

History

The Crusades - Lesson 5 of 6

Richard, Saladin & The Third Crusade

Why did Europeans join the Crusades?

Mr Wallace



Going to the Holy Land

Richard I of England and Philip II of France might have been partners on the crusade, but they were also **rivals** and this caused frequent problems. Both wanted to have control over the crusade. They also competed over who was seen as the superior, **wealthier** and the more powerful king. For example, when Philip started to pay his soldiers, Richard made sure his were paid more. Kings were expected to be wealthy and powerful and Richard always tried to shine a bit brighter than Philip. They made a deal to split anything they gained on the crusade, but this was broken before Richard even arrived. On his journey to the Holy Land he conquered the island of Cyprus and sold it to the **Knights Templar**, keeping all the income to himself.



Acre

The remaining Christians in the Holy Land were trying to take control of the city of Acre, on the coast. This would give the Christians a large port city, which would make any future crusades much easier. The **siege** had been going on for over two years when Philip and Richard arrived. The Christians had experienced real suffering and difficulties, and were constantly attacked by Saladin's army. Things changed when Richard and Philip arrived. The city was taken, which was a huge boost to the Christians. But problems between the two kings continued over who should have control of the city. Philip decided to leave the crusade and return to France, leaving Richard as the only king left.



Richard and Saladin

Earlier a deal had been made between Richard and Saladin. This deal included a large sum of money as well as the release of Christian prisoners. However, time passed by and the Christian prisoners were not handed over. Richard believed Saladin was deliberately going slowly, to stop Richard's army from moving towards Jerusalem. Richard also held Muslim prisoners of his own. These prisoners needed guarding and feeding and looking after them slowed Richard's army down. Convinced that Saladin was not keeping his end of the agreement, Richard marched 2,700 Muslim prisoners out of Acre and had them beheaded in front of Saladin's army. This massacre horrified people on both sides, Muslim and Christian.



Jerusalem

Despite the events that happened at Acre, Richard and Saladin had a lot of respect for each other. Richard was seen as extraordinarily brave, while Saladin was thought to be a generous and honourable leader. They never actually met in person. But the two men came close when Saladin's army attacked Richard's during his march towards Jerusalem. Richard's leadership and well-trained army meant the crusaders fought off each attack. When Richard was just a day away from Jerusalem, he decided not to attack. This disappointed his soldiers who were desperate to take the city. Richard knew that while he could take the city, he might not be able to hold onto it for long. This would mean all the lives lost in the attack would be for nothing.



End of the Third Crusade

Both Richard and Saladin knew that neither was quite strong enough to defeat the other. In 1192, they agreed to a **truce**, and the Third Crusade came to an end. While the Christians had not taken Jerusalem, they did gain more land on the coast which would be important in future crusades. Richard also won the right for Christians to go on **pilgrimage** to Jerusalem. The Christians who travelled to Jerusalem for religion were welcomed and treated with kindness by the Muslim inhabitants. However, without Jerusalem, the Crusade did fail in its main goal, and this was a bitter disappointment for Richard.



Glossary

Knights Templar - A group of Christian warrior monks

Pilgrimage - A journey to a sacred place such as Jerusalem for religious reasons

Rival - Someone who is an enemy or who has interests that go against yours

Siege - To surround a city in order to make it run out of supplies and surrender

Truce - An agreement to stop fighting for a period of time

Wealthy - Rich



Questions

1. What island did Richard conquer and then sell?
2. Why did the Crusaders want the city of Acre?
3. What did Richard do at Acre that horrified many people at the time?
4. Why did Richard decide not to attack Jerusalem?
5. What were Christians able to do after the Third Crusade?

