

On a break point between Early Middle Ages and High Middle Ages Christianity existed as it would have been in mist – the old pagan cults of Europe had been abandoning uneasy and slowly their positions and almost immediately they were replaced by a group of new cults – heresies. The first of them stepped into the light or were disclosed already in 11th century. During the next century the number of cases of discovered heretic communities increased in western and central Europe. In 12th century, the southern french region of Occitanie was found by suprised catholic Church as a land with very enlarged dualist heresy.

From the beginning the church tried to challenge this situation, which was considered as increasingly endangering of Good order, by means of mission activity and relied on local nobelman and sovereigns. However, the evolution of this situation up to 13th century showed that local nobility had no interest on repressions and tolerated heresy while mission attempts and menace of canonical punishments raised general resistance. This resulted in the assassination of papal legate Pierre de Castelnau. This accident changed the attitude of Church into the proclamation of crusade and so it authorized the application of armed force. The result of this decision threw southern France into the war which took twenty years including a few pauses and which was terminated by resonance of few unsuccessful occitanian revolts. It was also a first crusade against european Christian community.

The Albigesian Wars took place between 1209 and 1229. It is possible to devide the periode of wars into the three phases: during the first one crusaders attempted to conquer the whole occitanian land and to take controle of it. This phase of wars was closed by the battle of Muret in 1213, where crusaders broke down the resistance of occitanian nobility and caught out powerful occitanian ally king Pedro II of Aragon.