

500 word prompt:

How do you account for the outcome of the First Crusade, namely that the cruceignati succeeded in achieving their goal of 'assisting suffering brethren in the East,' and capturing Jerusalem? On the surface, it seems totally implausible that they would have achieved this "victory in the East," but yet they did — or rather the minority that managed to survive through the experience. So, what were the key factors that enabled this, as you look at the expedition as a whole? In short, answer the question: "Why did the First Crusade hit the bull's eye?"

Other responses:

During the 6th century Christians were able to make their pilgrimages to Jerusalem, the Holy Land. Jerusalem was the birthplace of the European Christians religion. However, during the end of the eleventh century, the Seljuk Turks were able to take over Jerusalem due to their growth in power and size. This created tension for the European Christians because not only were they not able to pilgrimage anymore, but also they were held from entering/leaving the Holy Land. The Seljuk Turk's power was overwhelming enough to threaten the Byzantine Empire and also the Constantinople. Aware of the Turk's power, Byzantine Emperor, Alexius I, decided it was time for the call of assistance towards Pope Urban II. Pope Urban II believed that it was the perfect timing for uniting the Christian Europeans and also his ability to practice his power of the papacy. August 15, 1096, is when Pope Urban II believed it was time for the departure. Some knights and peasants decided to depart on their own to escape from the hardships. Urban was able to bring in a hundred thousand crusaders that consisted of women, children, and amateur fighters. The crusaders were finally able to meet together in fall 1096 to besiege Nicaea. Pope Urban II was able to bring forth the courageous men and women by delivering a powerful moving speech. The speech contained about taking back Jerusalem and saving the Christians. It was also the devotion the Crusaders had, they all believed in absolution and Heaven. Pope Urban II was able to motivate the Crusaders that their sins will be forgiven for whoever died in serving Christ.

The Crusaders had many victories on their way towards Jerusalem. The Crusaders were able to not only besiege Nicaea but also were able to find victory amongst an army that was lead by Kiliç Arslan at Dorylaeum. Crusaders also found themselves victorious when they seized Edessa and Antioch. Eventually, this would lead to Arqah for three months, the siege of Jerusalem was finally unraveling. The siege of Jerusalem lasted from June 7 to July 15, 1099. I believe the faith of not giving up and believing that there was hope was the main reason why the Crusaders were able to succeed in such a tremendous task. When the Crusaders were able to capture Antioch, they were forced to defend and fight off the Kerbogha army. This caused exhaustion for the crusaders and also dropping their faith. It was one monk that goes by Peter Bartholomew to claim that there is light in the city after all. The Crusaders were found on June 28th on top of Kerbogha army.

Response 2

The Success Of The First Crusade

The first crusade occurred in 1095. It was a military expedition by the European Christians. The aim of the expedition was to reclaim Jerusalem and other holy places that were under control by the Muslims. The success of the first crusade can be attributed to several reasons and it marked the beginning of other crusades that lasted almost five centuries. In November 1095, Pope Urban II responded to call from Alexios I Komnenos who was the ambassador of Byzantine Emperor. It was at the Council of Clermont. He agreed with the request from the empire to lend military support that will help in draining the Muslim Seljuk Turks. And its success stretches from the unpreparedness by the Turks, the intense faith that was showed by the crusaders, the quality of their leaders and the allies that they gained during the extensive journey highly contributed to their success. The success can be narrowed down into two major factors. They include the unity of organized armies of loyal Christians and conflict between the Muslims as a result of religious schism.

Unity among the Christians is accounted for by the fact that different Christians from top European counties merged and started to organize and mobilizing. The aim of the mission was to repossess Jerusalem as well as any territory

that was controlled by the Seljuk Turks. Pope Urban II played a very important role in this mission. He unified the Christians and promised to redeem them from sin and then said that the will of the divine was to be billed. The churches as well provided experienced military men which were a form of pilgrimage. During the first stages, Peter was controlling nobles as well as peasants who lacked experience. Armies were created purposely for at heeding Pope Urban II's request and the Church as well. The issues seemed to distract the earlier stages of the First Crusade.

From the book "The Crusades", there was some military indiscipline that caused indirection as well. Initially, there was some disunity within the armies as there were some petty issues like fighting because of the supply of food. However, during the next phase of the First Crusade, there was noticeable unity as well as direction. Individuals such as "Godfrey of Bouillon", "Raymond of Saint-Gilles", "Bohemond of Taranto" as well as "Hugh of Vermandois" were in charge of four grouped Christian armies. They Successfully grasped the critical territories that were being possessed by Seljuk Turk and the first Crusader states were created. This success by the armies was also contributed by the internal conflict that was involved between the Muslims. There were instances leaders who were in charge of the Muslims were willing to work together with non-Muslims which was contrary to their tradition and therefore there were not capable of coming up with a united front that can facilitate the use of military recourses adequately. The governance in the Muslims was also so weak that they were subjected to attacks.

Response 3:

The First Crusade began as a fervent rise of Christians, called upon by Pope Urban II at the Counsel of Clermont in 1095. He gave a rallying message to the people regarding the desecration, destruction and abuse of the Seljuk Turks and Muslims, who had taken the Holy Land, but also posed a threat to nearby South Eastern Europe. By encouraging the people to go out in the name of God, they were to liberate these places and people; all the way to Jerusalem. The drive was brought forward by an ever growing fear in the Christians of the day, that their souls be damned to hell. The Pope offered salvation to all those who would join the rallying cry to rescue the Holy Land. This message would inspire multiple fanatics to join sects of what became known as Crusaders. At this time, there was indeed a threat to Constantinople and the need for a defense from the growing Seljuk threat. "With both a need, and a means; the Crusaders made their way across South Eastern Europe and engaged the enemy, as what was known as the "peasants crusade". "(Severin, 1989) At this time, there was no one crusader army, and the peasants crusade was fell short just after reaching Constantinople. Upon request, and with adamant passion, more "crusaders" joined the journey.

The growth of the "Crusaders" in Constantinople brought about worry to Emperor Alexius, but also a strain on the city. A goal was placed and a plan drawn up on how to regain the Holy Land and finally Jerusalem. It was devised that in order to take down this threat to the Holy Land, they would begin with Nicaea in 1097 and continue on to Edessa and then to Antioch. "At Antioch, the Crusaders faced a dire situation of starvation and disease as supplies ran low." (The First Crusade) After gaining an entry through bribery, the Crusaders entered Antioch, massacring as they went and finally "liberating" the city. After regaining the city, the Crusaders found a religious artifact, which would reignite their religious passion and drive towards Jerusalem. In 1099, The Crusaders made their way from Antioch, south towards their ultimate goal of Jerusalem. Upon reaching Jerusalem, the Crusaders found themselves low on men and supplies; but in faith, after planning and plundering nearby, began their siege. They finally overcame the defenses took Jerusalem mercilessly. They butchered their way to victory.

Ultimately, the First Crusade was an enormous success to the Christians. Pope Urban II did not live to see the victory that he had so encouraged. Despite that, the end to the bloodshed was far from in sight, as many more crusades, and counter crusades would be launched in the name of the "Holy" and for the "Holy" land. The success of the First Crusade, was one that would be lost in other crusades; despite being in the name of that success. The crusaders also fought under a more powerful religious passion, which at this point in the crusading years, the Muslim armies did not have, as well as lack of organization. The First Crusade, from the crusaders perspective; was managed, planned

and executed by very knowledgeable and passionate leaders. These factors led to the Crusaders success and ultimate victory, in the First Crusade.