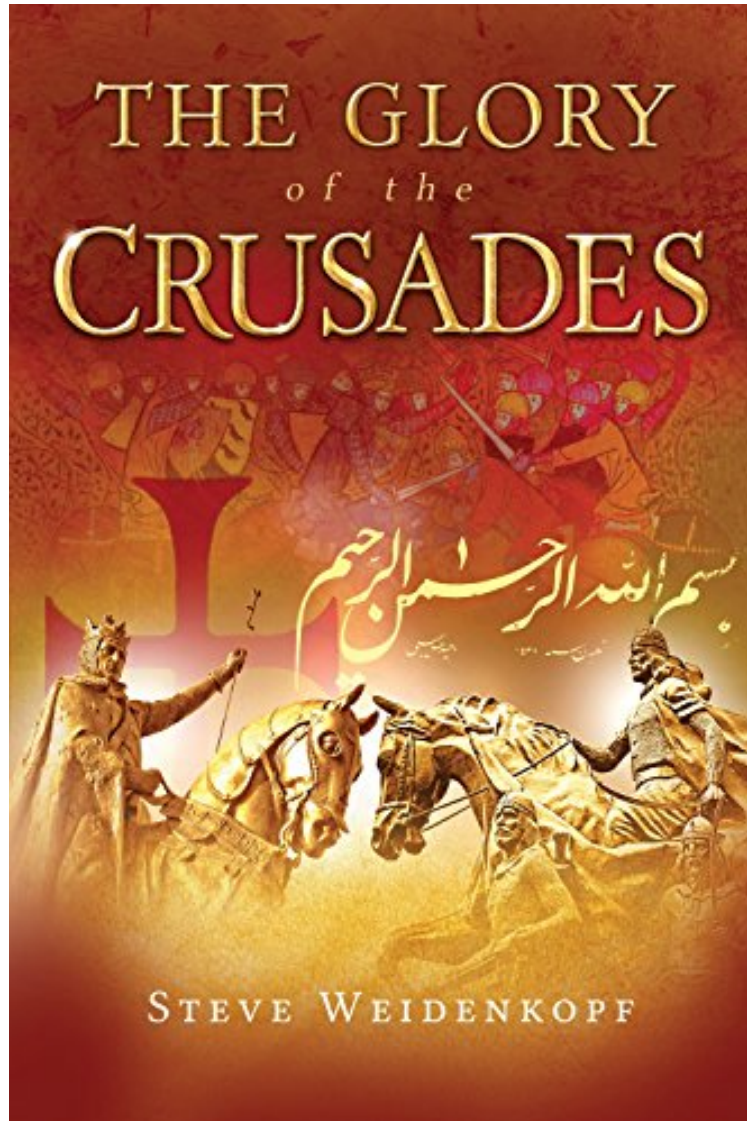


(Mobile book) The Glory of the Crusades

The Glory of the Crusades

Steve Weidenkopf

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Steve Weidenkopf : The Glory of the Crusades before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Glory of the Crusades:

62 of 62 people found the following review helpful. Concise and eminently readableBy Shane KaplerHillaire Belloc's The Crusades had been on my shelf for over a decade, but something in the style kept me from going past the first few pages. I'm happy to say that I had the opposite experience with Steve Weidenkopf's The Glory of the Crusades (Catholic Answers Press, 2014). I sailed through it in the course of a weekend.You are probably wondering about the use of the word "Glory" in the title. Weidenkopf certainly doesn't glorify violence. He using the word in its original

Hebrew sense, meaning "heavy in weight." In the preface he explains, "To recognize the glory of the Crusades means not to whitewash what was ignoble about them, but to call attention to the import in the life of the Church" (p.14). Weidenkopf is a fantastic story teller, and he used that talent to rather effortlessly lead the reader, in just over 240 pages, through six centuries of crusading history. In this sweeping narrative we are introduced to characters such as Godfrey de Bouillon and Richard the Lionhearted, as well as saints like Francis of Assisi, Bernard of Clairvaux, and St. King Louis IX of France. What I value most about this book is the way it unmasks the many myths about the Crusades - that they were wars of aggression, motivated by greed, the first movement in European colonialism. Weidenkopf shows how these false characterizations arose in the Reformation and Enlightenment. He provides a good review of the early Church's view of military service and the requirements of a "just war," contrasting these with Islamic jihad. When you finish this book, however, I doubt that you will have a triumphant feeling regarding the Crusades. You will understand the noble motivation that set them in motion - defense of pilgrims to, and Christians living in, the Holy Land - but you will see how frequently participants' fallen natures led them astray. There are many bright spots to be sure: acts of courage and sanctity - as well as divine providence, as at the Battle of Lepanto. More often than not, however, you will be reading accounts of failure, both moral and military. Weidenkopf's *The Glory of the Crusades* is a marvelous history - concise and eminently readable. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It includes the good, the bad and the ugly. By Robert Schanhaar This book tells the history of the time as it was then not as we view it as today. It includes the good, the bad and the ugly, but with the understanding that was the way life was at that time every where. It sheds considerable light on what the Crusades were and why they took place. It dispels much of the exaggerated mythology surrounding the Crusades. The world in Europe and the Middle East were quite different, lacking the fines of today. The same personality differences, dislikes, political jostling for power, and control, in other words we have the same political, social and human conduct problems today, not as crude by today's standards with a little more polish in conduct. An excellent book on an important time in history well worth reading. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Ever Wonder What the Crusades Were About? Great book - for Christians and non-Christians alike. By debau This book is informative and presented in an interesting way. It cleared up a lot of misconceptions I had from a lack of education about the historical events. While I did not think of it before I began reading, as I got into the book and learned, I found it especially timely given the issues with terrorism and extremism committed by people who often blame their Islamic faith. Loved the book.

How can the Crusades be called glorious? Our modern mindset says they were ugly wars of greed and religious intolerance a big reason why Christians and Muslims today can't coexist peacefully. Historian Steve Weidenkopf challenges this received narrative with *The Glory of the Crusades*. Drawing on the latest and most authentic medieval scholarship, he presents a compelling case for understanding the Crusades as they were when they happened: armed pilgrimages driven by a holy zeal to recover conquered Christian lands. Without whitewashing their failures and even crimes, he debunks the numerous myths about the Crusades that our secular culture uses as clubs to attack the Church. In place of these myths he offers men and women of faith and valor who pledged their lives for the honor of Christ's holy places. With a storyteller's gift, Weidenkopf relates the Crusades' many dramas, their heroes and villains, battles and sieges, intrigues and coincidences offering a vivid and engrossing account of events that, though centuries old, have profoundly affected the course of our world to the present day.

Steve Weidenkopf explodes common myths about the Crusades and reveals the nobility and heroism of the Crusaders. This is the book to give to anyone who invokes the Crusades as a blot on the Church's record. --Robert Spencer Author, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam (and the Crusades)* *The Glory of the Crusades* is valuable not only as history but also as a scholarly debunking of centuries of Protestant and Enlightenment distortion of the facts about the West's struggles against militant Islam. --Rev. C. John McCloskey Research fellow, Faith and Reason Institute This excellent book employs decades of scholarly research to show average readers what medieval historians have long known that popular culture's image of the Crusades has nothing at all to do with the events themselves. Catholics who cringe at the mention of the Crusades will find in this work a surprising and inspiring story of faith. --Thomas F. Madden Director, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University *From the Inside Flap* How can the Crusades be called "glorious"? Were they ugly wars of greed and religious intolerance is this the big reason why Christians and Muslims today can't coexist peacefully? Historian Steve Weidenkopf challenges this narrative. Drawing on the latest and most authentic medieval scholarship, he presents a compelling case for understanding the Crusades as they were when they happened: "armed pilgrimages" driven by a holy zeal to recover conquered Christian lands. Without whitewashing their failures and even crimes, he debunks the numerous myths about the Crusades that our secular culture uses as clubs to attack the Church. In place of these myths he offers men and women of faith and valor who pledged their lives for the honor of Christ's holy places. With a storyteller's gift, Weidenkopf relates the Crusades' many dramas - heroes and villains, battles and sieges, intrigues and coincidences - offering a vivid and engrossing account of events that have profoundly affected the course of our world to the present day.