

## Presentation 2: Francis, the Fifth Crusade and Islam

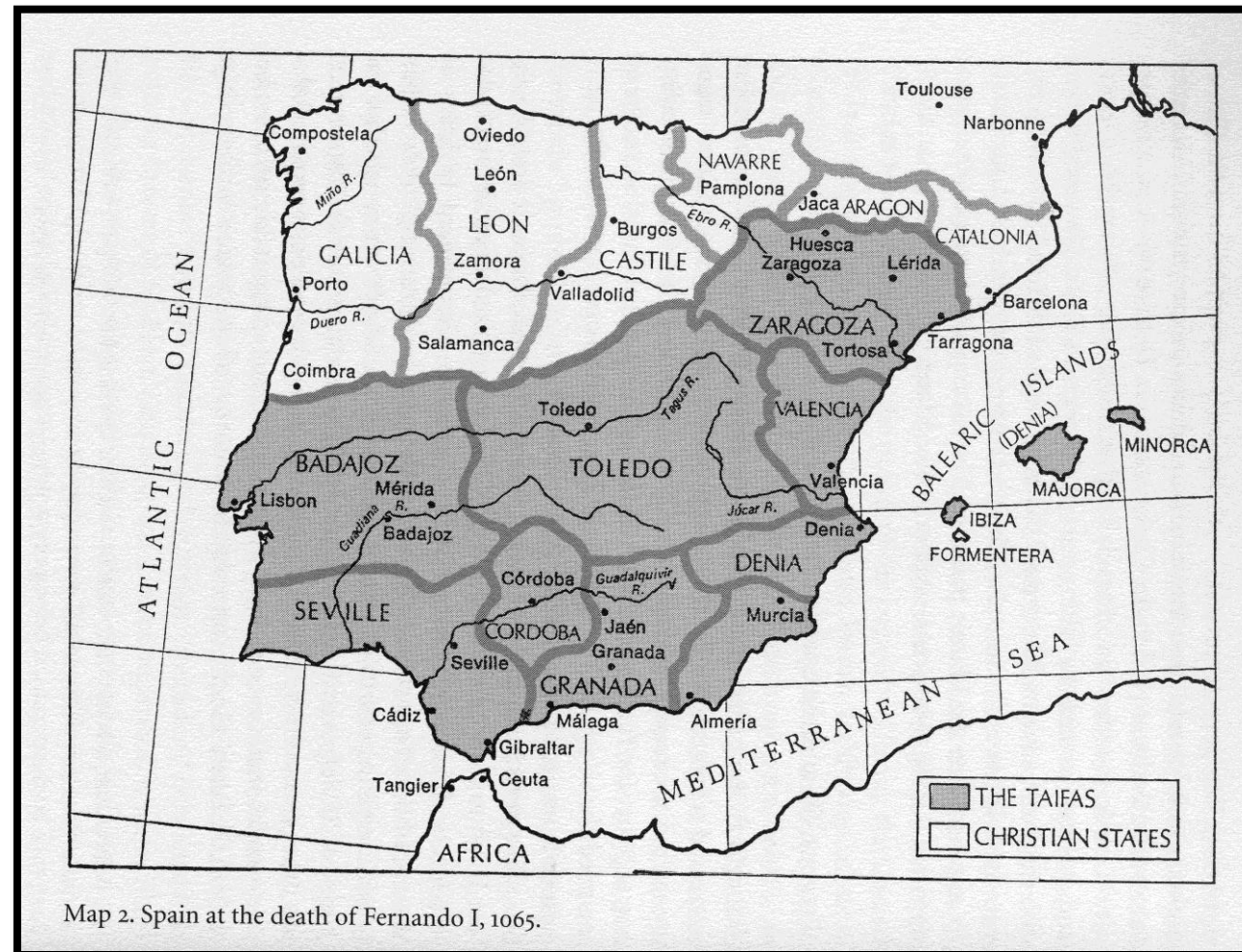


# I. GENERAL CONTEXT:

## The Relationship between Christianity and Islam

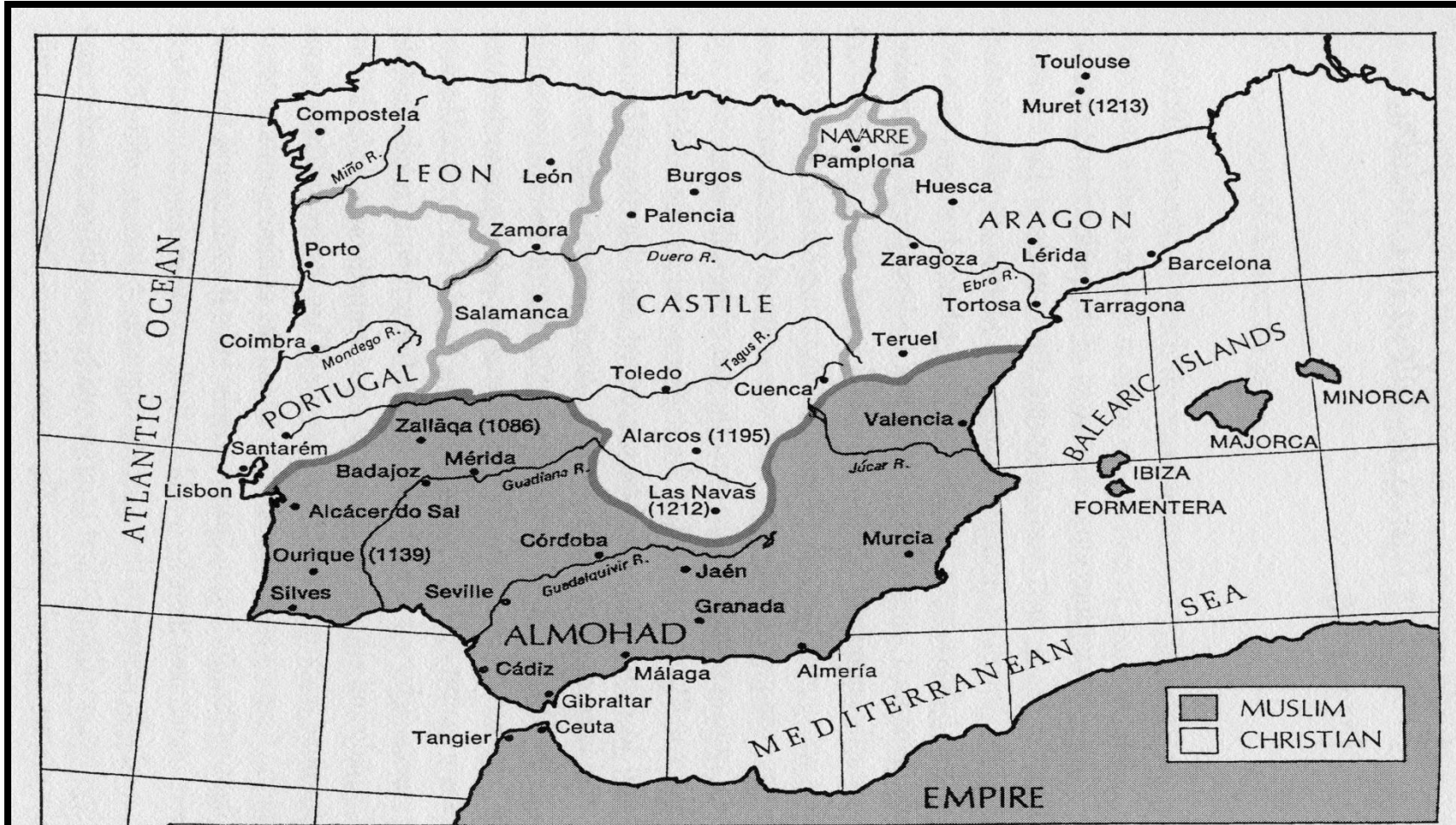
- The “*Reconquista*” of the Spanish Mainland (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries)
  - ❑ Christian military push southward, initiated by the papacy, against Muslim principalities throughout Spain
  - ❑ taking advantage of internal divisions among the Muslims
  - ❑ See-saw battle over the next 150 years

# I. General Context (1065)





# I. General Context (1214)



Map 3. Spain at the death of Alfonso VIII, 1214.

# I. General Context

❑ Reconquista campaigns in Spain (c. 1050→)

will provide *the model* for the Crusades  
in the Holy Land (c. 1099 →→)

- ❖ use of military force
- ❖ for territorial conquest
- ❖ killing legitimized as war against “infidels”

# I. General Context

- **The Crusading Movement = The Crusades**
  - ❑ In general: these are Christian attempts to conquer (or “reconquer”?) Jerusalem, the Holy Land and lands along the Levantine Coast
  - ❑ In particular: victories along the way led to the establishment of **4 Crusader Kingdoms** (or principalities) along the coast



# The Crusades



# The Crusades

## 1st Crusade: 1095-1099 (Capture of Jerusalem)

- ❑ began as a call by **Pope Urban II** to give military assistance to Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) being besieged from **the Seljuk Turks** across Asia Minor
- ❑ famous call at the **Council of Piacenza** in Italy (1095)
- ❑ but by the time of the **Council of Clermont-Ferrand** (central France), the decision was made to push all the way south to recapture Jerusalem, lost in 638 A.D. to rise of Islam
- ❑ Knights were primarily to be culled from French (Frankish) nobility



# The First Crusade (1096-99)



# The First Crusade

## Results:

- ❑ Bloody conquest of the city of Jerusalem and surrounding territories (1099)
- ❑ Establishment of **four feudal kingdoms** along the Levantine Coast

# The Four Crusader Kingdoms





# The Second Crusade

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade: 1144-1148**

- ❑ Purpose: to recapture the lost County of Edessa (lost to Muslim counter-attack)

- ❑ Launched by Bernard of Clairvaux at Vezelay (central France)

- *“Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!”* (2 Cor. 6:2)

- ❑ Failure to recapture the territory

# The Second Crusade



# The Crusades

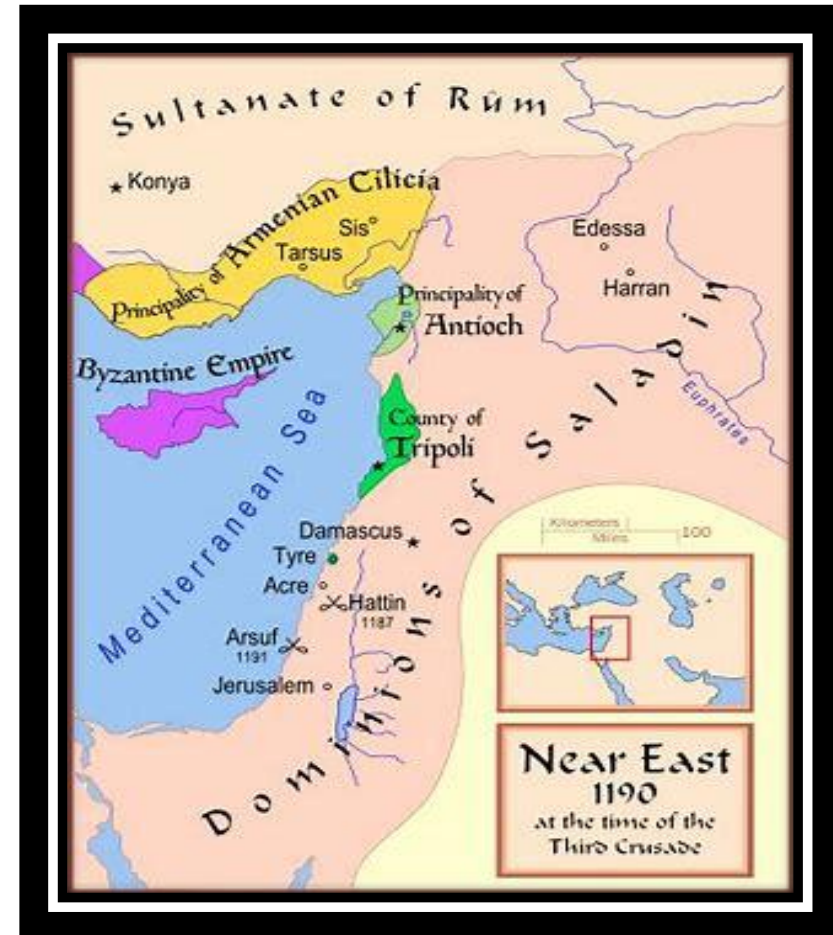
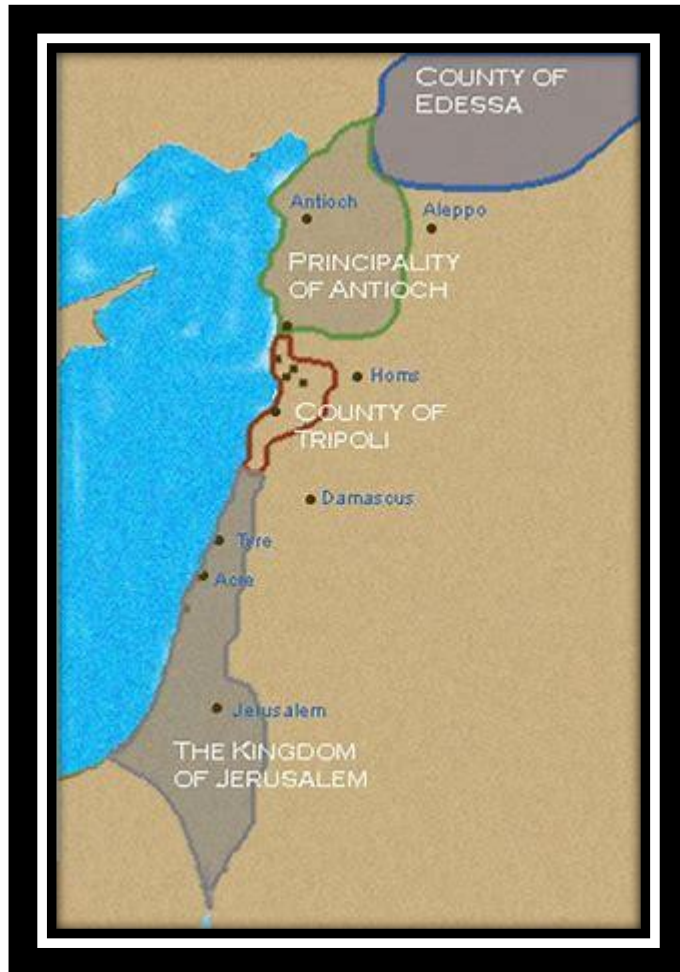
## 3rd Crusade: 1189-1191 (Jerusalem/Acre)

### □ Background:

- seizure of Jerusalem (1187) by Saladin (Ayyubid Dynasty, centered in Cairo)
- Christian presence in the region is reduced to the fortress city of Acre, NW of Jerusalem



# The Third Crusade



# Third Crusade - Acre





# SALADIN





# The Third Crusade

❑ Loss prompted the launching of the Third Crusade : “Crusade of the Three Kings”

- ❖ **Frederick I Barbarossa** (Germany = Holy Roman Empire) - *overland*
- ❖ **Richard I Lion-Hearted** (England) – *meet in Sicily, cross the Mediterranean*
- ❖ **Philip II Augustus** (France) – *meet in Sicily, cross the Mediterranean*

# The Third Crusade

- **Ended in Total Failure:**

- FB – drowns while fording the Saleph river
- Philip II – returns home disgruntled
- Richard I – captured in the East, imprisoned, ransomed, returns home



# The Crusades

- **4<sup>th</sup> Crusade: 1204**

- Poor Turnout: Potential Financial Bust for Venetian shipbuilders
- Detoured to Yugoslavia for plunder!
- Detoured again to Constantinople to intervene in civil war in Byzantium, but...
- Ultimately:
  - sacked Constantinople and took over Byzantium
  - Byzantine Court fled to Trebizond
  - Established the **Latin Empire of Constantinople** run by the West

# The Fourth Crusade





# The Fifth Crusade



# The Fifth Crusade

- **5<sup>th</sup> Crusade: 1218-1221**

- **Background**

- Due to the disastrous detour of the Fourth Crusade, **the “Crusading Ideal” had been severely discredited** in Europe: convincing propaganda required (*Quia maior*)
    - Rise of some small-scale anti-crusade movements, like the ill-fated **“Children’s Crusade” of 1212** ended in disaster as well – sold off to slavery by unscrupulous maritime merchant23s in Marseilles

# The Fifth Crusade

## ☐ Realization:

- Crusade was launched by **Innocent III** at **Fourth Lateran Council** (November 1215), preceded by the landmark bull, *Quia Maior*
- Gathering Point: **Acre**
- Point of Attack: **Damietta** ... in order to strike at **Cairo**: center of Ayyubid power

# The Fifth Crusade





## II. Francis' Attempts to go among the Muslims

### A. His first **Two** Attempts (1 Cel 55-56)



# 1 CELANO 55

- In the sixth year of his conversion, burning intensely with the desire for holy martyrdom, he [Francis] wanted to take ship for the regions of Syria to preach the Christian faith and penance to the Saracens and other infidels. After he had gone on board a certain ship to go there, contrary winds arose and he found himself with the rest of his fellow travelers in the region of Slavonia [Dalmatia]. But when he saw that he was deprived of attaining his great desire, after a short period of time, he begged some sailors who were going to Ancona [in Italy] to take him with them because it would hardly be possible for any other ship to sail for Syria that year. But they obstinately refused since he could not pay them... [so Francis] stowed away on the boat with his companion.

# Francis' First Attempts to go among the Muslims

- A. First Two Attempts (1 Cel 55-56): summary
  - 1. **1212** (late summer – September)
    - To the East
    - Shipwrecked on the Dalmatian Coast
  - 2. **1213** (summer)
    - To the West (Morocco)
    - Fell ill in Spain, returned

# Francis' First Attempts to go among the Muslims

- B. What was the Reason (or the Trigger) for his Decision to Go?
  - 1. Possible Immediate context: **July 1212 = Las Navas de Tolosa** (= bloody Christian victory over Muslims in Spain)
    - Francis leaves with his companions in the late summer
  - 2. Possibly too, in the air, is the disastrous (& peaceful) **Children's Crusade**
  - **3. But there is another, more pertinent motivation for Francis**



# Las Navas de Tolosa (July 1212)



# Francis' First Attempts to go among the Muslims

- 2. Thomas of Celano tells us about Francis' intention in going: **“to preach the Christian Faith and penance”**
- 3. But what does it mean *“to do penance”*?

# To Do Penance

Does it really mean or only mean:

- ❖ To go to confession?
- ❖ To do a penance after confession?

# To Do Penance

- Does it not rather mean:

❖ **To distance oneself** from all that divides the human community

= through concrete, specific actions and attitudes



# To Do Penance

- Penance is not a thing we do;
  - It's a lifestyle we live
- It's conversion in thought, word and deed.

# To Do Penance

- **CONVERSION =**

- “To produce the fruits worthy of penance” (John the Baptist)



# To Do Penance

- C. What are the **Origins** of this vision of penance?

= Francis' Encounter with Lepers

- What did Francis learn in this encounter?



# The Testament of Francis, vv. 1-4

- This is how the Lord led me, brother Francis, to begin **to do penance**: for when I was in **sin**, the sight of lepers was too bitter for me. And the Lord himself led me among them and I showed **mercy** to them. And once I had left them, what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body. It was not longer afterwards that I left the world.



# To Do Penance

- All men and women, *without exception*, are creatures created by the same Creator God;
- All men and women, *without exception*, have been endowed with the same sacred dignity and worth;
- All men and women, *without exception*, have been offered the grace of salvation
- All men and women, *without exception*, are *fratres et sorores* (brothers and sisters), one to another, in the same human *fraternity*

# To Do Penance

- Pope Francis—as-Saint Francis:



# To Do Penance

□ This is Francis' seminal insight into **the universal fraternity of all creatures**

- Not just butterflies and buttercups
- But **the Sacred dignity of every human person**



# To Do Penance

- FURTHERMORE:
- Everything that ruptures the bonds of this sacred human fraternity is what Francis meant by “sin”
- “For when I was *in sin*, the sight of lepers nauseated me...”

# To Do Penance

- Sin was that which **prevented a human being from recognizing the presence of God** within every human person on this earth;
- Since each one was a **tabernacle**, as it were, **housing the presence** of the living God
- And sin was the **action (or inaction) taken**, as a result, to avoid, isolate or even harm (by omission and commission) such people



# To Do Penance

- Put another way:

- To Do Penance = distance oneself from all those behaviors, actions and attitudes which *destroy the human fraternity* = to move away from such **sin and to rectify what such sin has wrought**

# To Do Penance

- This is **the friars' message** to and for the world = this was the substance of their **penitential preaching!**
- **And this is the vision** Francis went to **share and live in the midst of** the Muslims when he went to **preach penance** among them!

# Francis' First Attempts to go among the Muslims

- This is the **Foundation**
- Now let's follow the **Fruition**

