

History of the Crusades.  
Episode 000.

Hi, I'm Sharyn Eastaugh, and I'm starting a new historical podcast on the History Of The Crusades. For those of you who don't know, the Crusades were a series of holy wars pitting Christianity against Islam, starting in 1096 and spanning two centuries.

This podcast aims to give you an understanding of the times and events surrounding the Crusades. Specifically, it'll cover the First, Second, Third and Fourth Crusades, as well as the Children's Crusade and other notable events. We will take a few detours along the way and devote episodes to some of the main players: Richard the Lionheart; Saladin; Eleanor of Aquitaine; the Knights Templar; and others. I'm aiming to provide you with weekly episodes roughly 20 to 30 minutes in length.

I've created a website to support the podcast, and you can find it at [www.HistoryOfTheCrusades.webs](http://www.HistoryOfTheCrusades.webs), (which is W. E. B. S.) dot com. There's not much there at the moment, but I'll post each episode on the site in an MP3 format for anyone who can't access iTunes. Should you wish to do so, you can leave comments about the episode on the site or on iTunes, and I'm also intending to add maps and illustrations on the website to complement the episodes as we go. Lastly, I should mention that the music for the History Of The Crusades is by Carey Lewincamp. You can find a link to his website from the History Of The Crusades website, or if you'd like to hear some more of his beautiful music, you can download some from iTunes.

So I hope you'll join me, and download the first episode, where we will be setting the scene for the First Crusade by examining Europe in the year 1090.

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