—"Domingo" (Anglicized as "Dominic")



The Age of Crusades

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1214 **Dominic saw a vision of a rosary**

- The child of a wealthy Spanish family, Dominic's barren mother made a pilgrimage to the abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos to pray for a child
- **Dominic was a devoted student of theology, and a voracious reader**
 - But when, in 1191, Spain was devastated by famine, he sold all of his possessions—including his rare and expensive books—to feed the poor
 - (“Would you have me study off these dead skins, when men are dying of hunger?” he explained to his classmates—he felt a strong burden from God to do His work out amongst the hurting world)



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- **Dominic's passion was to combine the focus on education of the Benedictine monks with the outward focus of the Franciscans**
 - Thus, he developed an order dedicated to intense study, and applying what they've learned to the lost and confused world as outward-focused teacher/preachers
 - He himself spent several years preaching to and correcting the Cathars in southern France which was why the Pope considered the Dominicans the perfect people to oversee the Papal Inquisition, designed to root out heresy and bring the lost back to Christ



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- **Dominic also preached total devotion, especially to prayer and study**
 - In 1214, he supposedly received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary while praying in a church
 - She was holding in her hands the rosary, and she encouraged him to teach the need to use it to pray



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Rosary is a necklace of beads used as a physical focal point for prayer (i.e.; a “sacramental”), counting off the beads as you recite a series of liturgical prayers
 - The prayers that compose the Rosary are arranged in sets of ten “Hail Mary” prayers:
 - Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



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 - Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



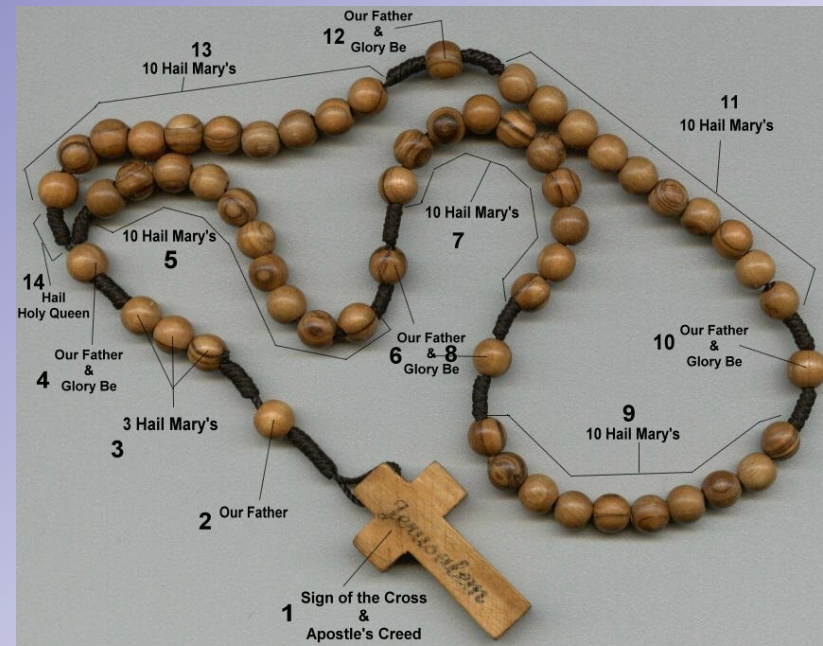
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 - Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



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 - The prayers that compose the Rosary are arranged in sets of ten “Hail Mary” prayers, each preceded by one “Our Father” and followed by one “Glory Be to the Father” prayer
 - (but there are also other, even more complicated sets of prayers that you can do)



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 - In 1214, he supposedly received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary while praying in a church
 - I say that Dominic "*supposedly received*" this vision because he never commented on it himself, and the earliest mention of it was 250 years after his death, when the use of the Rosary was becoming established and needed a strong, historical grounding in a hero of the faith
 - Who could question the orthodoxy of a ritual established by the patron saint of getting rid of heretics?



The Age of Crusades

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1215 The Fourth Lateran Council was held

- As Pope Innocent III neared the end of his papacy, he wanted to be remembered as the Pope who *fixed* everything—in Europe and in the Holy Land
- So he called another Lateran Council together to address key issues of how to deal with those who opposed Rome
 - For instance, the Waldensians and Cathars were declared to be irredeemable heretics (again)
 - So the lands of Count Raymond of Toulouse were subsequently given over in forfeiture to Simon de Montfort



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 - **In addition, several other heresies were named and condemned, and transubstantiation was specifically upheld**



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- **In all, 69 canons were presented, including:**
 - That no new religious orders would be allowed (since diversity brings about confusion, and uniformity is—by definition—more worshipful)



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- **In all, 69 canons were presented, including:**

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- **That all Christians must confess their sins at least once a year**

(Remember—the Celts told people to be confessing their sins to one another all the time, but Rome taught that you can only confess your sins to a priest, and that once you do, you have to release that sin entirely, or you'll be excommunicated... leading to people being a bit more furtive about confessing their sins)



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 - That no new religious orders would be allowed
 - That all Christians must confess their sins at least once a year
 - **That all doctors must call in a priest to pray for their patients before administering physical aid**
(There was a growing superstition regarding physicians—assuming that somehow, it must be witchcraft—and some church leaders felt that it at least showed a lack of piety to call for physical aid before calling for spiritual aid)
 - What are the pros and cons of this kind of thinking?



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 - That all Christians must confess their sins at least once a year
 - That all doctors must call in a priest to pray for their patients before administering physical aid
 - **That all Jews and Muslims must follow certain rules if they are to try to live within Christian societies**



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Prefiguring the Nazis, Rome demanded that all Jews and Muslims wear a symbol on their clothes that clearly marks them as pagans
 - “That Jews may be distinguished from others, we decree and emphatically command that in the center of the breast of their garments, they shall wear an oval badge, the measure of one finger in width and one half a palm in height. We forbid them moreover, to work publicly on Sundays and on festivals. And lest they scandalize Christians or be scandalized by Christians, we wish and ordain that during Holy Week they shall not leave their houses at all...”



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Prefiguring the Nazis, Rome demanded that all Jews and Muslims wear a symbol on their clothes that clearly marks them as pagans
 - They were prohibited from holding public office, from saying anything negative about Jesus or about Christians or about the church of Rome, and even—in the case of Jews who converted—from taking part in their own Jewish traditions
 - Any of these offences could be punishable by exile or death
 - All of them would require the immediate confiscation of their lands and property
 - Amazingly, Jews were *often* found guilty of breaking these laws, whether any evidence was found for their guilt or not...



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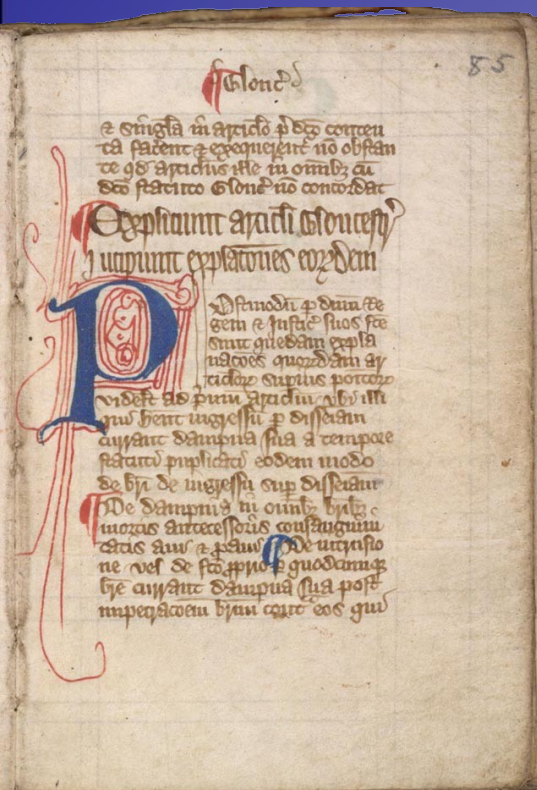
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- And one, final issue was decided, and this was one that Innocent absolutely *insisted* on—
 - That there must be a Fifth Crusade to successfully re-take the Holy Land
 - (and, for that matter, that—to avoid the problems of the Fourth Crusade—that it *must* be under the direct supervision of the Pope)
 - In this way, Innocent hoped that he would secure his lasting legacy as a soldier for the truth of God...



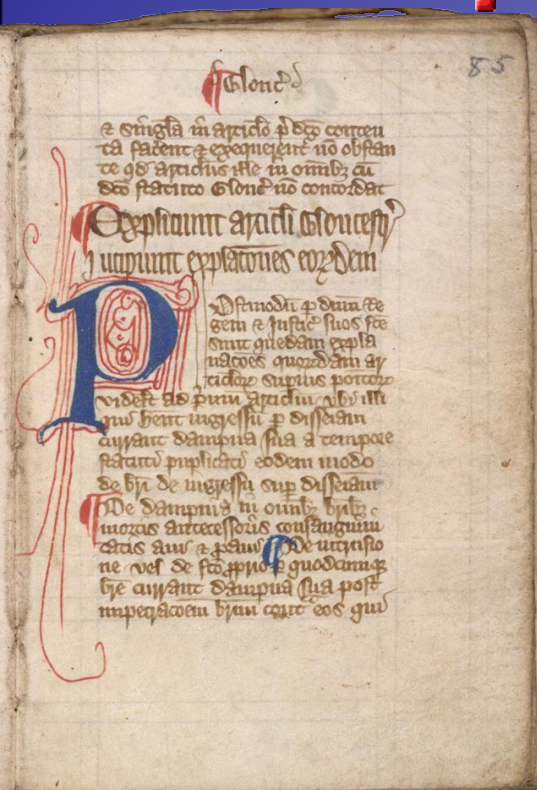
The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - For those who care about this sort of thing, one last bit of fun about King John of England...
 - In 1215, he sulked back to England after getting thoroughly whomped in France by Philip... again... to find that his own nobles were marching against him in frustration
 - Led by knight Robert Fitzwalter, the barons called themselves the “Army of God,” and protested the corruption—and incompetency—of John's reign
 - Being much stronger than John's forces, they were able to force him to sign a great charter (AKA the *Magna Carta*) that demanded reforms from the king
 - They demanded that all free men were under the protection of the law—and were thus exempt from unlawful seizure, from wrongful torture, from taxation without the approval of the barons, etc.
 - Long story short, the *Magna Carta* declared that, in fact, the king himself is technically under the law—and not vice-versa



The Age of Crusades

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - For those who care about this sort of thing, one last bit of fun about King John of England...
 - Not only did the Magna Carta set a huge precedent in the political hierarchies of England (and in Europe in general), but it was also the first document of its kind to specifically address not only *nobles*, but *all* free men
 - As such, it was one of the most important precursors to the concept of a *constitutional* government, like the one that we have today



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 - John immediately appealed to Pope Innocent, reminding him of England's support of his papacy
 - Innocent sided with John, annulled the document, and excommunicated all of the barons involved... who *ignored* the excommunication, declared the document *not* annulled, and rebelled against John in a major civil war...
 - ...which was finally settled when John died and universally-respected knight William Marshal took over as Lord Protector of the new, toddler king Henry III, reinstating the *Magna Carta*...

