

8. Islam: Turkish Empires

I. The Seljuk Turks

Seljuk Turks were pagan nomads from the steppes of central Asia, who converted to Islam (Sunni) c. 985. In the 11th cent. they migrated into Persia, adopting Persian language and culture.

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1071 Seljuk Turks defeated the Byzantine emperor Romanus Diogenes at Manzikert. In the next few years the Byzantines lost nearly all of Asia Minor. In 1077 the Seljuk commander Suleyman established an independent Seljuk state: the Sultanate of Rum (1077-1307), with its capital at Iznik (Nicaea), later moved to Konya. This sultanate lasted into the early 14th cent.

Meanwhile the Seljuk Turks captured Jerusalem from the Fatimids of Egypt in 1073, and expelled the Christian priests in 1091. In 1098 the Fatimids re-took the city.

II. The Crusades

A. First Crusade (1095-99)

1095 Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos requested assistance to fight the Turks in Anatolia.

1095 Pope Urban II, at the Council of Clermont, called Christians to fight. The people responded: *Deus vult* or *Dieu le veut* (God wills it).

1096 First Crusade departed, after first killing many Jews in the Rhineland.

1099 captured Jerusalem after 5-week siege. Killed most non-Christians and many Christians; expelled the remainder. Didn't return the city to the Byzantines.

Greek Patriarch moved to Cyprus. Property of Greek church given to Latin church. Godfrey of Bouillon adopted title *Advocatus sancti sepulchri*, Protector of the Holy Sepulchre; later appointed Patriarch. When he died in 1100, his brother had himself crowned as King Baldwin I of Jerusalem, with el-Aqsa mosque as his palace; moved to the Citadel in 1118.

1104 took Akko, renamed it St Jean d'Acre.

Crusader states were established: Edessa, Antioch, Jerusalem, Tripoli.

1119 Order of Knights Templar founded to protect pilgrims to Jerusalem; based in el-Aqsa mosque; wear white cloak with red cross.

B. Second Crusade (1147-49)

1144 fall of Edessa led Pope Eugene III to preach a second crusade. Bernard of Clairvaux was the spiritual leader of the crusade. Many more Jews killed in Rhineland. The crusade was a failure.

Baldwin IV king of Jerusalem (1174-1185) had leprosy.

Saladin *Ṣalāḥ ad-Dīn Yūsuf ibn Ayyūbi* (Kurdish; born Tikrit, c 1137/38; son of Ayyub). Founded the Ayyubid Dynasty (1171-1341). First Ayyubid Sultan of Egypt & Syria (1174-93).

1187 Saladin defeated the Crusaders at the Horns of Hittim; besieged and took Jerusalem (defended by Balian d'Iblyn). Captured all but the capital cities of the crusader states.

C. Third Crusade (1189-92)

Led by Philip II of France and Henry II of England (†1189, succeeded by Richard I (the Lionheart)); and by the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa with a large German army. Jews killed in England.

Unable to take Jerusalem.

1191 recovered Acre (Akko), making it the capital of the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem.

D. Fourth Crusade (1202-04)

Another crusade was called to recapture Jerusalem. Venice was contracted to build a large fleet to transport the crusaders; this took one year and considerable expense. But a much smaller army arrived in Venice; unable to pay the full bill which Venice demanded. Alexios IV, son of the recently deposed Byzantine emperor, promised to pay the balance if they would depose Alexios III.

1203 crusaders captured Constantinople; Alexios III fled; reinstated the deposed emperor, who found it difficult to raise the funds for Venice.

1204 crusaders sacked Constantinople, followed by 3 days of looting. Established the Latin Kingdom (1204-61).

E. Later Crusades

- Fifth Crusade (1213-21): unable to take Jerusalem.
- Sixth Crusade (1228-29): took Jerusalem, re-establishing the Kingdom of Jerusalem (1229-1245), until taken by the Khwarzemians.
- Seventh Crusade (1248-54): led by Louis IX of France, who was captured by Mamluk Egypt, and ransomed at high cost.
- Eighth Crusade (1270): diverted from Egypt to Tunis which was besieged; another disastrous crusade; Louis IX and many crusaders died.
- Ninth Crusade (1271-72); Edward I of England, who had arrived in Tunis too late, went to Acre (again the capital of what was left of the Kingdom of Jerusalem), but returned to England where he was crowned king.

(The 5th and 6th Crusades are sometimes counted as one, as are the 8th and 9th).

1291 Fall and destruction of Acre; end of the Crusader states. Acre lay uninhabited for 200 yrs.

III. The Mongol Invasions

1243 Mongols defeated Seljuk Turks.

IV. The Ottoman Empire

modern Turkish *Osmanlı*.

The Sultanate of Rum disintegrated in the late 13th cent. into many small states, the Ghazi emirates.

1299 sultanate founded by Osman I (1258-1326) in nw Anatolia (his father had come from Merv). He captured Bursa in 1324, making it the capital.

Subsequent rulers captured Thessaoniki 1387, and defeated the Serbs at Kosovo 1389.

1453 sack of Constantinople by Mehmed II (the Conqueror); last Byzantine emperor Constantine XI was killed.

Mehmed claimed the caliphate.

Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-66): besieged Vienna 1529, captured Baghdad 1535, built the current walls of Jerusalem.

1683 another siege of Vienna

1922 Ottoman sultanate abolished.

1924 Ottoman caliphate abolished.

A. The millet system

Arabic *millah* "nation."

Christianity and the Middle East

System originated in the Sassanid Empire (Zoroastrian); the Catholicos/Patriarch of the East was leader of all Christians within the empire, answering directly to the Persian king.

Millet: religious community allowed self-rule under own legal system: Muslim *Sharia*, Christian canon law, Jewish *halaka*. All millets were inferior to Muslim.

Christian millets were created by Mehmed II after the capture of Constantinople 1453.

Rum millet under the Ecumenical Patriarch: all former Byzantine (Greek) Christians.

Armenian: originally included all other churches of the East.

other churches of the East: granted own millet: Syriac Orthodox, Chaldean Catholic, Syriac Catholic, Church of the East (Nestorian).

Jewish millet.

By the outbreak of World War I there were 17 millets.

In the late 19th century various Western powers forced Capitulations, granting protection over their "people."

The millet system survives in many post-Ottoman Middle-Eastern countries: Israel, Iraq, Palestinian territories, etc.