

**HELPS FOR STUDENTS  
OF HISTORY, NO. 37;  
THE LATIN ORIENT**

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Helps for Students of History, No. 37; The Latin Orient by William Miller

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**WILLIAM MILLER**

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**THE LATIN ORIENT**

**HELPS FOR STUDENTS OF HISTORY, No. 87**

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# THE LATIN ORIENT

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## THE LATIN ORIENT

**THE Latin States, which arose in the Middle Ages in the Near East, may be divided into six groups:**

**1. The Crusading States in Palestine, which were the offspring of the First Crusade, and comprised:**

- (a) The Kingdom of Jerusalem (1099-1291).*
- (b) The Principality of Antioch (1098-1188; the city till 1268).*
- (c) The County of Edessa (1098-1144).*
- (d) The County of Tripolis (1102-88; the city till 1289).*

**2. The Kingdom of Cyprus, which, founded by an accident, nominally continued the Kingdom of Jerusalem till it ended as a Venetian colony (1191-1571).**

**3. The Frankish States, which sprang from the ruins of the Greek Empire as the result of the Fourth Crusade.**

- (a) The Latin Empire of Constantinople, or of Romania (1204-61).*
- (b) The Latin Kingdom of Salonika (1204-28).*
- (c) The Duchy of Athens (1205-1460).*
- (d) The Principality of Achaia (1205-1482).*
- (e) The County Palatine of Cephalonia (1194-1488).*



(f) The Duchy of the Archipelago (1207-1566).

4. The Venetian Colonies in Greece and Albania:

(a) Crete (1205-1669; two Cretan forts till 1715).

(b) Negroponte (1209-1470).

(c) The Ionian Islands (1206-14; and various dates from 1886 to 1797).

(d) The Ægean Colonies: Tenedos, Tenos, Mykenos, Ægina, Northern Sporades, etc. (1375-88; and various dates from 1890 to 1715).

(e) The Colonies in Northern Greece: Pteleon, Lepanto, Salonika (various dates from 1323 to 1470).

(f) The Colonies in the Morea: Modon, Coron, Nauplia, Monemvasia, etc. (various dates from 1206 to 1540).

(g) The Venetian Revival in the Morea (1685-1715).

(h) The Albanian Colonies (1205-15; and various dates from 1892 to 1571).

5. The Genoese Colonies:

(a) The Black Sea Colonies: Caffa, La Tana, Balaclava, Soldaja, etc. (various dates from c. 1250 to 1475).

(b) Smyrna (1261-c. 1800; 1844-1402).

(c) Phocæa, Chios, Samos, and Ikaria (various dates from 1275 to 1340; 1346-1566).

(d) Lesbos (1333-86; 1355-1462).

6. The Knights of Rhodes (1309-1522).

Thus, in one place or another, Latin domination subsisted in the Near East from the creation

of the County of Edessa in 1098 to the fall of Venice and the consequent loss of the Ionian Islands in 1797. Even then French rule existed intermittently in some or all of the Ionian Islands till 1814; in 1912 Italy occupied Rhodes and twelve other islands of the Lower Ægean, and in 1914 re-established herself at Valona, which Venice had held in 1690-91. Latin rule also took various forms: sometimes that of a feudal State, of which the Principality of Achaia is the best example; sometimes that of a colony, such as Crete; while at Rhodes it presented that of a military and religious Order, and at Chios the more modern type of a joint-stock, chartered company. But everywhere it had to face the difficult problem of governing a race of different political aspirations and different religion, which, in the Near East, is intermixed with politics. Except in a few cases, such as the Gattilusj of Lesbos, the Latin rulers remained to the last aliens, whose hold over their subjects was an artificial and unnatural creation of an age which regarded the Near East much as our generation regards Africa—as so much territory to be partitioned among European races. Consequently, to Greek writers, the Crusades assumed a very different aspect from that which they presented to Western historians, and the Turk was often welcomed by the subject populations as a relief from the Latin oppressor. The whole history of Greece under foreign domination, even when that domination is at its lightest and best, as in the case of the British

in the Ionian Islands and Cyprus, teaches that the Hellenes, like most people, prefer even a less competent Government of their own to the most benevolent administration of aliens in race, religion, and traditions. But there is no more romantic episode in history than that commemorated in the second part of "Faust," which wedded the feudal system with biblical and classical lands, giving us Princes of Galilee and Princes of Achaia, Viscounts of Nazareth and Dukes of Athens.