

ABSTRACT

Title: THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST CRUSADES FOUNDING

The objective of this diploma thesis *The religious and political Background of the beginning of the First Crusade Founding* is, to present the circumstances and the events, which preceded the beginning of the First Crusade on basis of examining literature. Further the thesis aims to clarify the three significant civilizations (European, Byzantine and Muslim), which participated in the crusade. The thesis itself is divided in several main sections:

1. Holy Land and the pilgrimage (pilgrim) tradition
2. Christians and Muslims fighting before the First Crusade.
3. Turbulent wartime conditions in Western Europe after the collapse of the Carolingian Empire.
4. The struggle for investiture.
5. Convening of the expedition.
6. The main leaders of the First Crusade.
7. Europe, Byzantium and the Muslim world of the XIth century – religion, life, culture and philosophy.
8. The World of Western Europe in the XIth century
9. World of the XIth century Byzantine Empire
10. World of the Muslim Asia Minor in the XIth century.
11. The chroniclers of the First Crusade.

While studying the topic I mostly used secondary literature. Mainly I relied on the first volume of the work *A History of the Crusades*, which is a high quality and respected work of an English historian Steven Runciman. This thesis further relied on the valuable work of Josef Šusta *Dějiny lidstva 4. Středověk vrcholný a stárnoucí*.

KEYWORDS

- The Crusades
- The Reconquista
- Western Christianity
- Islam
- The struggle for investiture
- The Byzantine Empire
- Seljuk Empire
- The XIth century