--<u>The Islamic menace in the east</u> and the overrunning of sacred sites was disturbing. This became more important in the light of the stress the Medieval church gave to pilgrimmages, sacred rites, relics, etc., and to the sacerdotal image of the Holy Land. The persecution of Christians in and at these places fueled a fire of resentment towards the Islamic pretensions.

--<u>The Chiliastic hope</u> also bore a striking influence. As the church neared the end of the thousand years of the church's existence, there was a general enthusiasm for "bringing in the Kingdom". Certainly the defeat of the Islamic armies was seen as an extension of the Kingdom of God, long overdue, and the faithful could hope for an even more dramatic fulfillment.

--<u>The Weakness of the Eastern Empire</u> was a major factor. While it sought to keep itself, it also called for a fraternal show of strength from the west. Islam kept cutting off the trade routes, etc., and became increasingly personna non grata. Had the Eastern Empire been strong enough to resist these forces and maintain communications, there would have been much less a call for a holy war.

--<u>The conquest desires of the kings</u> was no small part of the total picture. It led them to seek a common foe and a more glamourous warfare. The romance of sacred adventure was a prime point and the promise of both temporal and eternal rewards was large.

--<u>The need of a rally for the church</u> likewise entered into the picture. Such a service could do two things. 1) it could give the church a project in which all could serve and 2) it would divert attention from the wrongs and difficulties existing in the church structure and needing correction.

--<u>A point to reinforce feudalism</u>...while it may not have been of major consequence...it is a factor that cannot be forgotten. There was a lot of unrest in the feudal camps and the crusades offered a point of common cause for both the Lord and the slave. It would (the crusades would) relieve the tedium and frustration of the Mediaeval society.