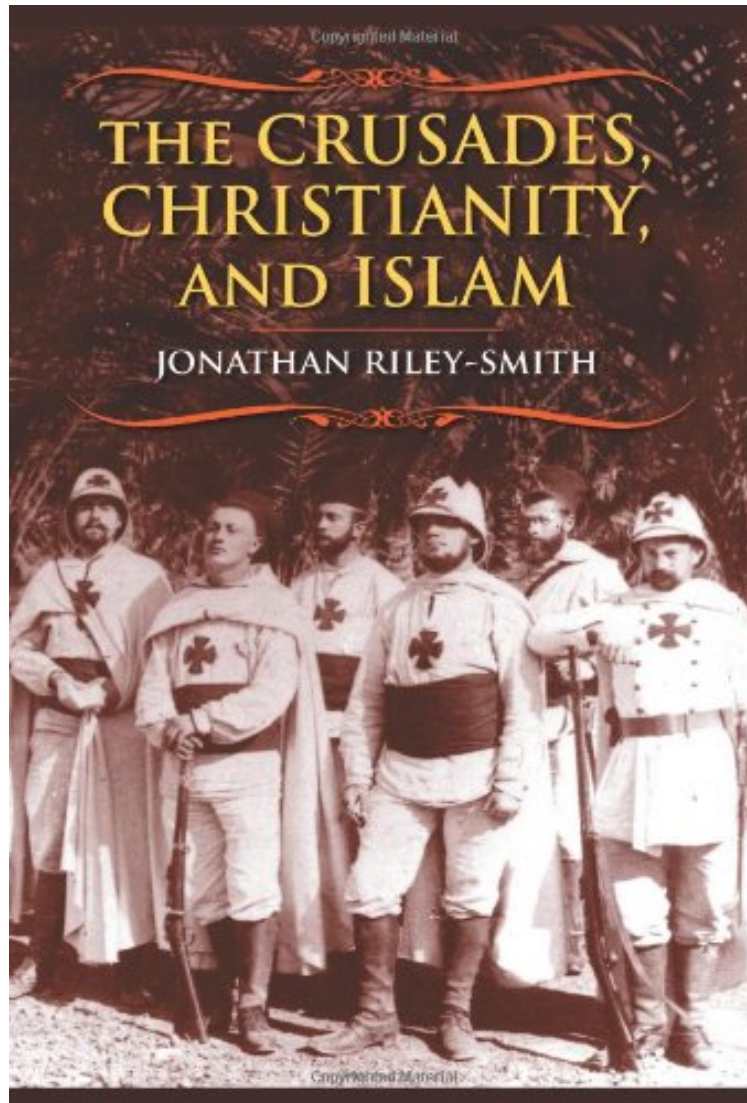


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## The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam (Bampton Lectures in America)

*Jonathan Riley-Smith*

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#424383 in Books Jonathan Riley Smith 2011-05-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .33 x 5.551, .42 #File Name: 0231146256136 pagesThe Crusades Christianity and Islam | File size: 27.Mb

**Jonathan Riley-Smith : The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam (Bampton Lectures in America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam (Bampton Lectures in America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very different, original, and intriguing set of ...By A. HernandezA very different, original, and intriguing set of essays about the crusades and their impact on modern notions of

"medievalism." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This a series of Bampton Lectures on the Crusades and ...By David Bennett This a series of Bampton Lectures on the Crusades and as such is inevitably brief. However, Professor Riley-Smith is one of the foremost authorities on the subject and this contribution is most helpful. The common view of the Crusades today is that a ignorant mob of Crusaders invaded Muslim land and committed atrocities. However, as Riley-Smith shows there were two sides in these wars, and both were at fault. One striking matter that Riley-Smith raises is that it was not until the end of the nineteenth century that Muslims blamed Christians (the West?) for these wars. Before then it does not seem to have been an issue. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Concise, clear, intelligent By tinseltown A great survey of a large period of time and its effect on present day. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in the Crusades, Medieval times, "holy" war, and jihad.

The Crusades were penitential war-pilgrimages fought in the Levant and the eastern Mediterranean, as well as in North Africa, Spain, Portugal, Poland, the Baltic region, Hungary, the Balkans, and Western Europe. Beginning in the eleventh century and ending as late as the eighteenth, these holy wars were waged against Muslims and other enemies of the Church, enlisting generations of laymen and laywomen to fight for the sake of Christendom. Crusading features prominently in today's religio-political hostilities, yet the perceptions of these wars held by Arab nationalists, pan-Islamists, and many in the West have been deeply distorted by the language and imagery of nineteenth-century European imperialism. With this book, Jonathan Riley-Smith returns to the actual story of the Crusades, explaining why and where they were fought and how deeply their narratives and symbolism became embedded in popular Catholic thought and devotional life. From this history, Riley-Smith traces the legacy of the Crusades into modern times, specifically within the attitudes of European imperialists and colonialists and within the beliefs of twentieth-century Muslims. Europeans fashioned an interpretation of the Crusades from the writings of Walter Scott and a French contemporary, Joseph-Francois Michaud. Scott portrayed Islamic societies as forward-thinking, while casting Christian crusaders as culturally backward and often morally corrupt. Michaud, in contrast, glorified crusading, and his followers used its imagery to illuminate imperial adventures. These depictions have had a profound influence on contemporary Western opinion, as well as on Muslim attitudes toward their past and present. Whether regarded as a valid expression of Christianity's divine enterprise or condemned as a weapon of empire, crusading has been a powerful rhetorical tool for centuries. In order to understand the preoccupations of Islamist jihadis and the character of Western discourse on the Middle East, Riley-Smith argues, we must understand how images of crusading were formed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Crusades, Christianity, and Islam is a very important intervention on a topic not only of current interest but also of pressing importance. Jonathan Riley-Smith shows why and how history matters. (Adam Kosto, associate professor of history, Columbia University) This richly informed little book should be considered essential for understanding crusading, then and now. (Booklist (starred review)) This is a powerhouse of a book, enlightening, well-written and accessible, and I recommend it to anyone who wants to understand the crusades. (Melissa Snell About.com) A Booklist 2008 Editors' Choice (Booklist - Editors' Choice) This slender volume provides an interesting insight into the way in which contemporary history has had an impact on studies of the crusades. (James M Powell Catholic Historical Reivew) Brimming with insights, approachable by anyone interested in the subject. (Thomas F. Madden First Things) An excellent book. (John France The International History ) About the Author Jonathan Riley-Smith, Dixie Professor Emeritus of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Cambridge, is the author of nine books, including *The Knights of St. John in Jerusalem and Cyprus, c. 1050-1310*; *The Feudal Nobility and the Kingdom of Jerusalem, 1174-1277*; *What Were the Crusades?* fourth edition; *The First Crusade and the Idea of Crusading*; *The Crusades: A History*, second edition; *The First Crusaders, 1095-1131*; and *Templars and Hospitallers as Professed Religious in the Holy Land*.