Inter-Regional Interactions: The Crusades

Conflict between Muslims of Middle East and Christians of Europe
The World in 1050

• Europe is at its worst
• Middle East is at its best
  – Turks – migrants from central Asia who converted to Islam
• 1071 Seljuks had overrun Asia Minor and were forcing back Byzantines
  – Seljuks captured Jerusalem (Christian Holy Land)
Council of Clermont

- Byzantine Emperor Alexius I asks Pope Urban II for help
- Council of Clermont 1095 – Pope Urban calls on Christians to retake the holy land
Why people joined the crusades

- Religious Zeal
- Knights wanted wealth and land
- Erase Sins
- Adventure
First Crusade

• 1096-1099
• Captured Jerusalem
  – Celebrated by killing all Jews and Muslims within city walls
Second Crusade

- 1147-1149
- Fight to retake Christian land of Edessa
  - Louis VII – France
  - Conrad III - Germany
- Failed
Muslim General Saladin

- Declares Islamic Jihad (Holy war) against Christians to regain land
- Recaptures Jerusalem (1187)
Third Crusade – Kings Crusade

- 1182-1192
- Frederick Barbarossa (Germany) – dies en route
- Phillip Augustus (France) – Goes home after disagreement with Richard after capturing Acre
- Richard “Lionheart” (England)
  - Fail to recapture Jerusalem
    - Richard able to negotiate with Saladin to open Jerusalem to Christian Pilgrims
The Fourth Crusade

- 1202-1204
- On the way to attack Egypt
  - Attack money supply of Muslims
  - Instead sack and loot Constantinople
The Children’s Crusade

• 1212
• Two groups of children lead a crusade
  – French
    • 30,000 led by Stephen of Cloyes
    • Most died in shipwreck or sold into slavery
  – German Children
    • 20,000 led by Nicholas
    • Turned away by Pope
      – Either died returning home
      – Boarded ship in Pisa and never heard from again
The World in 1291

- All lands taken by Christians back in hands of Muslims
- Last city to fall is Acre, all Christians killed within city
Impacts of the Crusades

• Brought many luxury goods to Europe
  – Boats would take crusaders to Holy land and would bring back goods to sell in Europe (Fabrics, Spices, Perfumes, Sugar, Cotton, Rice)

• Could increase taxes (Citing Religious need) = Increased power and prestige of Monarchs

• More Hatred between West and East
  – Byzantines not happy about Constantinople

• Europe looks World Wide
  – 1271 Marco Polo Heads on journey to investigate other goods to sell in Europe