The Fourth Crusade  
(1202–1204)

- 1198--- Pope Innocent III was eager to restore Jerusalem back into Christian hands

- Military Generals who participated—
  - Louis I Count of Blois
  - Baldwin IX, Count of Flandres
  - Bontiface of Montferrat
Why Take the Cross?

- Heard of Richard the Lionheart’s success and wanted to do the same
Plan: Attack Egypt

• Why?

• They thought if you take over Egypt (where the Muslims are from) Jerusalem would be much easier to take back
Enrico Dandolo--- Doge of Venice
The leader of Venice

- The kings sent messengers to the Doge
- To contact ships to make the trip to Egypt
- 26,000 soldiers
- 50 ships
Venice completes the 50 ships

The kings ended up not going and as a result--- many troops left from other locations— Not Venice

Only 12,000 troops went to Venice
Since only 1/3 of Ships were Used...

• The kings only paid for 1/3 of ships (17 ships)

• Venice was left with the bill

• The Doge--- asked the Crusaders to recuperate their loss by conquering the city of Zara

• a city off the coast of Italy that once was ruled by Venice
The Crusaders Were Disturbed...

- Zara was a Christian city
- The Crusaders didn’t feel right to attack
- This was the only way to erase the debt
- The Doge convinced Baldwin and Louis that the conquest was lawful
Simon IV of Monfort, Knight

Many knight did not agree to attack

They said it was a violation of their sacred vows
The Siege of Zara--November 10-24, 1202

This was the first major action of the fourth crusade and the first attack against a Catholic city by Catholic crusaders.

The attack was forbidden by Pope Innocent III who threatened the crusaders with excommunication.

The Pope excommunicated the entire crusader army in 1203 for their actions at Zara.

Zara would be controlled by Venice.
Forgiveness

- King Louis begs Pope Innocent to forgive his army

- After the army repented— the pope lifted the excommunication

- Pope sent a letter on how their actions were sinful and ways to restore order...
King Baldwin

- Intercepts the papal messengers of the letter
- But at Zara....
- The crusaders there were met with other messengers...
Alexius Angelus

- He was the son of the deposed Byzantine Emperor Isaac II

- Alexios III took over the Byzantine Throne—Blinded and imprisoned Isaac

- He had to flee Constantinople and was staying at the residence of Philip of Swabia (Germany)

- His messengers were sent to Zara to tell the Crusaders that he was the rightful Byzantine Emperor

- The message: restore my throne!

- If you do and succeed— I will add the Byzantine army to yours on your crusade and pay you a lot of money
The Crusader Leaders Were Intrigued...

-- Byzantine participation to conquer Egypt
Simon IV of Monfort, Knight

Again--- voiced concerns
Aren't we attacking another Christian city?

Many other soldiers
The Kings Signed a Treaty with Alexius

- All agree to restore Alexius to Constantinople
Simon IV of Monfort, Knight

Abandoned the army because they were going to attack another Christian city

Many other soldiers
Pope Sends an Angry Letter to the Crusaders Marching Towards Constantinople

Forbid them to go to Byzantium

Again--- the kings hid the letter from their troops
Outside the Walls of Constantinople

- Bontiface and his troops were camped out ready to strike

- The Doge of Venice was also camped there

- Both Bontiface and the Doge brought Alexius onto the deck of a Venetian boat
The Crusaders Shouted: Here is Your King!

The people on top of the walls yelled back insults and arrows
Siege of Constantinople (July 17- Aug 1, 1203)

Crusader won the battle

Raised Alexius to the throne

Crowned Alexius IV
True Emperor?

- Many European kingdoms did not recognize him as a true emperor
- He didn’t control the whole city yet...
- He failed to honor the treaty with the crusader kings--- provide a full army to fight Egypt
Mourtzouphlos

- Created an anti-Latin (crusaders) faction to fight the crusaders

- Sized control of the city from Alexius
Eventually... Alexius Falls

- Mourtzouphlos strangles Alexius
- Mourtzouphlos proclaims himself emperor
- This angers the crusaders
Siege of Constantinople--- April 1204

Mourtzouphlos was captured and executed

The Greek (Orthodox) priests begged the Crusaders to be merciful

The crusader leaders ignored this plea...

The leaders gave permission to loot the city

3 days of looting and vandalism
Europe was Shocked!!

- Simon of Monfort was right!!!
- Pope Innocent was angry that this happened
  - He was disgusted!
- He excommunicated all participants of this attack
It Seems the Crusaders Never Intended to Go on Crusade and Retake Jerusalem

- Greed

Motivation was to take the wealth of Byzantium

--- This is the Big question

- Complicated politics--- Byzantine succession
Byzantine Connection

• Holy Roman Empire vs. Byzantine Empire

• Caesaropapism

• Latins vs. Greeks

• The Byzantines sabotaged the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Crusade

➢ The crusaders were already angry towards the Byzantines
The 4th Crusade Shows the Weakness of the Byzantine Empire

• Other Crusades (NOT TO RETAKE JERUSALEM) were successful...
Crusades in Spain and Portugal (1147-1492)

• Reconquista— Reconquer Spain for Christianity

• Eventually Spain will succeed in driving the Muslims away from the Iberian Peninsula

• The Marriage of Prince Ferdinand and Princess Isabella— Unified Spain

• Successful
Baltic States (Northern Crusades) (1147-1290)

- Primarily against pagan people (Last Vikings)
- Did not fight Muslims
- Successful
- Northern Europe becomes Christian
4^{th} Crusade in Sum

- The Most Bizarre crusade
- Most unpleasant crusade
- Most unsettling crusade

- How was a Crusade for retaking Jerusalem result in attacking Christians?
- How was a Crusade for attacking Egypt result in attacking a Christian City?
• The Crusades failed to capture Jerusalem

• The Crusades made Europeans distrust other religions—(Jewish and Muslims)

• The Middle East (Jerusalem) would remain in Muslim hands
Long Term Effect 1

Increased trade between Europe and Middle East
Long Term Effect 2

- Italians act as middlemen in the trade between W. Europe and Middle East.
- Italy becomes wealthy.