

# **ESSAYS ON THE CRUSADES**

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Essays on the Crusades by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**ESSAYS ON  
THE CRUSADES**



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*Dana C. Munro,*

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## INTRODUCTION.

**A** HUNDRED years ago the French Academy offered a prize for the best work on the influence of the crusades. This offer produced two volumes, by Heeren and Choiseul-Daillecourt, which attracted much attention. But the action of the Academy was premature; at that time it was not possible to discuss the subject in a satisfactory manner. The necessary preliminary work in editing and criticizing the sources had scarcely been begun.

Realizing this, Ranke, some thirty years later, chose the sources for the first crusade as the subject for his seminar work. The outcome was the "Geschichte des ersten Kreuzzugs," published by Sybel, who had been one of Ranke's pupils. This placed the whole study of the crusades on a new basis, as Sybel demonstrated conclusively the unreliability of William of Tyre's account of the first crusade, on which earlier writers had relied. Some of Sybel's other statements aroused opposition which led to more careful study.

About the middle of the nineteenth century a group of able French scholars began the publication of the "Recueil des Historiens des Croisades." Up to the present time there have been published in this series fourteen large folio volumes, including Western, Greek, Arabic, Armenian, and legal sources. In addition other sources in each field have been edited critically. So that now, although much still remains to be done we have a large body of trustworthy material for the history of the crusades.

## INTRODUCTION

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In the last thirty years Riant, Röhricht, Hagenmeyer, Kugler, and others, have published many special studies and critical editions of sources. Heyd has illuminated the whole subject of the commerce between the Orient and the Occident. Finlay and his successors have placed the Byzantine history in an entirely new light. The Orientalists have made a promising beginning on the Arabic and Armenian historical works. Many legal documents have been unearthed and published. As a result of these special studies we are now in a position to coördinate their conclusions, and to discuss the influence of the crusades, or the relations which existed between the Franks and the Eastern peoples with whom they came into contact.

A beginning was made twenty years ago when Prutz published his "Kulturgeschichte der Kreuzzüge." This is the most important work on the subject; but it is unsatisfactory because Prutz did not have access to a sufficient amount of source-material. It is interesting to note in the essay on "The Economic Development of Western Europe under the Influence of the Crusades," the modifications, additions, or corrections which the work of the last two decades has rendered necessary. Readers who are not familiar with his history have an opportunity here to learn the point of view which he had reached after long study.

Although many of the conclusions set forth in this volume have not appeared in any English work, they have been drawn already by foreign writers and may be regarded as well established. On the other hand, it should be remembered that these are "essays" and that some of the points are still under discussion. For example, in the essay on "Christian and Infidel in the Holy Land," the character of the Franks is portrayed in a much more

favorable light than in any previous work. The sources, accessible at present, seem to justify this and the arguments might have been made even stronger by more extensive citations. But it is possible that new sources and more extended study may compel us to modify the statements.

In the essay on "The Byzantine Empire and the Crusades," Diehl insists that the Emperor Alexius did not summon the crusaders. Röhricht and Hagenmeyer believe that he did. Their names and arguments carry great weight; on the other hand, it should be remembered that Diehl is one of the most learned and trustworthy authorities on Byzantine matters. As a whole, he sets forth the actions and motives of the Greek emperors more favorably than previous writers have done.

These examples show the opportunities for further critical work on the crusades. To the men of the present day the subject may well have a special fascination; for that age was a period of expansion, similar in some respects to that in which we are now living.

DANA C. MUNRO.

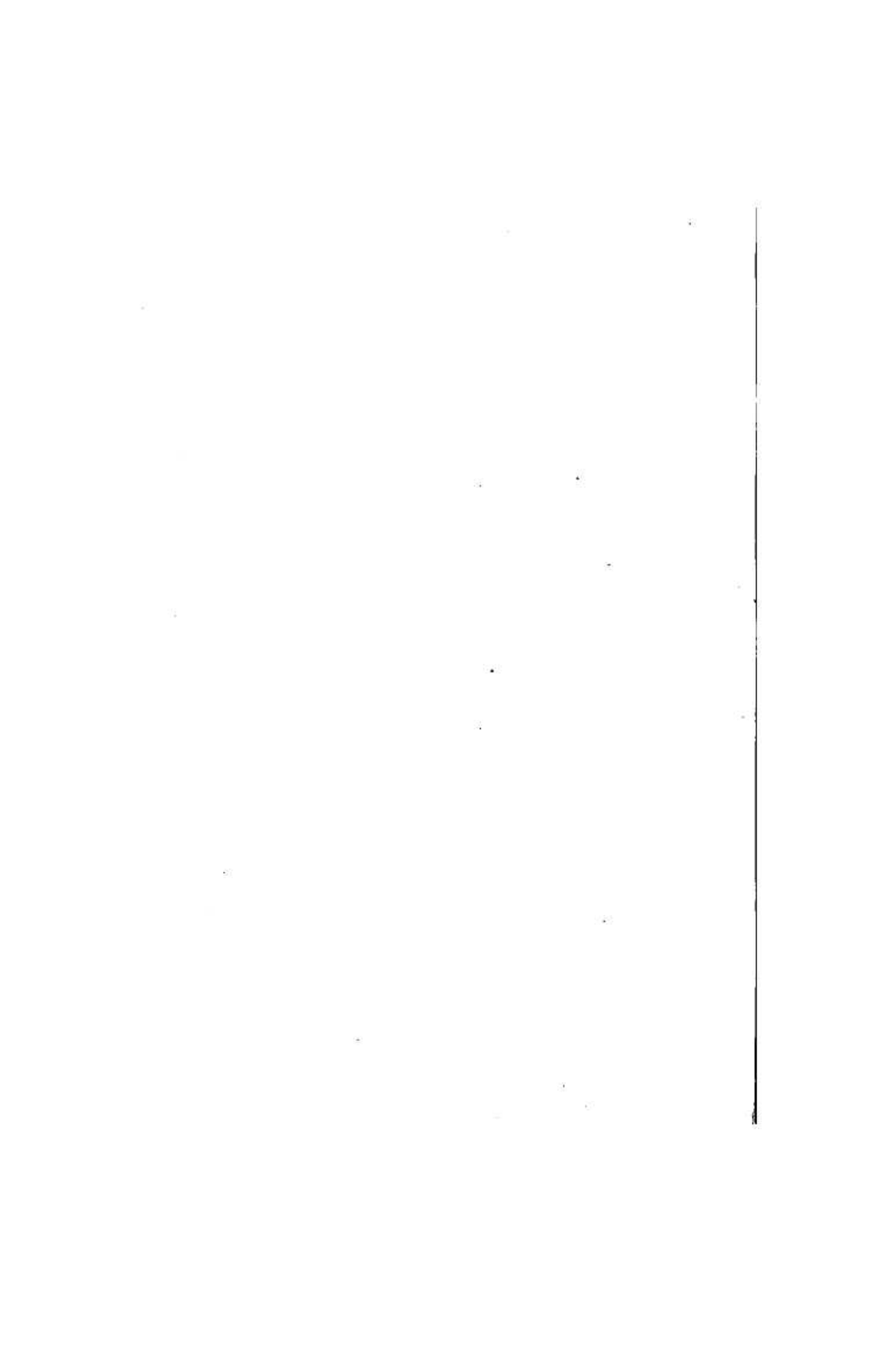


CHRISTIAN AND INFIDEL IN THE  
HOLY LAND



DANA C. MUNRO





## CHRISTIAN AND INFIDEL IN THE HOLY LAND



THE term crusade, when pronounced, arouses in our minds the thought of a holy war. We picture the crusaders as devout warriors, full of fanaticism, waging incessant strife against the infidels. The latter we think of as equally fanatical, engaged in a Jihad, a holy war of extermination, against the Christians. These ideas are derived originally from the works of the contemporary chroniclers, both Frankish and Mohammedan. The crusaders who wrote the chronicles were usually members of the clergy and were interested chiefly in depicting the victories and defeats of the soldiers of the cross. They represented the kings as indefatigable warriors. They regarded the slaughter of the Mussulmans as a pious duty. The Moslem chroniclers foster the same idea, for, in speaking of the Franks, they repeat constantly, "May Allah curse them!" Thus has been formed the belief in the fanati-