

When people think about the Crusades, they could think about how Christians and Muslims from different parts of the world came into contact and clashed over their beliefs and ways of life. The Holy war that was fought by European Christians to reclaim the Holy land from Muslim control. People might think of knights and soldiers donning armor and setting off on a long and dangerous journey to Jerusalem, battling enemies along the way. Other people might think about the political and economic motivations behind the Crusades. The Crusaders had a desire for power, wealth and some people had religious desires as well. They also had an impact on trade and diplomacy between Europe and the Middle East. The crusaders were a very diverse group of people with different positions such as knights, commoners, and soldiers. The merchants came all over from different parts of North Europe. They also came from France, Germany, and England. In 1066 and 1099 the crusaders captured Jerusalem and established the Christian states in the land, but by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century they were defeated and expelled from the holy land. The crusaders had a very significant impact on European society, religion, and culture because they made military technologies, trade routes, and they also made political institutions.

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