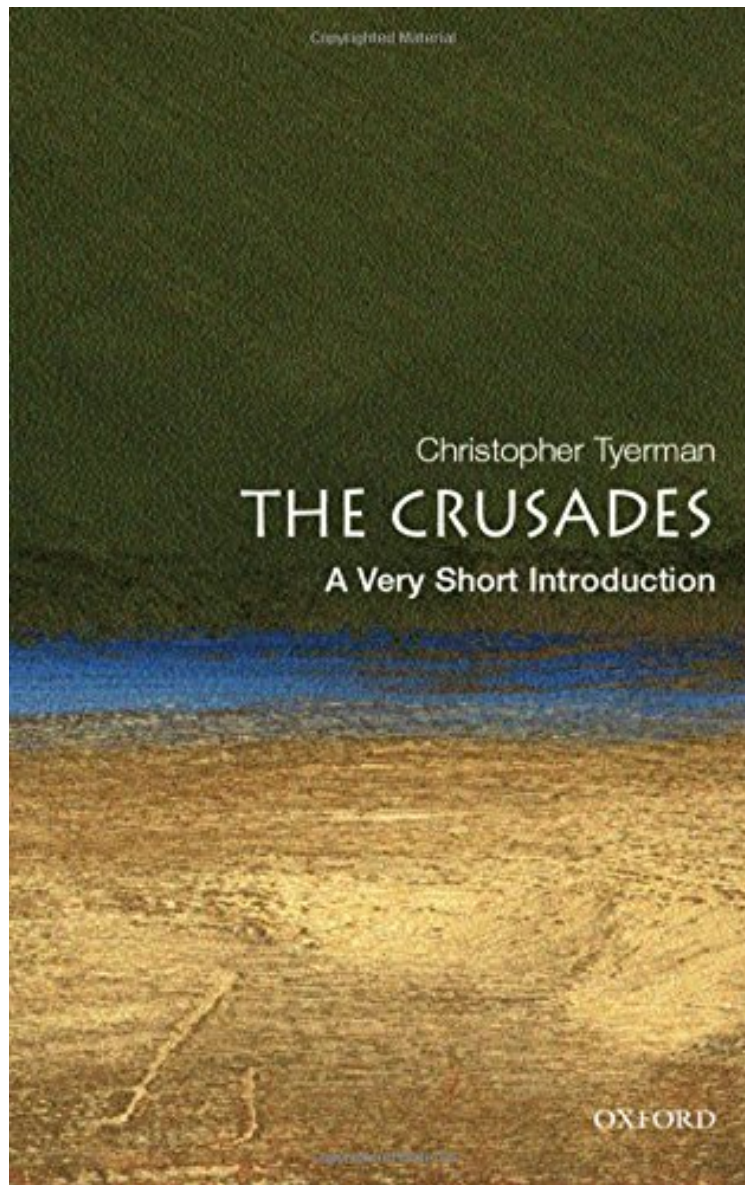


[FREE] The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction

The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction

Christopher Tyerman

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Christopher Tyerman : The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Crusading 101By AradorTyerman's short introduction to the crusades provides a brief overview of the events and major theatres of the crusade, at the same time he relates detailed specifics and anecdotal stories. I enjoyed reading his book, and found it to be a good balance of detail with general

broad definitions. One of Tyerman's reasons for writing the book is to correct many of the images that people have in their minds of the "crusader." He debunks the Romantic views, armoured knights were not riding around on horses defeating every foe they came across. He also dispels the lust for plunder; younger sons were not running off to the Holy Land to make their fortunes. Most people who 'took the Cross' invested huge sums of money and resources to be able to make the trip. Crusades were not a get rich quick operation. He is very careful to stress that religious devotion and penitential aspects were the main motivations for Europeans to go on crusade, either in the Middle East, Spain or the Baltic. Tyerman gave a nice brief outline of what happened in each of the major Crusades, categorizing them by geographic locations. The timeline and subject jumps around a bit, but isn't that hard to follow. I'd recommend this book to anyone who wants to get a basic understanding of what happened in the Crusades. Tyerman did a good job of making the Crusades understandable and he did a good job of undoing some negative but persistent stereotypes that have existed for a while. I've read a couple of books in the A Very Short Introduction series and these books seem to be relatively short, easily accessible, yet detailed and specific enough to give the reader a general understanding of the topic. Tyerman does just that. 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Holy men at war By Peter Reeve Part of the continuing fascination with the Crusades is due to the belief that we are still fighting them, that they precipitated a Christian/Islamic conflict in which we are still caught up. Truth tends to be much more complex and multi-layered than myth, which is indeed why we prefer the latter. But if you would like to get at the former, Tyerman's book is a good place to start. The most important lessons are to do with scope and context. The Crusades were much more than a series of military expeditions by Europeans to the Holy Land, they lasted for far longer than the two centuries we usually credit them with, and the wars between Christian and Islamic nations had older and deeper roots. Nor are their consequences widely understood. As this book makes clear, the Crusades had far more impact on Europe, and far less on the Near East, than is usually thought. This Very Short Introduction is actually a reprint of Tyerman's hardback *Fighting for Christendom* (used, cheap copies of which, at the time of writing this review, are still available on Amazon, so you might want to check that out). One consequence is that, at 150 pages, it's longer than most in the series. Also, I think they must have simply shrunk the illustrations to fit on the page, so that you need a magnifying glass to read some of the maps. The early chapters give an excellent overview of the subject. The later chapters, examining the impact and significance of the Crusades, and being therefore more interpretive, are somewhat heavy going at times. The author's style is good, but may be slightly too academic for some readers. And he is occasionally prone to colorful moral judgments, such as when he talks of Himmler's 'historically illiterate ghouls' relying on 'rancid imagination'. I may well share this view, but I will arrive at it myself, thank you very much. This remains an excellent introduction to a hugely important subject, and is a worthy addition to the series. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worthwhile By Customer It is exactly as advertised: a short introduction. An easy and quick read which makes you want to learn more.

With flair and originality, Christopher Tyerman presents a clear and lively discussion of the Crusades, bringing together issues of colonialism, cultural exchange, economic exploitation, and the relationship between past and present. He considers the effects of the Crusades on ordinary life in Western Europe, and the parts played by ordinary men and women in the conflict, and explores the term "Crusade" for contemporary political ends. Whether the Crusades are regarded as the most romantic of Christian expeditions, or the last of the barbarian invasions, they have fascinated generations ever since, and their legacy of ideas and imagery has resonated through the centuries, inspiring Hollywood movies and great works of literature. In this book, Tyerman skillfully weaves together one of the most extraordinary and vivid episodes in world history.

from previous edition One of the foremost historians of the Crusades, Christopher Tyerman has produced an excellent brief introduction. John Tolan, TLS 'An excellent outline of current historical thinking' Sunday Times 'Shrewd and forceful... This vigorous argument is an important corrective for anyone who would argue for the long-term inevitability of conflict between Christianity and Islam.' Hugh Kennedy, New York Times Book Excellent About the Author Dr. Christopher Tyerman is lecturer in Medieval History at Hertford College and New College, Oxford. He is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and editor of 'Oxford Historian'. He has published extensively on crusading history.