



0. Kingdom of Heaven - Story Preface

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Photograph of the walls of old Jerusalem taken by Eitan Vitkon, November, 2005. Image online courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0

*Frequently he burned with anxiety
because the warfare he engaged in
as a knight seemed to be contrary
to the Lord's commands.*

Gesta Tancredi ("Deeds of Tancred")
A Leader of the First Crusade and Conqueror of Jerusalem,
1099

The eleventh century is nearing its end. Jerusalem, a place where people of different faiths had once lived peacefully together, is a city holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Since 638, when Caliph Omar (Muhammad's successor) captured the city for the Muslims, it has been under Islamic rule.

Pope Gregory VII is concerned about continued Muslim control (the link depicts Omar's code/covenant) over Christianity's most sacred sites and relics. In a 1074 letter, the pope issues the first call for what would later be known as a crusade:

He [a visitor to the pontiff] repeated what we had heard from many others, that a pagan race had overcome the Christians and with horrible cruelty had devastated everything almost to the walls of Constantinople ... we should lay down our lives to liberate them.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Kingdom-of-Heaven>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

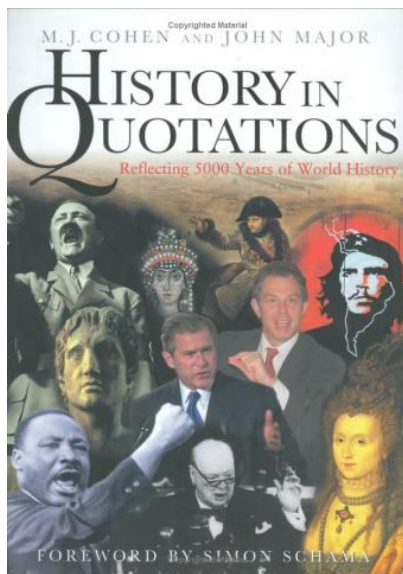
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Gesta Tancredi

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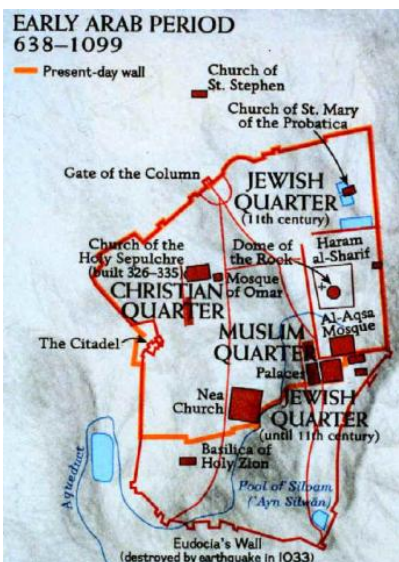


History in Quotations - by M.J. Cohen

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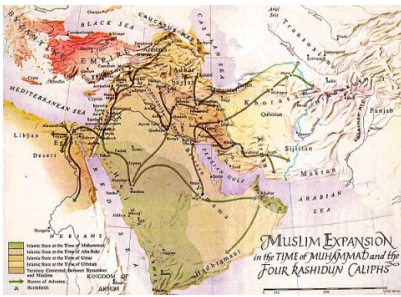


Early Arab Period 638 - 1099 - Map

Image online, courtesy [Syracuse University](http://Syracuse University website) website.

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Muslim Expansion - Map

Image online, courtesy Princeton University website.

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Pope Gregory VII

Image online, courtesy Vatican.

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Omar's Code

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Kingdom of Heaven

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