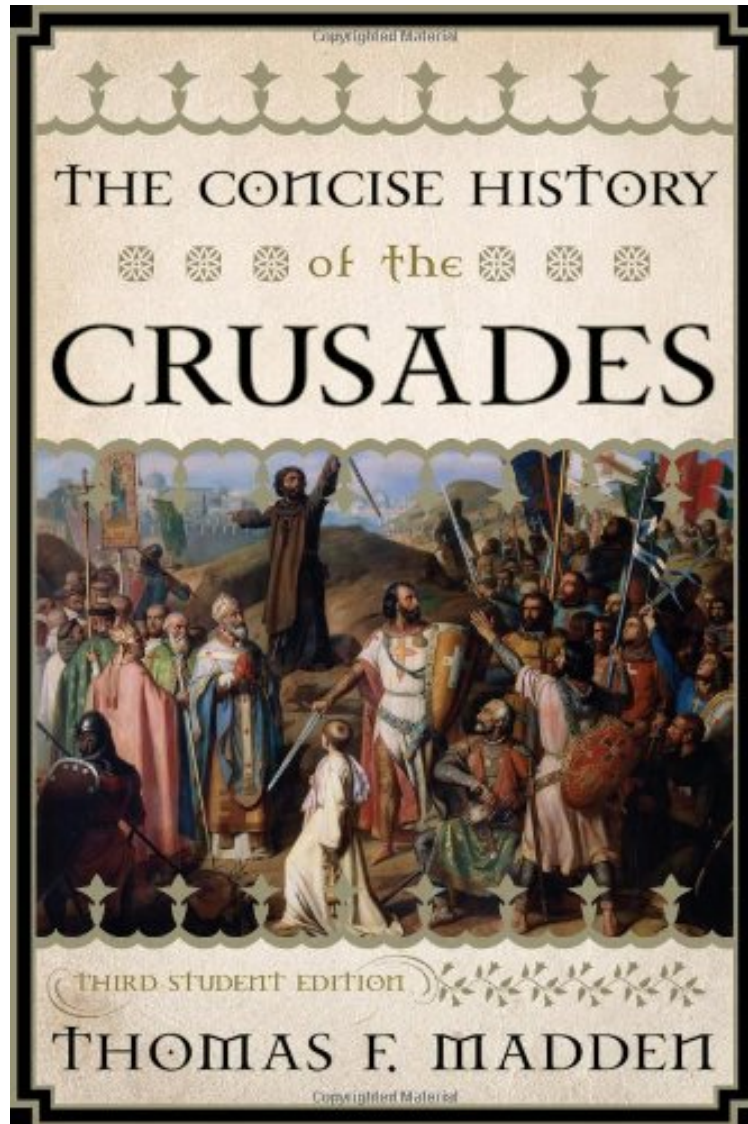


[Pdf free] The Concise History of the Crusades (Critical Issues in World and International History)

The Concise History of the Crusades (Critical Issues in World and International History)

Thomas F. Madden

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Thomas F. Madden : The Concise History of the Crusades (Critical Issues in World and International History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Concise History of the Crusades (Critical Issues in World and International History):

83 of 84 people found the following review helpful. Title Says All - Great Concise History of the CrusadesBy richard iiiBook is aptly titled. It covers a lot of ground addressing the better known 1st through 3rd crusades between

Christianity and Islam in the Levant but also referencing Christian vs. Christian conflicts with the Byzantine Empire and crusades against non-Islamic non-Christians in Eastern Europe. The strength of this book as is accurately implied by the title is the ability to clearly communicate interesting information on a wide breadth of history without dragging on for hundreds and hundreds of pages. I highly recommend this as a mid-level introduction for anyone interested in the subject. Reading this as one with only a cursory knowledge of the period among the many things I found interesting were the personal / political conflict within both the Christian and Islamic camps that seriously hindered the ability to effectively fight the other side, the Christian vs. Christian conflicts around Constantinople, the balancing act the Christian kings had to perform between crusading and events back at home, how some of the inducements to motivate people to crusade contributed to later abuses by the Church and subsequent Reformation, the origin of the Templars and Hospitallers, the Children's Crusade, etc. For those who care about such things I would characterize the point of view of the author as objective. Happily you do not get the "Christians as savage invaders vs. Saladin as a Medieval champion of 21st Century multiculturalism and diversity" seen in pieces such as Ridley Scott's film Kingdom of Heaven. That's not to say this book says nothing bad about the Christians involved or that it has nothing good to say about Saladin's leadership skills, I'm just saying I perceived the tone as even-handed. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. My great hope for this work is that it become a ...By Catherine L. Hibbard Finally - let the truth be known! My great hope for this work is that it become a family project for all parents with teens. What you find within empowers you to bring into view a clear picture of history from the perspective of those who lived it, from primary sources. Well researched! This is real history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Medieval Era By Michael F. One of the critically important revelations learned from an honest examination of human culture and civilization is that modernity is the true victor. The misunderstanding and deliberate misinterpretation of the crusades and the Medieval era has been dispelled by this scholarly work. There are those today who wrongly find a moral equivalency with the evil acts of Islamic terrorism and the crusades. In other words, the attacks on Israel, Europe and America by Islamic jihadists and terrorists is morally justified as a remnant of the crusades and imperialism. This book should instruct those who believe this fallacious argument. Not only were the crusades waged partly against other Christians and Europeans but ultimately was a military and economic failure. The power of Islam was such that the crusades never had a chance and such overwhelming power even threatened Christian Europe. However, the ultimate victory is in the advancement of science, technology, economics, democracy and freedom. The Islamic world today has moved little since the Medieval era and the Ottoman Empire. I highly recommend this book.

What is the relationship between the medieval crusades and the problems of the modern Middle East? Were the crusades the Christian equivalent of Muslim jihad? In this sweeping yet crisp history, Thomas F. Madden offers a brilliant and compelling narrative of the crusades and their contemporary relevance. Placing all of the major crusades within their medieval social, economic, religious, and intellectual environments, Madden explores the uniquely medieval world that led untold thousands to leave their homes, families, and friends to march in Christ's name to distant lands. From Palestine and Europe's farthest reaches, each crusade is recounted in a clear, concise narrative. The author gives special attention as well to the crusades effects on the Islamic world and the Christian Byzantine East.

Madden's clear text invites readers at all levels of knowledge into this commentary on how the crusades shaped our modern world. [He] convincingly shows how the crusades prove useful in understanding the political, cultural, and religious wars waged in today's society. True to the book's title, Madden manages to deftly discuss his research while maintaining a clear, approachable style that makes this text accessible to all levels of readers. . . . His ability to set the scene breathes life into the history. . . . The extent of Thomas Madden's research is evident, and his ability to describe history in an interesting and clear manner will appeal to all readers who enjoy reading about the past, especially where it is examined within a modern context. (Foreword s) Madden writes that the term and concept of the Crusades had been protean and exploited from the inception of the modern era. . . . For him, the historical understanding and popular perception of these campaigns have led to their condemnation. Yet he still defends them as an act of piety (i.e., bravery coupled with faith) and rejects the dominant perception that they are in any way responsible for modern tensions between the Middle East and the West. (American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences) It is well written and well organized...[and is] designed primarily as a textbook. . . . This is a good book. It is very clear and also both interesting and enjoyable to read. (Speculum) About the Author Thomas F. Madden is professor of history and director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Saint Louis University. A widely recognized expert on the Crusades and Christian-Muslim relations, he is the author of numerous books, including *The Fourth Crusade: The Conquest of Constantinople*, *Enrico Dandolo and the Rise of Venice*, and *Venice: A New History*. Awards for his scholarship include the Haskins Medal (Medieval Academy of America) and the Otto Gröndler Prize (Medieval Institute). He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.