AIM: WHAT WERE THE PREDOMINANT OBJECTIVES OF THE CRUSADES?
JOURNAL ENTRY

HOW CAN RELIGION BE UTILIZED AS A MEAN TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL & ECONOMIC OBJECTIVE?

CAN ORGANIZED RELIGION EVER SEGREGATE ITSELF FROM POLITICS? Examples - Catholic Church during Middle Ages Explain.
I. WHAT WERE THE CRUSADES?

Holy Wars (11\textsuperscript{th} & 12\textsuperscript{th} ct.) sponsored by the Catholic church.

Conflict between Christians and Muslims.
II. WHAT WAS THE GOAL OF THE CRUSADES?

To reclaim the holy land (Jerusalem) from the Muslims.
the CRUSADES 1095-1289
III. Why were the Crusades called and supported?

- Byzantine Emperor Alexius I’s plea for help as his Empire was threatened by the Seljuk Turks.

- 1095- Council of Clermont: Pope Urban II issued edict that called for Christians everywhere to unite in a war against the Turks.
Although, O sons of God, you have promised more firmly than ever to keep the peace among yourselves and to preserve the rights of the church, there remains still an important work for you to do. Freshly quickened by the divine correction, you must apply the strength of your righteousness to another matter which concerns you as well as God. For your brethren [brothers] who live in the east are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid which has often been promised them. For, as the most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania [the Greek empire] as far west as the shore of the Mediterranean and the Hellespont, which is called the Arm of St. George. They have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians, and have overcome them in seven battles. They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire. If you permit them to continue thus for awhile with impurity {not pure}, the faithful of God will be much more widely attacked by them. On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ's heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile {disgusting} race from the lands of our friends... Moreover, Christ commands it.”

All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission {forgiveness} of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent {all-powerful} God and is made glorious with the name of Christ!....


Q-1a → Why does Pope Urban II want Christians to go to the Middle East to fight?

Q-1b → What reward does he give to those who respond to his appeal?
If Pope raised a large army it would make him leader of the Christian world.

Crusades would increase Roman influence in the Greek east after 1054 ECCLESIASTICAL SCHISM.
PROFIT - merchants made money off of loans, sales of goods, prospect of opening new trade routes.

A guaranteed spot in heaven; all sins forgiven if died in battle.
"[After Urban had aroused the spirits of all by the promise of forgiveness to those who undertook the expedition with single-hearted devotion.] toward one hundred thousand men were appointed to the immediate service of God from Aquitaine and Normandy, England, Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, Galicia, Gascony, France, Flanders, Lorraine, and from other Christian peoples, whose names I no longer retain. It was truly an army of “crusaders,” for they bore the sign of the cross on their garments as a reminder that they should mortify {severely discipline} the flesh, and in the hope that they would in this way triumph over the enemies of the cross of Christ, as it had once come to pass in the case of the great Constantine. Thus, through the marvelous and unexampled working of divine dispensation {release}, all these members of Christ, so different in speech, origin, and nationality, were suddenly brought together as one body through their love of Christ."

**SOURCE:** Ekkehard's *Hierosolymita*, a history, 1099.
AIM: WHY WERE THE CRUSADES IDENTIFIED AS ONE OF HISTORY’S MOST “SUCCESSFUL FAILURES”?

Anna Comnena, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius I, was 14 years old when the Crusaders arrived in Constantinople in 1096. After the death of her husband in 1137, she turned her extensive literary education to writing a history of her father's reign. Although Anna claimed to be writing an objective history, it is not a very reliable source for reconstructing events. Writing from memory 40 years after the event, she left many details fuzzy. The title of the work, the Alexiad, also gives us clues as to the purpose of the work. Anna was consciously referring to Homer's epic the Iliad, and was trying to portray her father in heroic terms. Even so, this is one of the most important sources we have of the Crusades.

Before [the Byzantine emperor] had enjoyed even a short rest, he heard a report of the approach of innumerable Frankish armies. Now he dreaded their arrival for he knew their irresistible manner of attack, their unstable and mobile character and all the peculiar natural and concomitant characteristics which the Frank retains throughout; and he also knew that they were always averse for money, and seemed to disregard their truces readily for any reason that cropped up. For he had always heard this reported of them, and found it very true. However, he did not lose heart, but prepared himself in every way so that, when the occasion called, he would be ready for battle. And indeed the actual facts were far greater and more terrible than rumor made them. For the whole of the West and all the barbarian tribes which dwell between the further side of the Adriatic and the pillars of Heracles, had all migrated in a body and were marching into Asia through the intervening Europe, and were making the journey with all their household. . . . And they were all so zealous and eager that every highroad was full of them. And those Frankish soldiers were accompanied by an unarmed host more numerous than the sand or the stars, carrying palms and crosses on their shoulders; women and children, too, came away from their countries. And the sight of them was like many rivers streaming from all sides, and they were advancing towards us through Dacia generally with all their hosts. . . .

The incidents of the barbarians approach followed in the order I have described, and persons of intelligence could feel that they were witnessing a strange occurrence. The arrival of these multitudes did not take place at the same time nor by the same road (for how indeed could such masses starting from different places have crossed the straits of Lombardy all together?). Some first, some next, others after them and thus successively all accomplished the transit, and then marched through the continent. Each army was preceded, as we said, by an unspeakable number of locusts; and all who saw this more than once recognized them as forerunners of the Frankish armies.

But though the Emperor wished to attach himself to the Gauls and advance with them against the barbarians, yet, fearing their countless multitude, he decided to go to Pelecanum, in order that by camping near Nicaea he might learn what was happening to the Gauls, and also learn the undertakings of the Turks outside, as well as the conditions in the city. . . .
The august Emperor tarried about Pelacanum for some time, since he desired those Galliec counts who were not yet bound to him also to take the oath of loyalty. To this end, he sent a letter to Butumites, asking all the counts in common not to start upon the journey to Antioch until they had said farewell to the Emperor. If they did this, they would all be showered with new gifts by him. Bohemund was the first to prick up his ears at the mention of money and gifts. Quickly won by these words of Butumites, he strove industriously to force all the others to return to the Emperor -- so greatly did cupidity move the man. The Emperor received them on their arrival at Pelacanum with magnificence and the greatest show of good-will. At length, when they were assembled, he addressed them thus: "You know that you have all bound yourselves to me by oath; if you do not now intend to ignore this, advise and persuade those of your number who have not yet pledged faith to take the oath." They immediately summoned the counts who had not sworn. All of these came together and took the oath.

Tancered, however, nephew of Bohemund and a youth of most independent spirit, professed that he owed faith to Bohemund alone, and would serve him even to death. Rebuked by the loud protest of those of his own fellows who stood near, and of the Emperor's retinue, besides, he turned toward the tent in which the Emperor was then dwelling -- the largest and most capacious which anyone has ever seen -- and, as if to make sport of them, said, "If you give me this (tent) full of money and, in addition, all the other presents which you gave all the counts, I, too, will take the oath." But Palaeologus, full of zeal for the Emperor, could not endure the mocking speech of Tancred and pushed him away with contempt. Then Tancred, very ready with his arms, sprang upon him. Seeing this, the Emperor arose hastily from his seat and stood between them. Bohemund, too, restrained the youth, saying "It is not fitting shamefully to strike the kinsman of the Emperor." Then Tancred, recognizing the disgrace of his insolence toward Palaeologus, and persuaded by the advice of Bohemund and the others, offered to take the oath himself.

Analysis Questions

- Alexius had asked the pope to raise military support against the Turks. What did he get?
- How does Anna describe the Franks?
- What does her description of the Franks tell us about her own values and assumptions?
I. WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME OF THE CRUSADES?

❖ There were 8 unsuccessful Crusade campaigns over the course of nearly 2 centuries.
❖ The Muslims continued to control Jerusalem.
II. WHAT WAS THE POLITICAL LEGACY OF THE CRUSADES?

- Weakened power of the pope, increased power of kings.
April 1204 (Fourth Crusade) – Crusaders and Venetians destroyed Constantinople solidifying the split between Roman and Greek church.
VI. What was the social legacy of the Crusades?

Women gained greater social and economic status as they were given control of family assets and business while their husbands were off at war.

“Aristocratic Diaspora” – movement of knights to the Christian frontier – Christianity was on the move again.
VII. What was the economic impact of the Crusades?

- Commerce and trade between the Middle East and Europe was formulated.
VIII. What was the religious legacy of the Crusades?

❖ **ANTI-SEMITISM** – prejudice against the Jews at the hands of the Christians – Jewish businesspeople helped finance the Crusades – the Christians were resentful of being in debt to the Jews.

❖ A permanent bitterness between Christians and Muslims (and to an extent Jews) was forged.
....“At this time arrogant people, a people of strange speech, a nation bitter and impetuous (impulsive) Frenchmen and Germans, set out for the Holy City, which had been desecrated (a violation of sacredness) by barbaric nations, there to seek their house of idolatry (worship of idols) and banish (expel) the Ishmaelites (Muslims) and other denizens (inhabitants) of the land...Their ranks swelled until the number of men, women, and children exceeded a locust horde (large nomadic group) covering the earth;...Now it came to pass that as they passed through the towns where Jews dwelled, they said to one another: ‘Look now, we are going a long way to seek out the profane (vulgar) shrine and to avenge ourselves on the Ismaelites; when here, in our midst, are the Jews—they whose forefathers murdered and crucified him for no reason. Let us first avenge ourselves on them and exterminate them from among the nations so that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered, or let them adopt our faith and acknowledge the offspring of promiscuity (casual sex).’”


Q-5a → What did the Crusaders do to the Jews they encountered on their way to the Holy Land?

Q-5b → What was their reason for doing what they did?
CRUSADES
CONCLUDING
JOURNAL ENTRY

1. What were the most important results of the Crusades?

2. How have the effects of the Crusades been delineated within contemporary International politics in the Middle East?