

his empire.

- * About 200 B.C. -- One of these generals, Seleucus, founded a dynasty (series of rulers) that gained control of Palestine. The new rulers, called Seleucids, prohibited the practice of Judaism, and the Jews in Palestine revolted. Under a series of leaders called Maccabees, the Jews gained independence from the Seleucids.
- * About 145 to 63 B.C. -- Palestine remained an independent Jewish state, called Judah.
- * In 63 B.C. -- Roman troops invaded Judah and it became part of the Roman Empire. The Romans called the area Judea.
- * In A.D. 66 and 132 -- Groups of Jews had unsuccessful revolts against the Roman rulers.
- * By 135 -- The Romans had driven the Jews out of Jerusalem. The Romans named the area Palestine, for Philistia. Most of the Jews fled from Palestine. But Jewish communities continued to exist in Galilee, the northernmost part of Palestine.
- * For the next 500 years -- Palestine remained part of the Roman Empire. In time, Christianity spread throughout most of Palestine.
- * During the 600's -- The Arabs swept across the Arabian Peninsula and conquered Palestine. They wanted to spread their newly adopted religion, Islam, to other areas of the world. Many Palestinians accepted Islam and other parts of Arab culture.
- * In the 1000's -- The Seljuks, a Turkish people, began to take over Palestine.
- * In 1071 -- The Seljuks gained control of Jerusalem. Seljuk rule of Palestine lasted less than 30 years.
- * In 1096 -- The Crusades began. Christian crusaders from Europe wanted to regain the land where their religion had been born.
- * In 1099 -- Christians captured Jerusalem.
- * In 1187 -- The Muslim ruler Saladin attacked Palestine and took control of Jerusalem.
- * In the mid-1200's -- The Egyptian rulers called Mamelukes established an empire that in time included Palestine. The Mamelukes remained in power until 1517.
- * In 1517 -- The Ottoman Turks defeated the Mamelukes. Palestine became a part of the Ottoman Empire. Under Ottoman rule, Palestine had small minorities of Christians and Jews. Arab Muslims made up most of the population.
- * By 1880 -- About 25,000 Jews lived in Palestine. Some Jews began a movement (called *Zionism*) to make Palestine an independent Jewish nation.
- * By 1914 -- The number of Jews in Palestine rose to 85,000 out of the total population of nearly 700,000.
- * From 1914 to 1918 during World War I -- The Ottoman Empire joined Germany and Austria-Hungary against the Allies. A Turkish military government ruled Palestine.
- * In 1916 -- The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 called for part of Palestine to be placed under a joint Allied government after the war.

- * In 1916 -- Some Arabs revolted against the Turks in the belief that Britain would help establish Arab independence in the Middle East. The Arabs later claimed that Palestine was included in the area promised to them, but the British denied this.
- * In 1917 -- In an attempt to gain Jewish support for its war effort, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, which stated Britain's support for the creation of Jewish "national home" in Palestine without violating the rights of non-Jews who lived there.
- * In 1920 -- Palestine became a mandated territory of Britain.
- * In 1923 -- The area called Transjordan (now Jordan) was separated from the mandate.
- * During the 1930's -- Nazi persecution of Jews in Europe brought large numbers of Jewish refugees to Palestine.
- * From 1936 to 1939 -- Palestinian Arabs revolted against British control.
- * From 1939 to 1945 during World War II -- Most Palestinian Arabs and Jews stopped their resistance to British rule.
- * In 1947 -- Britain asked the United Nations to handle the Palestinian problem.
- * On Nov. 29, 1947 -- The United Nations Special Commission on Palestine recommended that Palestine be divided into an Arab state and a Jewish state; with Jerusalem to be put under international control. The Jews accepted and the Arabs rejected. Fighting broke out immediately.
- * On May 14, 1948 -- The Jews proclaimed the independent State of Israel and the British withdrew from Palestine. The next day, neighboring Arab nations invaded Israel to help the Palestinian Arabs destroy the new Jewish state. When the fighting ended, Israel had more territory than the U.N. plan. About 700,000 Arabs fled from the Jewish state and became refugees in neighboring Arab countries.
- * By 1951 -- About 700,000 Jews had settled in Israel.

OVERVIEW OF THE CRUSADES

According to the World Book Encyclopedia:

"Crusades were Christian military expeditions organized mainly to recapture Palestine during the Middle Ages. . . . Muslims had taken control of it from Christians. The crusaders, who came from Western Europe, organized eight major expeditions between A.D. 1096 and 1270. This was a period when Western Europe was expanding its economy and increasing its military forces. The Crusades were a part of a broad Christian expansion movement. . . .

"They had two stated goals: (1) to gain permanent control of the Holy Land and (2) to protect the Byzantine Empire, a Greek

Christian empire centered in southeastern Europe, from the Muslims. . . .

"The Crusades were originally called armed pilgrimages. The word *crusade* comes from the Latin word *crux*, meaning *cross*. Members of many expeditions sewed the symbol of the cross of Christ on their clothing. 'To take up the cross' meant to become a crusader."

- * During the A.D. 500's -- The Byzantine Empire controlled much of the land bordering the Mediterranean Sea -- including southeastern Europe, Asia Minor (Turkey), Palestine, Syria, Italy and parts of Spain and North Africa.
- * In the 600's -- Arab Muslims conquered Palestine, which included Jerusalem. Most of the new Arab rulers allowed the Christians to visit the shrines.
- * During the 1000's -- Fierce Seljuk Turks from central Asia (who had become Muslims) invaded the Near East. They made it difficult for Christians pilgrims to reach the holy places.
- * In 1095 -- Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus asked Urban II, pope of the Roman Catholic Church, for assistance in fighting the Turks. Urban held a meeting of church leaders in Clermont, France. At this Council of Clermont, Urban called for a crusade. Urban II urged European Christians to stop fighting among themselves and recapture the Holy Land from the Muslims.

The First Crusade was from 1096 to 1099.

- *The main armies were chiefly well-trained French and Norman knights. The Peasants' Crusaders were untrained and undisciplined. Most of them were slaughtered.
- *In the summer of 1099, the Europeans recovered Jerusalem.
- *The conquered land was divided into four states. These states, called the Latin States of the Crusaders were the County of Edessa, the Principality of Antioch, the County of Tripolis and the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

The Second Crusade was from 1147 to 1149.

- *In 1144, the Turks conquered the County of Edessa.
- *King Louis VII of France and King Conrad III of Germany led the armies of the Second Crusade into Asia Minor. Their armies suffered from a lack of cooperation and the Muslim forces defeated them before they reached Edessa.

The Third Crusade was from 1189 to 1192.

- *By 1183, Saladin, the sultan of Egypt and Syria, had united the Muslim areas around the Latin states.
- *In 1187, Saladin easily defeated a Christian army and triumphantly entered Jerusalem.
- *German Emperor Frederick I drowned on the way to the Holy Land. King Richard (the Lion-Hearted) and King Philip II of France finished the trip. Philip returned home to plot against Richard.
- *When Richard failed to recapture Jerusalem, he negotiated a treaty with Saladin, where the Muslims let Christian pilgrims enter Jerusalem freely.

The Fourth Crusade was from 1202 to 1204.

- *Pope Innocent III persuaded many French nobles to take part in the Fourth Crusade. Their plan was to attack Egypt in an effort to split the Muslim power.
- *The crusaders became involved in affairs of the Byzantine Empire and never reached their original goal.
- *Only one third of the expected crusaders arrived at Venice to take the ship. The Venetians offered to transport the crusaders if they helped them attack the city of Zara.
- *A refugee Greek prince names Alexius claimed that his father Isaac was the rightful ruler of the Byzantine Empire. The crusaders agreed to help him regain the empire in return for the prince's help in reconquering the Holy Land. In 1203, they seized Constantinople and made Isaac and Alexius co-emperors.
- *When Alexius could not fulfill his promises to the crusaders, they conquered Constantinople and put Count Baldwin of Flanders on the throne. This Latin Empire of Constantinople lasted until 1261.

The Children's Crusade was in 1212.

- *This was one of the most tragic events in the history of the Crusades.
- *Thousands of boys and girls from about 10 to 18 years old became convinced they could recover Jerusalem. Children from France and Germany believed God would deliver the Holy City to them. They expected God to part the waters of the Mediterranean Sea so that they could cross safely to Jerusalem.
- *Many starved and froze to death during their march south. When the expected miracle did not occur, many returned home in shame. Others were drowned in storms at sea or sold into slavery by the Muslims.

The Fifth Crusade was from 1217 to 1221.

- *The Christians captured the town of Damietta in Egypt. But other efforts failed and they soon gave up Damietta in exchange for a truce.

The Sixth Crusade was from 1228 to 1229.

- *Emperor Frederick II of the Holy Roman Empire led the Sixth Crusade. He negotiated a peace treaty with the Muslim sultan. The sultan gave Jerusalem to the Christians without a battle.
- *Jerusalem remained Christian until the Muslims seized it again in 1244.

The Seventh Crusade was from 1248 to 1254.

- *The fall of Jerusalem caused King Louis IX of France (Saint Louis) to led the Seventh Crusade.
- *Louis revived the idea of winning the Holy Land by attacking cities in Egypt. The Muslims captured Louis and his army. The Muslims freed the king in exchange for a huge ransom. Before returning to France, Louis spent four years in the Holy Land trying to strengthen the Christian forces there.

The Eighth Crusade was in 1270.

- *The Muslims continued to gain territory. In 1268, the Muslims captured Antioch.
- *In 1270, Louis led the Eighth Crusade against the Muslims. He landed his army in Tunis, in northern Africa. Louis died shortly thereafter, when a plague broke out among his troops.
- *In 1291, the Muslims seized Acre, the last Christian center in Syria.
- *By this time, Europeans were losing interest in the Holy Land. Several weak attempts to organize crusades during the 1300's and 1400's failed.

Here are 2 observations about the Crusades.

- * The crusaders failed to accomplish their main goals. They captured the Holy Land for a time but could not establish lasting control over the area.
- * Western and Eastern Christians temporarily united to fight the Muslims. However, relations between the two groups of Christians, especially as a result of the Fourth Crusade, became so bitter that it led to a heritage of conflict.