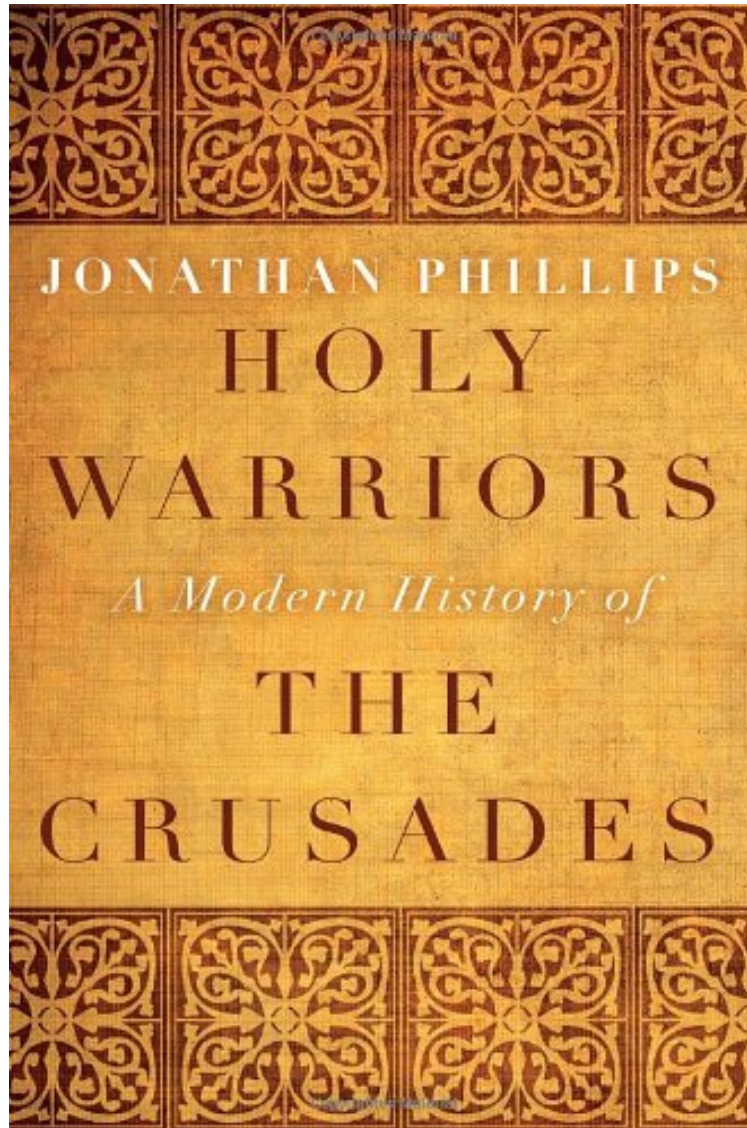


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Holy Warriors: A Modern History of the Crusades

Jonathan Phillips

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Jonathan Phillips : Holy Warriors: A Modern History of the Crusades before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holy Warriors: A Modern History of the Crusades:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Illuminating Historical Summary By J.S. Bradford Holy Warriors provides the reader with an illuminating historical overlay of the apocalyptic struggle between the crusades and jihad. The review, although remarkably concise, isn't limited to the two hundred years from the Christian capture of Jerusalem in 1099 to the Muslim victory at Acre in 1291. It also addresses the events leading up to the call to arms

issued by Pope Urban II in 1095 and then continues the saga with a reserved but insightful analysis of the extended after-effects of the never ending hostilities. To quote Picasso, wars end but hostilities go on forever. The author confirms that this is indeed the case with the crusades, illustrating how the epic series of battles have retained a protracted shelf life as a metaphor not just for military engagements but cultural engagements as well. The author extends the metaphor not only to the events of September 11, 2001; but also to the reaction of President Bush who used the word "crusade" in his response to the attacks. In the words of the President, "This crusade ... this war on terror is going to take a while." The author suggests that the remarks of the President were highly incendiary, if not pious, but, in retrospect, they simply appear to be painfully honest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great History of the Crusades By Ken Useful for the historical understanding of a much misunderstood age 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fighting the Crusades By T. C. Brayshaw Phillips' book is more than an introduction to the crusades. For the reader who thinks of Peter the Hermit, Richard the Lionhearted, and Saladin the terse prose makes them, and many of the other driving personalities come alive. As he describes the reasons, personalities, diplomacy and battles Phillips makes you aware of millennium old conflicts that still are points of contention. This brief but complete volume brings the past and the present together into a unified whole that is not obvious considering the differences in technologies, theologies, philosophies, and governmental between the combatants then and now.

From an internationally renowned expert, here is an accessible and utterly fascinating one-volume history of the Crusades, thrillingly told through the experiences of its many players knights and sultans, kings and poets, Christians and Muslims. Jonathan Phillips traces the origins, expansion, decline, and conclusion of the Crusades and comments on their contemporary echoes from the mysteries of the Templars to the grim reality of al-Qaeda. Holy Warriors puts the past in a new perspective and brilliantly sheds light on the origins of today's wars. Starting with Pope Urban II's emotive, groundbreaking speech in November 1095, in which he called for the recovery of Jerusalem from Islam by the First Crusade, Phillips traces the centuries-long conflict between two of the world's great faiths. Using songs, sermons, narratives, and letters of the period, he reveals how the success of the First Crusade inspired generations of kings to campaign for their own vainglory and set down a marker for the knights of Europe, men who increasingly blurred the boundaries between chivalry and crusading. In the Muslim world, early attempts to call a jihad fell upon deaf ears until the charisma of the Sultan Saladin brought the struggle to a climax. Yet the story that emerges has other dimensions as never before, Phillips incorporates the holy wars within the story of medieval Christendom and Islam and shines new light on many truces, alliances, and diplomatic efforts that have been forgotten over the centuries. Holy Warriors also discusses how the term crusade survived into the modern era and how its redefinition through romantic literature and the drive for colonial empires during the nineteenth century gave it an energy and a resonance that persisted down to the alliance between Franco and the Church during the Spanish Civil War and right up to George W. Bush's pious war on terror. Elegantly written, compulsively readable, and full of stunning new portraits of unforgettable real-life figures from Richard the Lionhearted to Melisende, the formidable crusader queen of Jerusalem Holy Warriors is a must-read for anyone interested in medieval Europe, as well as for those seeking to understand the history of religious conflict.

From Publishers Weekly University of London historian and History Channel contributor Phillips (The Second Crusade) superbly condenses the four centuries of the Crusades into a single, easily accessible volume. Islamic as well as Western sources are utilized to demonstrate the similarities between jihad and crusading. The narrative weaves a tragic tapestry, beginning with the bloodily successful First Crusade, through the establishment of the Crusader states, to the failure of subsequent Crusades, the victories of the Muslim counter-Crusade, and the continuing legacy of religious and cultural hatred that permeates the Holy Land. Individuals such as the charismatic Queen Melisende of Jerusalem; the Leper King, Baldwin IV; the Muslim warriors Nur ad-Din and Saladin; England's Richard the Lionheart; and many others play major and minor roles in the creation of a past that still lives today. Episodes including the breathtaking naivete of the Children's Crusade and the Reconquista of the Iberian Peninsula are effectively described. Concluding chapters examine the impact of the Crusades since the 15th century. Regrettably, little attention is given to the crusading spirit resurrected by the 1571 Battle of Lepanto. But this is an outstanding summary of centuries of religious strife, the effects of which are with us still. 8 pages of bw photos, 5 maps. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Historians and laypersons continue to dispute the causes and even the moral justification for the 200-year effort by Europeans to recapture the so-called Holy Land. The immense impact of the Crusades, however, is undeniable. The horizons of Europeans were expanded, feudal societies were transformed, and the peoples of the Levant have inherited a legacy of bitterness toward the invading Christian Franks. Phillips, professor of crusading history at the University of London, provides a compact survey of the crusading movement that, unlike most such accounts, includes the initiative to reconquer Muslim Spain and suppress Christian heresy in southern France. Since he aims his work at general readers, Phillips employs a fast-moving narrative, but he also pauses to focus special attention upon topics and personalities of

special interest, including instances of Muslim-Christian cooperation, divisions within Muslim and Christian forces, and characters both colorful and controversial. A well-written work succeeding in explaining a complex and vitally important era. --Jay Freeman "Jonathan Phillips' Holy Warriors is a superb book, one written with an elegant blend of clarity and zest. Its author demonstrates his mastery of all the relevant scholarship, from the oldest to the most recent, but he may be most successful in his ability to capture the spirit of the various crusades through word portraits of some of their most memorable human characters. Readers will find it difficult to put this gripping book down."William Chester Jordan, Dayton-Stockton Professor of History, Princeton University