The Crusades

Including the Just War theory and a glance at the Knights Templar
The Just War Theory

• War is a part of human history. People desire peace but then fight.

• War is thought of as something real and peace as the absence of fighting but
  – If we want peace we must work for justice,
  – peace that is created without justice is not peace but oppression

• Peace is what is real and war is the absence of peace
  – peace is the condition of society where individuals and communities can thrive
  – the common good or in Hebrew shalom

• What happens when acts of aggression attack the common good; that disrupts peace? We must stop it!
  – We must pursue peace--Ps 34:15 & Heb. 12:14
The Just War Theory

• Aquinas put forth the Just War Theory this way:
  – War must occur for a good and just purpose rather than for self-gain or as an exercise of power.
    • For example, "in the nation's interest" is not just
  – Just war must be waged by a properly instituted authority such as the state
  – Peace must be a central motive even in the midst of violence.
The Just War Theory

• Catechism of the Catholic Church #2309, lists four strict conditions for "legitimate defense by military force":
  – the damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;
  – all other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;
  – there must be serious prospects of success;
  – the use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated.
• The power as well as the precision of modern means of destruction weighs very heavily in evaluating this condition.
This PowerPoint

• Using the Just War theory, we will quickly examine the Crusades
  – Also look at the Knights Templars
• We want to know if the Crusades were a just war (then and now)
• We want to draw lessons from the Crusades as well
Before the Crusades

• Fighting was part of Medieval Life.

• A Kingdom would be divided between the heirs and they would fight it out for control.

• The Truce of God, forbid warfare on certain days
Before the Crusades

• 1071--Turks defeat Greek army at the battle of Manzikert

• 1081--Emperor Alexios I asks the Pope for help
The First Crusade

• 11/27/1095--Pope Urban II calls for the 1st Crusade
• He unites war, penance, pilgrimage, indulgences, and fighting for Christ and not against other Christians in a way that no one could expect
• He had no idea what would happen
The First Crusade

• When the people heard the call, they cried out Deus vult (God wills it)!

• This would be the battle cry of the Crusaders
The First Crusade

- Each person going on the Crusade would be given a cloth cross
- The journey itself was long and difficult
- This was embraced as a pilgrimage to free the holy land
The First Crusade

• Peter the Hermit preached a crusade and thousands of peasants showed up to defend the Holy Land

• They got to Constantinople before the knights did

• The Emperor would not let them into the City
The First Crusade

• 10/21/1097-6/3/1098--Siege of Antioch

• In one of the great horrors of the Crusades, many of the peasants who survived to this point resorted to cannibalism.
The First Crusade

- 7/15/1099--Jerusalem falls to the Crusaders
- This was the most successful Crusade
In Between the Crusades

- The Crusaders set up Kingdoms in Edessa, Antioch, and Jerusalem
- They provided safe passage for pilgrims
- They were not liked by anyone, the Byzantines or the Muslims
Between the Crusades

- 1120--Foundation of the Knights Templar
- They were formed to protect the pilgrims on the road to Jerusalem
The Second Crusade

- 12/1/1145--Pope Eugenius III calls for the 2nd Crusade
- 1146-1147--Bernard of Clairvaux preaches 2nd Crusade
Saladin

- 3/23/1169--Egypt submits to Saladin
- 1174--Saladin takes over Damascus
- 10/2/1187--Saladin takes Jerusalem
Saladin

- Saladin had a reputation for mercy and it is thought that the idea of chivalry came to the West through him.
- After a battle, he would have the Knights Templar killed because they would not renounce Christ.
The Third Crusade

- 10/29/1187--Pope Gregory calls for the 3rd Crusade
- June 1191--Richard I takes Cyprus
- 7/12/1191--Richard I & Philip II take Acre
- 9/2/1191--Treaty of Jaffa
Fourth Crusade

- August 1198--Innocent III calls for the 4th Crusade

- 4/12-15/1204--Sack of Constantinople
The Children’s Crusade

• In 1212 one of the most bazar and saddest events of the Crusades took place--the Children’s Crusade

• A boy claimed that Jesus told him to lead a Crusade to peacefully convert Muslims to Christianity.
• Through a series of miracles he gained a following of up to as many as 30,000 children.
• He led them to the Sea, believing it would part and they would march to Jerusalem. This did not happen.
• Two merchants gave the children free passage on boats, they were either sold into slavery or died in a shipwreck.
• Some failed to reach the sea, either giving up or dying from starvation and exhaustion.
The Fifth Crusade

- April 1213--Innocent III calls for the 5th Crusade
- 8/30/1221--Crusaders defeated in Egypt
- 1228-1229--Emperor Frederick II leads the Crusade
- 2/18/1229--Jerusalem given to the Christians by Treaty
The Sixth Crusade

- 1248-1254--Louis IX leads the 6th Crusade
- 2/8/1250--Louis IX defeated in Egypt
- 1250-1254--Louis IX in Palestine
- 7/25/1261--Greeks reoccupy Constantinople
The Seventh Crusade

- 1269-1272--Louis IX leads the 7th Crusade

- After leading two crusades, France was in trouble economically and that would provide the motivation for the end of the Knights Templar.
The End of the Knights Templar

• 1291--Fall of Acre—the last Crusader outpost.

• 1302--The Knights Templar lose Ruad Island to Muslims
The End of the Knights Templar

- 10/13/1307--The Knights Templar are arrested in France
- 4/3/1312--The Knights Templar are suppressed by a Church Council
- 5/2/1312--The property of the Knights Templar is given to Hospitallers
  - King of France took their property in France
- 3/18/1314--James Molay (the Last Master of the Templars) and Geoffrey of Charney are burned to death at the stake.
Crusades and Just War

- People in the Middle Ages thought the crusades were a just war for three reasons:
  - Christians were responding to a call for help from other Christians being attacked.
  - Christians were defending themselves, pilgrims to the Holy Land.
  - Christians only attacked lands that had been Christian and were conquered by others.
• The Crusades teach a powerful moral lesson.
• They were called for good intentions and had disastrous results.
• Just because we have good intentions does not mean that our actions are just or justifiable.