

fuller discussion is found in Walker, naturally, and we need make no further note of it here...save that the date was 1204.

The Children's Crusade

Organized in 1212 by a group of visionary children, the concept was that the Muslim forces would fail before a band of innocents marching on their land. Many died on the way...many got to Greece and were taken on ship to Palestine but sold as slaves in Egypt. A good example of an ill-timed, poorly planned event. It is thought in literary tales that the Legend of the Pied Piper is related to this...the children following the piper in the hopes of achieving greatness.

One of the difficulties in visualizing this is the failure to understand how many homeless children there were in the Medieval period...scads of 'em. And a couple of visionaries...when the children have neither homes nor anything to do...made it possible. Many died, many went back, many were sold into slavery, but apparently none ever faced the Muslim armies.

The Sixth Crusade

Discounting the pretensions at a fifth crusade, Frederick of Germany was honor bound to lead a crusade even though he did not like the idea. His efforts were not pushed with military finesse but he did get an agreement with the Sultan that opened Jerusalem for pilgrimages, etc., from 1228-1244. By diplomacy and tact he gained more than most of the armies had done and the church was satisfied with his vow.

In summary regarding the Crusades, we may say that they did not save the world from Islam. If anything they weakened the Eastern Empire and hastened its demise. The barbaric nature of the crusaders made the Islamics hate them with greater fervor and transfer this hate to more innocent Christians in years to come. On the positive side the crusades hastened the end of feudalism, stimulated trade east and west, and provided a lot of good copy for later literature as well as giving rise to some needful new inventions, etc. Not all negative but lots of negative impressions.