

The Economic Impact of the Crusades



ECONOMICS FOCUS War brings contact, and contact brings trade. Increased trade as a result of the Crusades dramatically changed life in Europe.



As you read, *compare what life was like in Europe before and after the Crusades.*

The period of the Crusades lasted 174 years, but of these, only 24 were spent fighting. As a result, there was a great deal of time in which there was non-violent contact. This contact caused widespread economic change to Europe.

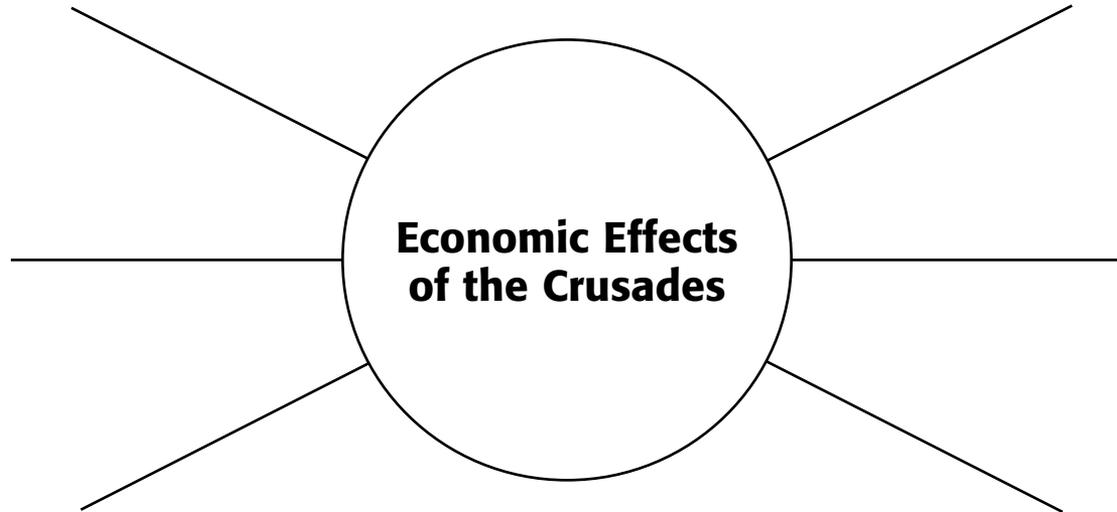
The first result of the contact was increased trade between Europe and the Middle East. Europeans obtained new foods and household goods. Items such as rice, coffee, spices, and new fruits were introduced to European palates. Making life easier in European households were goods such as mirrors, cotton cloth, and wheelbarrows. Muslims, in turn, were introduced to such items as linen and wool.

Tangible items were not the only goods exchanged between Europe and the Arab lands, however. Europeans learned new forms of recreation, such as the game of chess. In addition, Arabs gave Europeans a new number system, algebra, and chemistry. The Eastern windmill and irrigation ditch, both of which improved farming, were also introduced to Europe through the Crusades. European sailors began to use the Arabic compass and astrolabe to find better sea routes for their journeys. Eventually this led to the discovery of the New World.

This heightened level of trade led to the expansion of cities and towns. Among the cities especially affected were the Italian city-states. As the need to collect and distribute goods increased, cities along the coasts of the Italian peninsula became the centers of a new trading empire. This trend, along with the use of trade fairs, broke the isolation of self-sufficient manors.

The Crusaders had to carry money with them, so the use of gold coins and letters of credit also grew. To finance the crusades, the wealthy were taxed, and serfs were allowed to buy their freedom and sometimes their land. This increase in townspeople and free farmers eventually undermined feudalism.

Use the information in the passage to fill in the graphic organizer below.
Then answer the questions that follow.



WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. How did the Crusades weaken feudalism?

2. How did the population of Europe change as a result of the Crusades?

3. What new foods did Europeans obtain as a result of the Crusades? What new household items were Europeans introduced to?

4. **Critical Thinking: Synthesis** How did the Crusades influence the discovery of the New World?

ANALYZING MAPS

1. China
2. Greece, Italy, France, Spain, and Britain
3. Answers will vary. Sample answer: I think the Black Death spread to more regions in Europe because traders carried the disease in ships that sailed along the coast of Europe. The Black Death then spread from cities along the coast to the interior of Europe. In Asia, there were not as many cities along the coast where ships stopped.
4. Traders traveling by sea routes stopped at more cities along the Mediterranean Sea than they did along the Black Sea. This helped spread the disease from the ships to the cities near the Mediterranean Sea.

Economics and History

ACTIVITY

You may wish to verify that students have properly filled in the graphic organizer.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. To finance the crusades, serfs were allowed to buy their freedom and sometime their land. This increase in townspeople and free farmers eventually undermined feudalism.
2. The heightened level of trade that came as a result of the crusades led to the expansion of cities and towns. Serfs were sometimes allowed to buy their freedom, and this also changed the European population in dramatic ways.
3. Rice, coffee, spices, and new fruits were brought to Europe through the crusades. Mirrors, cotton cloth, and wheelbarrows also made their first appearances in Europe in the same manner.
4. European sailors began to use the Arabic compass and astrolabe to find better sea routes for their journeys. This eventually led to the discovery of the New World.

Social Studies Skills

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL

1. Catalan and Aragonese
2. 2

3. Students' answers will vary, but could recognize that the Arabs, known as Moors, were driven from the peninsula.

Chapter Review

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PEOPLE

1. Saladin
2. St. Francis of Assisi
3. Holy Land
4. St. Thomas Aquinas
5. Magna Carta

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

1. Hundred Years' War
2. popes and kings
3. Inquisition
4. Crusades
5. friars

REVIEWING THEMES

1. society and culture
2. religion

REVIEW ACTIVITY: THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTOR

Students' selections of the persons who made important contributions to the later Middle Ages will vary, but should include detailed descriptions of each person's achievements and a well-reasoned argument to support their selections.