

Revival & Crusades

AN AGE OF ACCELERATING CONNECTIONS (600 – 1450)



- From the fall of the Roman Empire 476 C.E. to around 1000 C.E. Europe was in the Dark Ages or Medieval Times.
- Between 1000 – 1200 a revival began in Europe. Population and agriculture climbed.

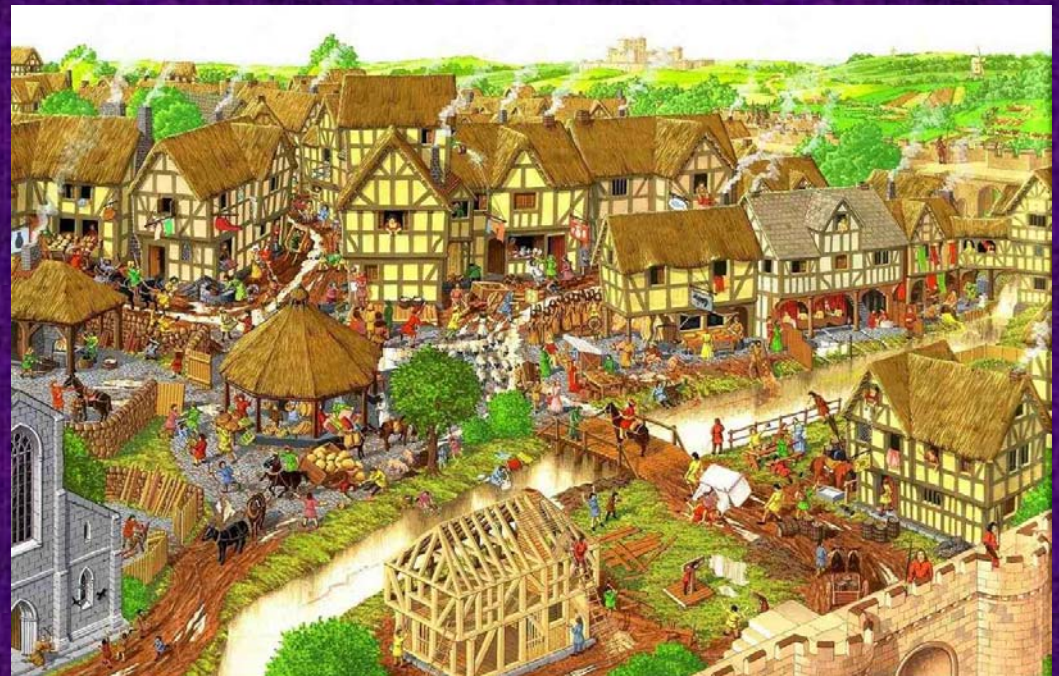


- New technology fueled the rise in agricultural production.
 - A new type of plow (with a knife like blade it cut deep into the soil, and a board mounted behind the blade lifted the cut layer and turned it over)
 - Iron horse shoes (horses were often used with the new plow)
 - Horse collar
 - 3 field system



- Again, this growing supply of food meant better fed people who could live longer, thus leading to larger populations.
 - Between 1000 and 1200 the number of people in Western Europe doubled
 - England, 1.1 million in 1086 to 1.9 million in 1200
 - France, 5.2 million to 9.2 million (same period)

- Independent cities formed as people began to demand the privilege of self-government from nobles. (In some cases lords granted this autonomy because they benefited from the growing economy in the community, in some cases peasants had revolted, while in others kings were centralizing their power and taking power away from nobles, but by and large Europe was moving from a land based economy to a money based economy).

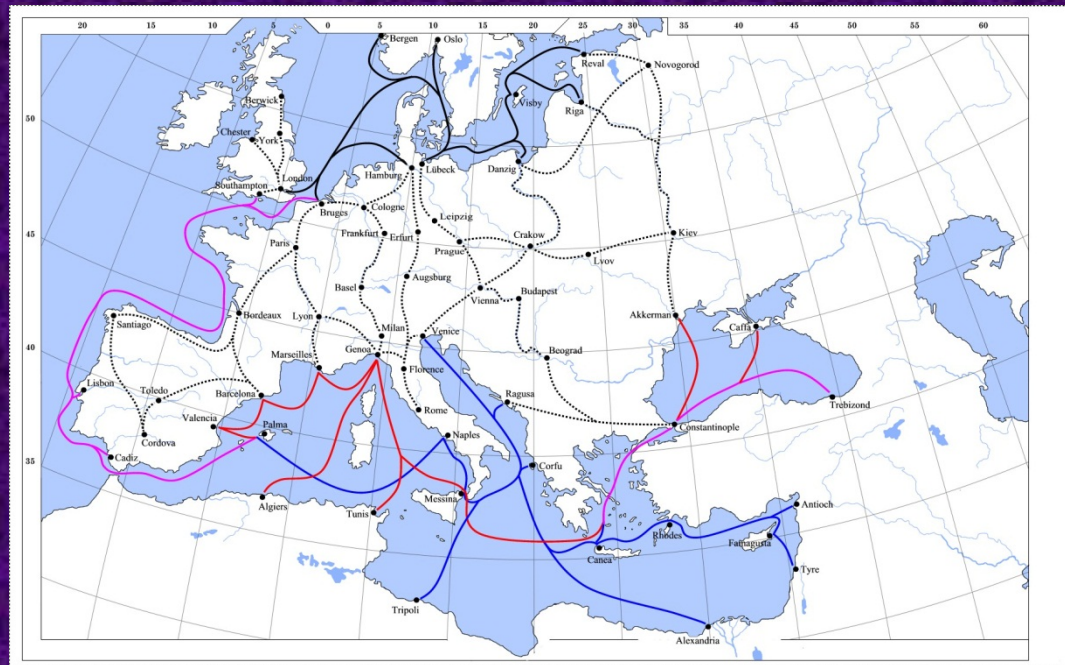


- Most European trade occurred in towns and rather than relying on what was once only made in a manor, people bought and exchanged items from other towns and kingdoms.

~ Merchants Row ~



- Venice (in Northeastern Italy) and Flanders (think Belgium & Netherlands) both benefited from this economic revival and were successful trading hubs in the Mediterranean and North Seas, respectively.



- As traders moved from town to town trading, they needed to carry lots of cash, which brought about banks and lending institutions.
- However, the Church forbid lending money at interest (they considered it a sin), so money lending became the occupation of mostly European Jews.

- Barter system was disappearing, the use of coins was increasing.



Al Andalus during the caliphate



- Although Europe was now waking up from the “Dark Ages,” Islam had made considerable gains through the Middle East (and even in parts of Europe) during this time.



- Ultimately, a series of holy wars between Christian and Muslims would take place known as the Crusades.

- Christians had made pilgrimages to Jerusalem and other cities under Muslim control, who generally tolerated and protected the visitors.
- However, after Seljuk Turks defeated Byzantine armies security along the pilgrimage routes deteriorated.



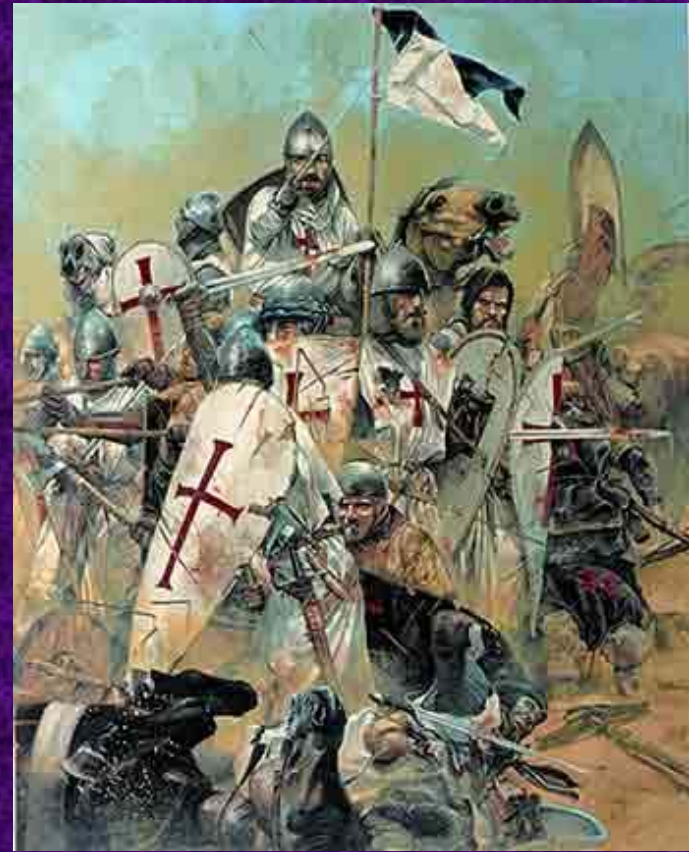
- The Byzantine emperor (Eastern Orthodox) pleaded with the Pope (Latin Church) to help confront the Muslim threat.
- This led to Pope Urban II's call at the Council of Clarendon in 1095 for a Crusade. He promised to free crusaders who had committed sins from their normal penance (atonement / punishment).

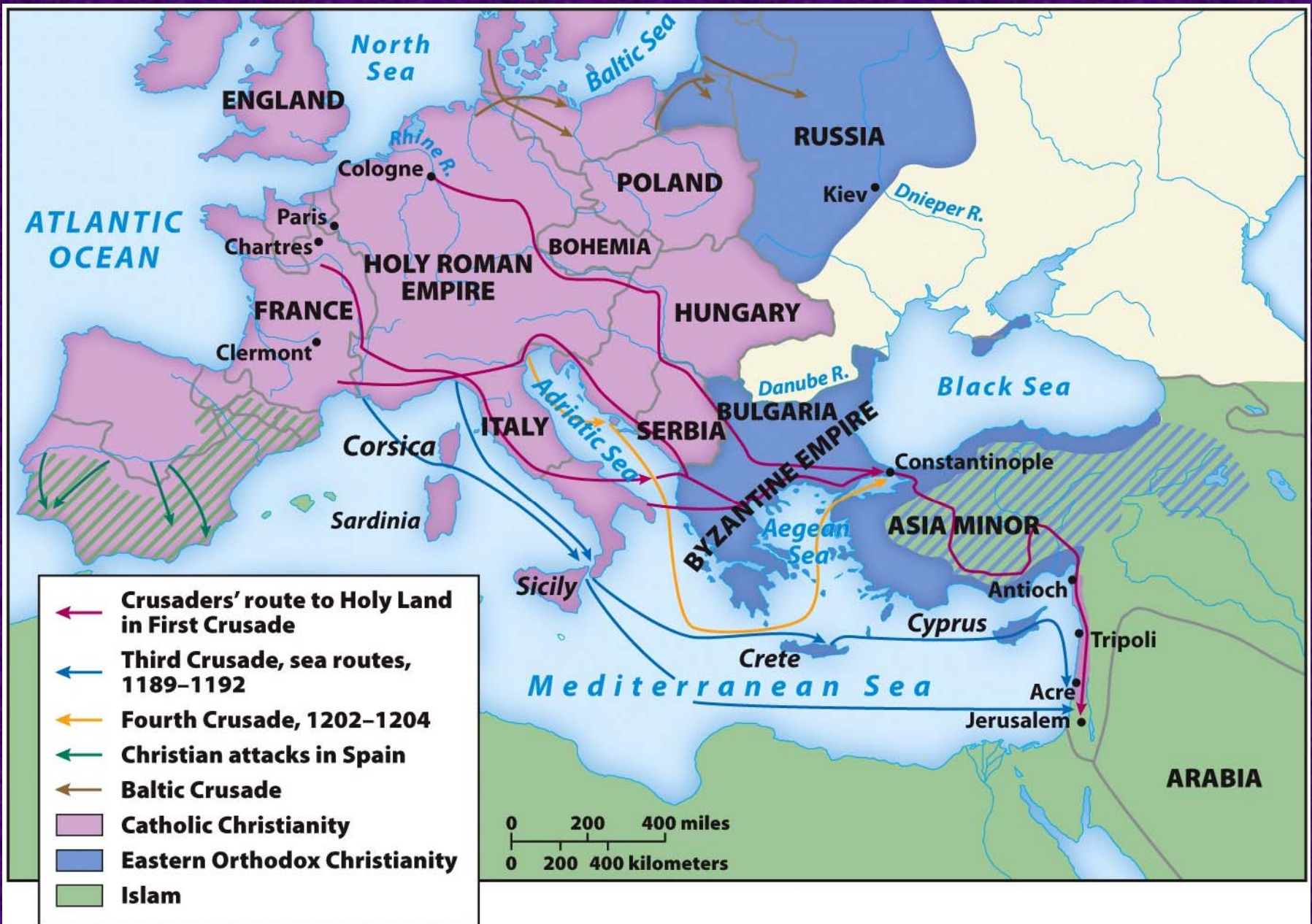


- What contributed to the Crusades:

- The Truce of God, a movement of Church leaders to get knights to limit their fighting of other Christians.
- Ambitious rulers were looking for new lands to conqueror.
- Italian merchants wanted to expand their network of trade into Muslim controlled lands.
- Popes wanted to exert political authority over western Christendom.
- Muslims had ruled the Holy Land for 4 centuries.

- During the First Crusade Christians captured Jerusalem in 1099 and established crusader principalities.
- The next two campaigns (Crusades) were struggles to hold these lands.





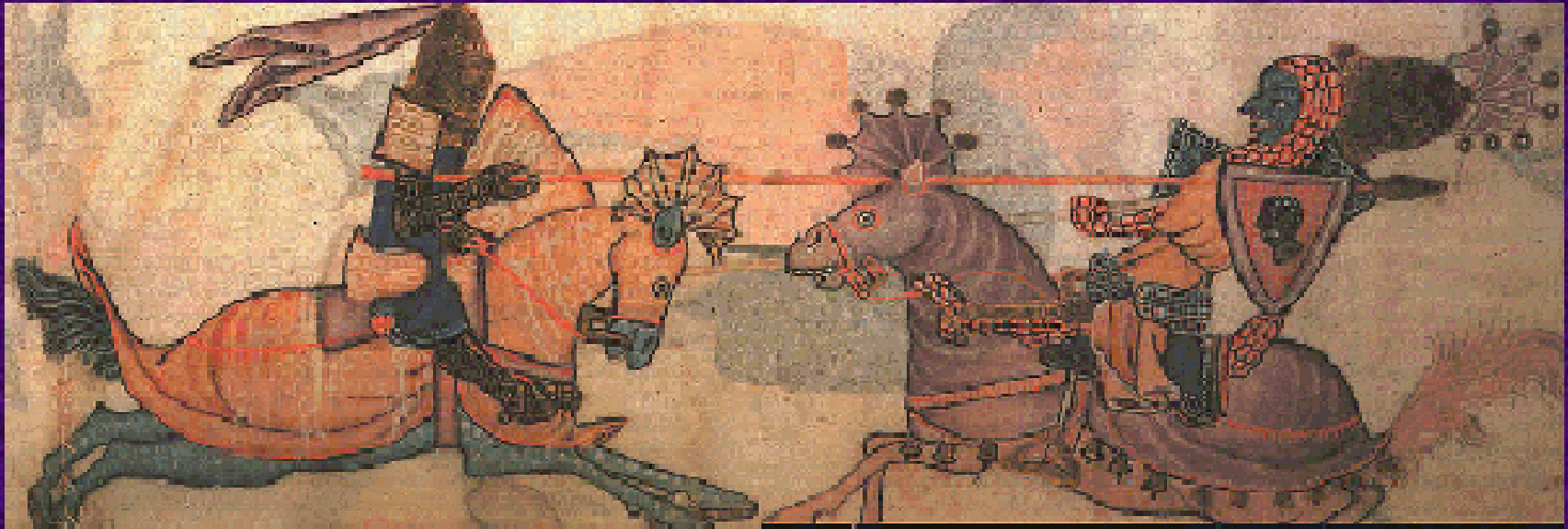
Map 10-4
 Ways of the World, First Edition
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- Incidents of Christian soldiers carrying out mass executions of Muslims and Jews (including cannibalism) took place.



- In the Third Crusade, King Phillip II of France, German emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa), and the English King Richard the Lionheart join together in an effort to regain the Holy Land after losing it to Muslims.





- After several battles Richard the Lionheart and Saladin (Kurdish Muslim leader) agreed to a truce in 1192.
- Jerusalem would remain under Muslim control, but unarmed Christians would be allowed to visit the city's holy places.

- Richard the Lionheart's mother Eleanor of Aquitaine ruled as regent while he was crusading.
- Previously she was married to the King of France, and the ruler of England. She is considered one of the most influential women of this period.



- The **Fourth Crusade** was launched in 1204, but rather than fighting Muslims, the Christian army turned to Constantinople and fought other Christians - sacking the city.

– Why?

- Byzantine owed people money (Venice)
- Tension between Eastern Orthodox & Latin Churches



- There is also speculation that there was a Children's Crusade where thousands of children set out to conquer Jerusalem, (300,000 children under the age of 18 were led by a 12 year old French boy?!)
- On their way to the Middle East they either died from the cold and starvation or were sold into slavery.



Child Preaching the Children's Crusade



Children's Crusade Marching Off

The impact of the Crusades:

- Europeans became exposed to Muslim and other cultures from the East (they learned to make pasta, paper, colored glass, and came across new spices).
- They became aware of Arabic translations and commentaries on Greek philosophical & scientific works. (For the most part, Europeans were not deeply interested in these subjects during the Dark Ages).



- From Muslim Spain, Christian Europeans became familiar with the lute (think guitar). The lute was used by troubadours, poet-singers who sung songs of “courtly love.”