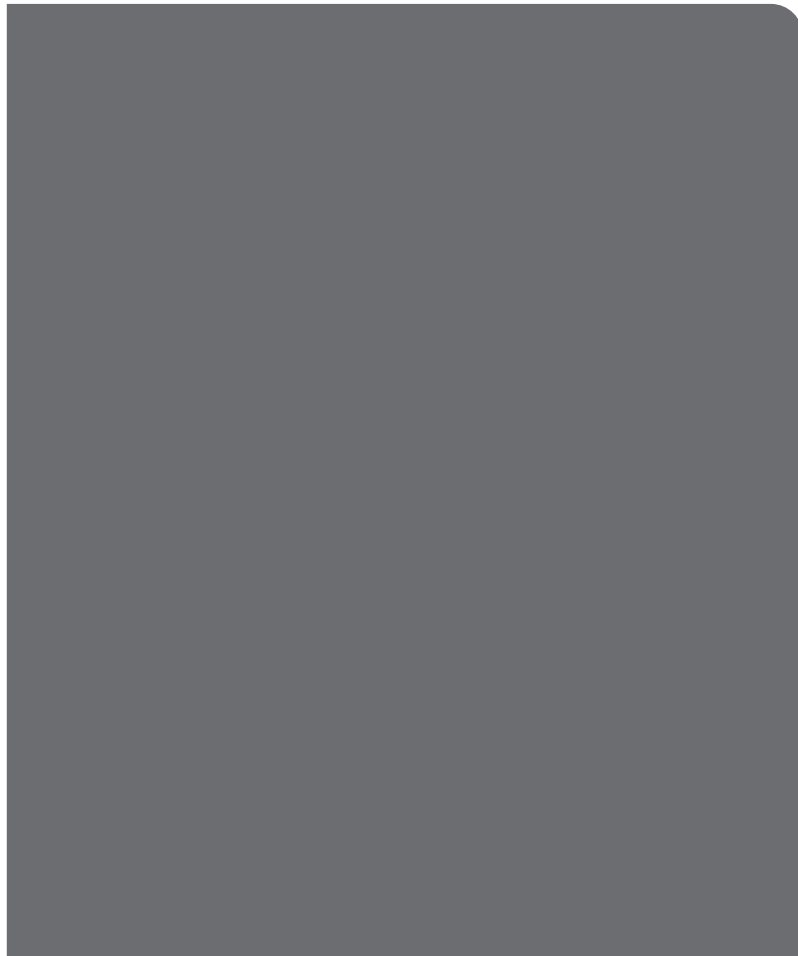


ترجمة ملخصات المحتوى بالإنجليزية

Summaries of Researches and Articles



The Western Worldview: Existence by Annihilation and Living by Exclusion The State of War as a Model

Chehrazade Hamdi

War reveals secrets, true intentions, and hidden goals behind announced slogans. This is evident through the practices of the Western genocidal mind in the wars waged against various nations. The Western war culture is offensive and colonial in nature, and not defensive. This barbarism is based on a worldview which dictates existence by extermination and living by exclusion. This worldview was founded on a set of principles which had a clear impact in directing actions. For instance, the French colonization of Algeria and the Israeli attacks on Palestine are two examples of the brutality and imperialist expansion of the West. This essay aims to demonstrate the cruel practices, torture, killing and displacement which the West inflicts, in accordance with its worldview, on subjugated nations during war. The essay mainly relies on a critical methodology, and employs analysis, synthesis, and inference.

The Hundred Years' War between the Kingdoms of England and France

Ahmad Mohsen al-Khodr

The Hundred Years' War represents an important chapter in the history of Europe in the late Middle Ages, a war that contributed to the formation of Western Europe in the scholarly sense. After the war, the idea of a Christian Europe under one leadership (papacy or empire) was abandoned. Two major powers began to emerge in Western Europe -Britain and France- who would take over the leadership of Europe throughout modern times. The Hundred Years' War was the first war in which the effective use of firearms was crucial in deciding the outcome of the battles. The war witnessed a radical transformation in the concept of combat in the Middle Ages. Previously, war was a feudal commitment, but in the Hundred Years' War it became a profession which allowed barons to recruit men and establish affiliations based on money. These hired mercenary soldiers were not bound to their masters; they shifted their alliances to those who paid them better wages and moved from one camp to another very swiftly.

During this period, the phenomenon of capturing the wealthy for obtaining a ransom became common, and prisoners of war were transformed into a commodity that generated lucrative profits for both sides of the conflict. Periods of truce during the war resulted in unemployed fighters and therefore witnessed the spread of piracy and bandits. The civilian populations on both sides were the main losers in this war. In times of fighting, they were subject to killing, pillage, exile and rape, and their property was looted and destroyed, while in times of truce, they were robbed, extorted, obliged to pay taxes, and paid levies without any mercy or consideration for the adverse circumstances brought upon by the war. It is likely that these bad conditions were a cause that contributed to plunging the region into a dangerous spiral of chaos. On more than one occasion, violence erupted and lethal confrontations took place, in which revolutionaries eradicated the nobles.

Campaigns: Consequences and Results

Nadia Mohammad Zuhair al-Ghazuli

The main Crusader campaigns which targeted the Levant spanned the years between 1095 and 1291 CE. The common feature between these campaigns was the Crusader desire for assaulting other nations and usurping their natural rights. In light of this fact, we find that the only policy for the maintenance of the Crusader presence in the region during each campaign was the mass slaughter of the natives, setting cities on fire to plunder them, and launching a series of rapid raids on lands which neighbored these cities for the purpose of obtaining provisions, and then ravaging these lands. This research takes into consideration the changing nature of the Crusader concept, the expansion of Crusader wars, and the inhuman practices which gave the Crusades the character of fanaticism and violence. It is clear that these wars and campaigns represented the spirit of the medieval Western Middle World and the prevailing ideas therein on religion and war; the former represented by the dominating power of the Church, and the latter represented by the feudal system.

The traditional view on the reasons behind the Crusades holds religion to be the main factor behind the launching of these wars, an armed pilgrimage to Jerusalem with the aim of "liberating" the Holy Sepulcher in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. While the religious factor, founded on intolerance and the exploitation of religion, is undeniable, it should not obscure the other causes of the Crusades, such as the pursuit of economic interests and political ambitions. Politically, the papacy found the Crusades to be a successful way to steer the West towards a single purpose, and was able to implement a single policy which dominated the capabilities of Western political forces. In fact, war was the primary purpose behind the Crusader campaigns, and warfare was the basis of life in the Crusader principalities which were established in the Arab East. In this war, the crusaders committed many atrocities. They had come to destroy the civilization of the East, and it took two centuries for this civilization to influence the moral character of the barbarian warriors who had come from the West.

Reasons and Motives Behind the Crusades: 490-691

AH/1096-1291 CE

Ammar Mohammad al-Nahar

The Crusades, from the very beginning, were the product of an intersecting and extremely complex set of factors, and formed a highly intricate phenomenon. Therefore, any attempt to interpret the Crusades in light of a single factor or a set of specific factors -such as emotional religiosity, religious zeal, the desire of the leaders of the Crusaders to acquire more land, the destitute social conditions in which the peasants and impoverished people of Europe lived, the greed of the merchants of Italian cities to gain commercial privileges, papal political aims, or personal ambition- will be doomed to fail. This is the viewpoint of Qasem Abdu Qasem, one of the most prominent chroniclers of the Crusader wars, although all of these factors were indeed among the reasons which set the Crusades in motions.

This essay examines the sources, references, accounts, details, and perspectives of historians on the Crusades to discover, as closely as possible, the causes and motives of the Crusades. The author elaborates as needed and joins his scholarly efforts with those that preceded him, adding his study to former studies on the topic matter and making it accessible for researchers and interested readers.

A Historical Critical Glimpse into the Main Crusader

Western Wars and Conflicts (The Clash of Emperors)

Abbas Merhej Faraj

The period of Medieval Europe, which spanned the fifth century to the fifteenth century, witnessed several developments in various domains. It was quite expected throughout this long period of time -which separated between ancient and modern history- for historical transformations to occur. These transformations led to changes in many political principles and concepts, and to alterations in economic, social and intellectual relations. Examples of these transformations are the conflicts and bloody wars which erupted among the kings and rulers of Europe, turning the continent into a stage for competition between kingdoms and ideological and feudal conflict. This led to the migration of European tribes from the far north to the south, and from the eastern regions to the west. States were established, some fell, while others preserved their existence. The economic system also changed after the emergence of feudal lords and highly wealthy owners.

This essay analyzes a subject matter which relates to the church and war in the Middle Ages, a topic which abounds in historical sources. The church possessed undisputed authority, while the idea of warfare could not be separated from any incident in European medieval times. These numerous wars and conflicts in Europe led to inner disruption and negative consequences on all aspects.

A Critical Glimpse into the Tyranny of the Emperors Nero and Domitian

Rafah al-Bushi al-Dabbagh

This essay examines aspects of the tyranny and despotism of two Roman emperors, Nero and Domitian, with a focus on an analysis and criticism of their actions. When Nero assumed power, he presented himself to the Roman people and military as the legitimate heir to the previous emperor, and was named “Claudius of his time.” Nero then embarked on eliminating anyone whom he deemed to pose an obstacle to his authority or a hindrance to the accomplishment of his goals, even if that person were very close to him such as his mother, Agrippina. Nero was known for his fondness for certain arts such as dancing and music, and he indulged in amusement and a highly lavish lifestyle, neglecting his governance and administration duties and implementing unsuccessful policies. This was coupled with the ineptitude of his functionaries, the brutality of his soldiers, the voraciousness of tax collectors, and political crises, leading to widespread tumult in the Roman Empire and deterioration in the general administration of the Roman provinces. Rome’s relations with allied provinces in the east also witnessed a decline, as Nero neglected all populations in his empire with the exception of the Greeks. The result was the bankruptcy of the empire’s coffers and the famous Great Fire of Rome. Nero’s misrule and oppression eventually ended in his suicide in 68 CE. In 81 CE, the Roman emperor Domitian rose to power by appeasing the Roman military and the powerful elements in the empire, but his rule was marked by despotism. Due to his brutal policy and authoritarianism, Domitian’s closest associates deposed him.

The Ramifications of the Roman Occupation of Egypt and the Ancient Maghreb

Aqil Numair

Over the course of several centuries, the Roman Empire fought many wars and conflicts, and expanded its lands, thus colonizing many nations in the process. It is widely known that the negative actions and misconduct of the colonizer have a detrimental effect on the people and the resources of the colonized countries. This was indeed apparent in the wars the Romans waged, even though they tried to present a single, attractive image of a Roman civilization highly advanced and developed in the field of art, architecture and administration. The other side of the picture was obscured, such as the malpractice of Roman politicians and administrators in governing the countries they occupied, and the brutal policy these officials adopted in suppressing the revolts which erupted in Egypt and North Africa following the Roman confiscation of agricultural land.

This essay examines the economic suffering of nations under Roman hegemony, especially in terms of the agricultural suffering of the natives, taking into consideration that agriculture formed the main pillar of life in that historical period. The essay touches on the aims and background of the Roman occupation of Egypt and the ancient Maghreb. It considers the negative political and economic consequences of the Roman occupation, especially the Punic Wars which expanded to the regions of north Africa and led to the destruction of Carthage, the obliteration of its landmarks, and the cancellation of the role of its previously Numidian allies who aided the Romans in the destruction of Carthage and contributed to the Roman expansion in Mauritania.

Synopses of Essays in Issue 32 of Al-Istighrāb

The Military Campaigns of Roman Emperors to the East: Trajan, Marcus Aurelius and Septimius Severus

Ahmad Hussein al-Mash'al

History books have recorded the imperialist and expansionist policy of the Roman Empire since ancient times, highlighting the constant Roman effort to expand territory, dominate the political choices and economic resources of other nations, and ensure the absence of any threat to Rome's project and military campaigns. This explains the aim of Roman emperors to invade the East and occupy new lands for the purpose of fulfilling the dream of achieving hegemony over the shores of the Persian Gulf and dominating global commercial routes between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. To achieve this goal, Roman emperors waged many wars which extended for protracted periods of time. For instance, the Romans engaged in a long and bitter struggle with the Parthian Empire which lasted for two centuries and a half. The emperor Trajan was able to reach the shores of the Persian Gulf through cunning and deception, and was the first and last Roman emperor to reach this highly-coveted site.

This essay examines and critiques the military campaigns of Roman emperors to the East, and the prolonged battles they waged in the region. It sheds light on the Roman adoption of a policy of colonialism, scheming, and deceit which did not stop at any limit regardless of the results and consequences. The Romans coveted Mesopotamia, the main center for distribution of eastern commercial goods, and attempted to carry out an invasion of the region. The two Roman emperors, first Marcus Aurelius and then Septimius Severus, ventured to accomplish this mission but their imperialist campaigns failed and did not add any new region to Roman territory. In fact, during these campaigns, the Romans suffered many losses in equipment and men.