

# VARANKMUN'24

## HJCC Study Guide

*(Historical Joint Crisis Committee)*

**Agenda item:** Battle of Montgisard: the Kingdom  
of Jerusalem vs Ayyubid Dynasty

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## **Welcome letter from the Secretary General**

Esteemed delegates,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to VarankMUN'24. My name is Barbaros Şıracı, and I am privileged to serve as your Secretary-General for this year's conference.

In a world increasingly interconnected, the role of youth in addressing global challenges has never been more critical. At VarankMUN'24, we aspire to cultivate a spirit of diplomacy, collaboration, and innovation among our participants. Over the next few days, you will have the unique opportunity to step into the shoes of international diplomats, engage in thought-provoking debates, and contribute to meaningful resolutions.

At VarankMUN'24, we are committed to providing a dynamic and engaging platform for tackling some of the most pressing issues facing our world today. From environmental sustainability to international security and human rights, each committee and topic has been thoughtfully selected to encourage rigorous debate and foster innovative solutions. This conference is not just about discussing problems but about collaboratively exploring ways to build a more equitable and prosperous global community. We believe that your ideas and contributions will play a pivotal role in driving these conversations forward and in crafting actionable resolutions.

VarankMUN'24 is more than just a conference; it is a community of passionate and driven individuals from diverse backgrounds. This diversity is our strength, and it is through our collective efforts that we can create a more inclusive and equitable world. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity to learn from one another, challenge your perspectives, and forge lasting friendships.

As you prepare for the sessions ahead, I urge you to remain open-minded, respectful, and resilient. Diplomacy requires patience and empathy, and it is through these virtues that true progress is made. Remember, every voice matters, and your contributions are vital to the success of our deliberations.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our academic team, whose tireless efforts have made this conference possible. Their passion and commitment to excellence are the pillars upon which VarankMUN'24 stands.

On behalf of the entire VarankMUN'24 team, I wish you an inspiring and rewarding experience. Let us come together with purpose and optimism, ready to shape a better future for all.

Welcome to VarankMUN'24. Let the journey begin!

Warm regards,

Barbaros Şıracı  
Secretary-General

### *Letter from Under Secretary General*

Esteemed participants of VarankMUN'24,

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I welcome you to this edition of VarankMUN'24. I am Baturalp Uymaz, a senior student at Ankara Ümitköy Anadolu Lisesi. As the Under-Secretary-General of the Historical-Joint Crisis Committee, I am honored to extend my warmest greetings to each of you as we convene for this significant gathering.

Through my twenty or more experiences in Model United Nations, Model Parliament, and Model European Union, with more than ten of them being as an academic team member, along with my three experiences in General Assembly Committees, I am an enthusiast of crisis and its diplomatic and historical simulation dynamics. Therefore, I enjoyed every second of the preparation of this committee.

In this committee, we have tried to provide the best crisis experience based on the most symbolic campaigns of one of the most significant events in the history of the modern world, the Battle of Montgisard in the very timeline of the Crusades. Not on purpose, but purely by coincidence, the Crusades we have chosen as our agenda item began on 15 August 1096, exactly 911 years before I was born.

I deliver my thanks to Secretary General Barbaros, Academic Advisor Öykü, my Academic Assistant Tansu, and of course, the woman behind my motivation at this conference, Birce.

I invite you to read this study guide and read mine and my Academic Assistant Tansu's upcoming e-mails including the character guide, situation sheet, and some example directives with patience. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail.

**Baturalp UYMAZ, Undersecretary General**

baturalp@uymaz.net

### ***Letter from Academic Assistant***

I am Tansu Rashidi and I will be your Academic Assistant for 4 days in the VarankMUN'24 Historical Joint-Crisis Committee. I believe that HJCC will be a committee full of political intrigues and military struggles in terms of its agenda, Battle of Montgisard. I believe that going to ancient times and trying to win a battle in four days will be an unforgettable experience. Our Under-Secretary General Baturalp did his work with meticulously and I pattern his elaborate work. I hope we will give you the best crisis committee experience and I look forward to meeting each of you. If you'll have any confusion further from our Study Guide, you can contact me via email.

**Tansu Rashidi, Academic Assistant [tansurasidi@gmail.com](mailto:tansurasidi@gmail.com)**

## **1.Introduction**

### ***a.Overview of the Battle of Montgisard***

The Battle of Montgisard was fought between the Kingdom of Jerusalem and the Ayyubids Muslims under the command of Saladin on 25 November 1177 at Montgisard, in the Levant between Ramala and Yibna. This sits in the period between the Second and Third Crusades.

The Franks, at this time, were led by the 16-year-old King Baldwin IV, who was seriously afflicted by leprosy and heavily bandaged. His Christian force was heavily outnumbered when compared to Saladin's troops in what became one of the most notable successful Crusader engagements of the Middle Ages and one where the Knights Templar's fighting spirit, marshal discipline, and gutsy heroism shone light the bright morning star.

Saladin's army was quickly routed and pursued by the Franks for twelve miles. Saladin withdrew back to Cairo, reaching the city on 8 December, with only a tenth of the army he fielded. The loss of life, experience, weapons, treasure, horses, and mules represented a strategic military and reputational disaster for Saladin and the Saracens, shifting the balance of power in the

Franks favor up. (Hodge SJ, *Secrets of the Knights Templar, the hidden history of the world's most powerful Order*, Quercus Editions Ltd, 2013.)

### *b. Significance of the Battle in the Context of the Crusades*

The battle turned out to be a powerful symbol of Christian resilience and determination. The victory was achieved despite devastating disadvantages, with King Baldwin IV leading a much smaller army force of the Crusaders against Saladin's massive army, this triumph later provided a morale boost to the Crusader states, demanding that the strategic brilliance and fearless leadership heavily outnumbered army and could achieve victory, and reinforced the Crusaders' resolve to continue their exercise to further their efforts in the Holy Land.

The legacy of the Battle lasted in the historical memory of the Crusaders and was celebrated as a miraculous victory, which later turned out to be the chivalric lore that inspired future generations of Crusaders.

## **2. The Crusades: An Overview**

### *a. Origins and Objectives of the Crusades*

Dating back to the 10th century, *Byzantium* had been able to resize territory in Syria, starting around the 1030s the *Seldjuk Turks* gained power and territory. These incursions prompted the emperor of Byzantium, *Alexius I Comnenus* to send a delegation to Piacenza, Italy, asking *Pope Urban II* in March 1095 for help against the *Turks*. On 27 November 1095, in Clermont, France, Pope Urban II called for a crusade to help the Byzantines and to free the city of Jerusalem. The official start date was set as 15 August 1096. Those armies that left before that time were considered part of the People's Crusade. Three of these armies never made it past Hungary, two others under Peter the Hermit and Walter Sansavoir were defeated by *Kilij Arslan of Nicaea*.

The Crusaders first gathered in Constantinople in the fall of 1096. They besieged Nicaea while Kilij Arslan was away, the city was surrendered to Alexius and later defeated an army commanded by Kilij Arslan at Dorlyaeum. On the progress to Jerusalem the Crusaders, or a faction of them also seized

Edessa and Antioch. After Antioch, the Crusaders waited out the summer heat and disorder from Adhemar's death. Eventually, the rank-and-file soldiers forced the crusade to continue. After unsuccessfully besieging Arqah for three months, the Crusaders continued to Jerusalem which they seized on 15 July 1099.

Encouraged by the success, and in some cases threatened by excommunication for nonparticipation or desertion, more armies left for Jerusalem in 1100-1101; these armies were defeated in Asia Minor, and during subsequent decades fighting continued in the area. The Byzantines were unhappy about the Franks not returning land that had once belonged to Byzantium; the Franks were unhappy about the lack of support from the Byzantines during the crusade. (Erbstösser, Martin. *The Crusades*. Brunel House, UK: David and Charles, 1978.)

#### *b.Key Players and Stakeholders*

##### *i.The Crusader States*

The *Crusader States* were created after the First Crusade (1095-1102 CE) in order to keep hold of the territorial gains made by Christian armies in the Middle East. The four small states were the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the County of Edessa, the County of Tripoli, and the Principality of Antioch. The Westerners managed to maintain a political presence in the region until 1291 CE but were constantly hampered by dynastic rivalries, a lack of fighting men, underwhelming support from Western Europe, and the military prowess of such Muslim leaders as Zangi, Nur ad-Din (sometimes also given as Nur al-Din), and Saladin.

##### *1.The Kingdom of Jerusalem*

The most important of the Crusader States was the Kingdom of Jerusalem which controlled a narrow strip of coastal lands from Jaffa in the south to Beirut in the north. The kingdom controlled various fiefdoms, including Acre, Tyre, Nablus, Sidon, and Caesarea.

## *2.The County of Edessa*

In March 1098 CE, Baldwin of Boulogne took control of Edessa, and the County of Edessa was formed, the first of the Crusader States. Although Baldwin had, in effect, usurped power from the ruling Christian Armenians, he did promote a mixing of Western and Armenian nobility through marriages, making the County of Edessa the most integrated of the four Crusader-created states

## *3.The Principality of Antioch*

The Principality of Antioch, with its capital at Antioch, the great ancient city of culture and trade, was founded by Norman Bohemund and extended by his successor Tancred of Lecce (r. 1105-1112 CE). The principality was another Crusader State that the Byzantine Empire - the former owners of that territory, of course - took a perpetual interest in, even though Bohemund refused to return Antioch as he had promised before the Crusade

## *4.The County of Tripoli*

The County of Tripoli, with its capital at the important seaport of Tripolis (modern Tripoli), then the most important port of Damascus, covered an area that is today Lebanon and was founded by Raymond of Toulouse. Raymond's army had captured Tripolis after a lengthy siege in 1109 CE with the help of Byzantine emperor Alexios I, for which Raymond had to swear an oath of loyalty. Thus, the County gave the Byzantines influence in the region, even under Alexios' successors. In contrast, it was the most independent Crusader State from the far-reaching political tentacles of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. The County was divided into semi-independent lordships with each controlling an important port or castle. As a consequence



of this arrangement, the County was perhaps the weakest, politically speaking of the Crusader States.

(Asbridge, T. *The Crusades*. Simon & Schuster Ltd, 2012.)

#### *ii. Muslim Powers*

The *Ayyubid Dynasty*, or the *Ayyubid Sultanate* was the founding dynasty of the medieval *Sultanate of Egypt* established by the *Saladin* in 1171, following his abolition of the Fatimid Caliphate of Egypt. Following Nur ad-Din's death, Saladin was proclaimed as the first *Sultan of Egypt* by the *Abbasid Caliphate* and rapidly expanded the new sultanate beyond the frontiers of Egypt in order to encompass most of the Levant, including the former territories of Nur ad-Din, in addition to Hijaz, Yemen, Northern Nubia, Tarabulus, Cyrenaica, Souther Anatolia and Northern Iraq, the homeland of his Kurdish family.

### **3. The Political Landscape in the 12th Century**

#### *a. The Kingdom of Jerusalem*

##### *i. Establishment and Expansion*

In an utterly successful campaign, which subsequent crusades would never repeat, the great cities of Nicaea and Antioch were captured, and then, after a brief siege, Jerusalem too, on 15 July 1099 CE. With most of the original army of Crusaders having returned home triumphant, some nobles and their followers stayed on to begin a new life in the Holy Land. Yet, this was to be only the opening chapter in a protracted story to keep hold of the hard-won territory against various Muslim commanders over the next two centuries.

The situation of Christians in the Middle East, especially Jerusalem was not helped either by the disillusioned relations with the Byzantine Empire, the Western leaders feeling that Alexios had not done very much to help the Crusaders. To contend the assets of the First Crusade, four Crusader states, en masse known as the Outremer or Latin East,

were created: *The Kingdom of Jerusalem*, the *Country of Edessa*, the *County of Tripoli*, and the *Principality of Antioch*.

### *ii. Key Figures and Leadership*

The leadership of the Kingdom throughout the time leading up to the Battle of Montgisard was characterized by the combination of many strong personalities and complex political dynamics. During the time, King Baldwin IV was the reigning monarch of Jerusalem, his condition cast a long shadow over his reign and raised questions about the succession and the stability of the kingdom. Raymond III of Tripoli often acted as regent during Baldwin IV's reign. *Reynald of Chatillon*, *Balian of Ibelin*, and *William of Tyre* were also some of the nobles who served crucial roles during the war.

### *b. The Ayyubid Dynasty*

#### *i. Saladin's Rise to Power*

Saladin was born into a prominent Kurdish family. On the night of his birth, his father, Najm al-Din Ayyub, gathered his family and moved to Aleppo, there entering the service of Imad al-Din Zangi ibn Aq Sonqur, the powerful Turkish governor in northern Syria. Growing up in Ba'lbek and Damascus, Saladin was apparently an undistinguished youth, with a greater taste for religious studies than military training. His formal career began when he joined the staff of his uncle Asad al-Dīn Shīrkūh, an important military commander under the emir Nūr al-Dīn, who was the son and successor of Zangī. During three military expeditions led by Shīrkūh into Egypt to prevent its falling to the Latin Christian (Frankish) rulers of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem, a complex, three-way struggle developed between Amalric I, the king of Jerusalem; Shāwar, the powerful vizier of the Egyptian Fātimid caliph; and Shīrkūh. After Shīrkūh's death and after ordering Shāwar's assassination, Saladin, in 1169 at the age of 31, was appointed both commander of the Syrian troops in Egypt and vizier of the Fātimid caliph there. His relatively quick rise to power must be attributed not

only to the clannish nepotism of his Kurdish family but also to his own emerging talents. As a vizier of Egypt, he received the title “king” (Malik), although he was generally known as the sultan. Saladin’s position was further enhanced when, in 1171, he abolished the weak and unpopular Shi‘i Fāṭimid caliphate, proclaiming a return to Sunni Islam in Egypt. Although he remained for a time theoretically a vassal of Nūr al-Dīn, that relationship ended with the Syrian emir’s death in 1174

#### *ii. Territorial Ambitions*

The Ayyubid Dynasty, led by Saladin, was pursuing ambitious territorial goals in the twelfth century, mainly focused on reclaiming Jerusalem and concentrating Muslim territories in the Levant. Their main agenda was to recapture Jerusalem, a city of deep religious significance to Islam. Above Jerusalem, the Ayyubids were aiming to expand their influence through the region, targeting the Crusader states.

### **4. Prelude to the Battle**

#### *a. Strategic Importance of Montgisard*

Montgisard was settled near Ramla, close enough to the central plain of Palestine, relatively thirty-five kilometers from Jerusalem. The adjacency to the Crusader capital made it essential for defending the city from southern intrusions. Its location near the Mediterranean coast, nearest to ports such as Jaffa and Ascalon, was decisive for the Crusader states, dependent on supplies and reinforcements from Europe.

The terrain around the Montgisard displayed open plains, advisable for the heavy cavalry charges that were the strength of the Crusader armies, this type of terrain allowed the Crusaders to maximize the persuasiveness of their armored knights, essential in medieval warfare.

The location also served as a defensive cushion for Jerusalem. By appealing to Saladin's forces at Montgisard, the Crusaders intended to halt their advantage before they could threaten Jerusalem.

#### *b. The Situation in Jerusalem*

Throughout the years leading to the Battle of Montgisard, the Kingdom of Jerusalem was ruled by King Baldwin IV, famously known as the *Leper King* due to his exhausting illness, despite his severe condition, Baldwin IV, maintained to be a determined and capable leader. Yet, his leprosy raised concerns regarding his ability to govern and led to the questions of his succession to the throne. This dubiously changed the political climate within Jerusalem tense and unstable. Many regents and nobles with strong influence, often had to step in to support Baldwin's rule, with figures such as *Raymon III of Tripoli* playing essential roles in the governance.

The Kingdom banked heavily on its regional alliances with the other Crusader states, such as the *County of Tripoli* and the *Principality of Antioch*. These alliances were crucial in the means of mutual defense against the ever-existing threat of Muslim Forces. The Crusader states were also dependent on desultory reinforcement from European monarchs along with the papacy being not always consistent, in addition to the kingdom's unhealthy situation.

Militarily, the kingdom was under consistent pressure. Apart from the Crusader army being though brave and skilled, it was limited in numbers and resources. The knights were acclaimed for their daunting cavalry charges, but the small population and the ongoing attrition from previous conflicts made it difficult to field a large force. Even though Jerusalem itself was well-fortified, the kingdom had to defend an enormous territory dotted with numerous castles and strongholds, this widespread defense had stretched their resources thin and made it challenging to maintain a prosperous military presence in all areas.

(Erbstösser, Martin. *The Crusades*. Brunel House, UK: David and Charles, 1978.)

### *c.Saladin's Campaigns Leading Up to 1177*

By 1177, Saladin had effectively consolidated much of Syria and Egypt under his control. His territorial ambitions have extended beyond a mere conquest; they were driven by a perception to unite Muslim lands and liberate Jerusalem.

## **5.Key Figures**

### *a.Baldwin IV: The Leper King*

#### *i.His Reign and Challenge*

King Baldwin IV, often quoted as “the Leper King”, has reigned over the Kingdom of Jerusalem from 1174 to 1185. He was diagnosed with leprosy at a very young age, and Baldwin’s condition consistently worsened, however, he managed to rule with remarkable resilience and determination, ascending the throne at the age of thirteen after the death of his father, Amalric I, Baldwin IV’s reign was overseen by a regency led Raymon III, until he came of age.

Internally, Baldwin IV’s reign was troubled by many factional disputes among the nobility, who were often divided over how to manage the external threat and the governance of the Kingdom.

#### *ii.Military Strategies and Allies*

Despite his tiresome illness, Baldwin IV was proved to be a brilliant strategist, which was later proven by his divisive victory at the Battle of Montgisard, understanding the importance of terrain and the element of surprise. Baldwin IV has also understood the importance of maintaining alliances; he has polished strong alliances with the Knights Templar and the Knights Hospitaller, two military orders that provided essential support in the Crusader states.

## *b.Saladin: The Sultan of Egypt and Syria*

### *i.Military Leadership and Vision*

The military leadership of Saladin was characterized by his strategic brilliance and the ability to command large and diverse armies. He managed to implement innovative tactics, such as rapid cavalry maneuvers and coordinated infantry assaults, allowing him to outmaneuver and overwhelm his enemies. Saladin was aiming to unite the Muslim territories under a single banner, effectively countering the presence of Crusaders in the Holy Land.

### *ii.Previous Encounters with Crusaders*

Before the Battle of Montgisard in 1177, Saladin had already established himself as a remarkable figure in the conflict between Muslims and Crusaders. In 1171, he rose to power as the vizier of Egypt under the Abbasid caliphate, and in 1174 he seized control of Egypt and declared himself *Sultan*, founding the Ayyubid Dynasty, throughout this period, he focused on consolidating his authority and expanding his influence in the region.

## **6.The Course of the Battle**

### *a.Initial Movements and Tactics*

On the Muslim side, Turan Shah commanded a distinct coalition composing troops from Egypt and Syria. Their original strategy was involving an expeditious advance towards Kerak, by underestimating the threat posed by Baldwin IV's smaller force. The coalition of Muslims, numbered several thousand cavalry and infantry, was expecting minimal resistance and had not prepared for a significant obligation with the Crusaders.

The tactical decisions made by King Baldwin IV at Montgisard were essential, he chose the battlefield very strategically, by utilizing the elevated and broken terrain to his advantage. This landscape allowed the Crusaders to be deployed in a tight formation, which later maximized their mobility and striking power.

The decision of Baldwin IV to initiate combat rather than retreat mirrored his understanding of the tactical opportunities offered by the terrain and the elements of surprise.

At variance, Turan Shah and the Muslim coalition were confident in their numerical dominance and were caught off guard by the bloodthirstiness and determination of the Crusader counterattack.

### *b.Key Engagements and Turning Points*

Regardless of being densely outnumbered, Baldwin IV of Jerusalem launched a surprise offensive on Saladin's army, consisting of approximately 375 knights and a few thousand men of infantry, and managed to catch the Ayyubid troops off guard. The sudden offensive of the Crusaders created initial confusion and disorder within the high command of Saladin's ranks, demanding effectiveness and rapid action in warfare.

In response, Saladin rapidly organized a counterattack, renowned for his tactical dexterity, directing his troops to regroup and counter the Crusader offensive. His disciplined and well-trained troops had begun to push back against the Baldwin and attempted to re-achieve control of the battlefield.

A bottom-line turning point in the battle was King Baldwin IV's strategic accord to fight near the Montgisard, which later provided a compelling tactical advantage for the compact Crusader force, and forced Saladin's larger army into a disadvantageous position blocking their ability to maneuver adequately.

A second turning point was the bold-charge led by King Baldwin IV and the Knights Templar, which broke through the Saladin's lines and caused panic and consecutive disaster among the Ayyubid soldiers. The presence of Baldwin on the battlefield despite his exhausting leprosy, has created a psychological impact that cannot be understated.

### *c.Role of Geography and Terrain*

Montgisard, located near a seaside town in Ramla, has featured a diverse landscape including plains, hills, and a strategic network of roads. The terrain was recognizable to the Crusaders, who later established a major presence in the region. Baldwin IV's decision to engage Ayyubid Troops near Montgisard

was a masterstroke of strategy, forcing Saladin's army into an imprisoned area where their numerical advantage was less competent.

## **7.Aftermath and Consequences**

### *a.Immediate Outcomes for Both Sides*

For the Crusaders, the victory was an extraordinary morale booster. Baldwin IV's fruitful leadership against Muslim forces reinforced the confidence of the Crusader states and their citizens.

For Saladin and his Muslim forces controlled by Turan Shah, the defeat at Montgisard was a severe set-back. The loss of a significant segment from his army, along with the psychological letdown of being defeated by a much smaller force, disrupted his actual plans for further incursions into Crusader territory. This forced Saladin to retreat and reconsider his strategies, leading to a temporary cessation of his aggressive campaigns against the Crusader states. Some of Saladin's parties even lied and said they had won the war. Baldwin IV memorialized his victory by erecting a *Benedictine* monastery on the battlefield, dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria, whose feast day fell on the day of the battle. Yet, it was a difficult victory; *Roger de Moulins*, Grand Master of the *Knights Hospitaller*, reported that 1,100 men had been killed and 750 returned home wounded. (Stevenson, W. B. (1907). *The Crusaders in the East*)

Meanwhile, Raymond III of Tripoli and Bohemund III of Antioch joined with Philip I of Alsace in a separate expedition against Harim in Syria, the Siege of Harim lasted into 1178, and Saladin's defeat at Montgisard prevented him from relieving his Syrian vassals. Saladin later captured Jerusalem after Leprosy had killed King Baldwin IV. ("*The Battle of Montgisard: A Heroic Stand Against the Odds*" – StMU Research Scholars)

### *b.Long-term Impact on the Crusader States*

Militarily, the Battle of Montgisard advertised the strategic and tactical awareness of the Crusader leaders, particularly King Baldwin IV. The successful use of terrain and the element of surprise in defeating a numerically



dominant enemy provided beneficial lessons that were incorporated into future military strategies. The victory temporarily halted Saladin's advances, leaving the Crusader states a critical amount of time in order to regroup, fortify their positions, and seek reinforcements from Europe.

In politics, the victory at the battlefield had a constituting effect on the Crusader states. It assisted the legitimacy and governing authority of King Baldwin IV, despite his leprosy, and demonstrated his capability as a military leader.

#### *c. Influence on Subsequent Crusader-Muslim Conflicts*

In the vision of the Crusaders, the tactical success over the battlefield has intensified the high importance of swift, decisive actions and the effective usage of terrain and compact forces. This was evident in further engagements that the Crusader commanders have advantaged their knowledge of geography and hit-and-run tactics.

### **8. Legacy of Battle of Montgisard**

#### *a. Historical Interpretations and Analysis*

Some historians highlight the battle's role in cushioning the morale of crusader states and temporarily halting Saladin's advancement, this moment of triumph has later been seen as crucial in reinforcing the resolve of the Crusaders and ensuring the support from Europe.

Other analyses focus on the strategic implications of the battle, Montgisard is frequently discussed in the context of its influence on subsequent military engagements and the evolving strategies of Crusader and Muslim forces. The battle is also seen as a critical moment that highlights the need for better coordination, intelligence, and adaptability on the battlefield.

#### *b. Cultural and Political Repercussions*

Culturally the victory turned out to be a powerful symbol of divine favor for the Crusader states, the dramatic triumph of a much smaller Crusader force led by Baldwin IV over a much larger Muslim army of Saladin was seen as a

miraculous event, reinforcing the Crusaders' belief in their righteous cause, the narrative of divine intervention and heroic resistance was propagated through chronicles and tales, inspiring Christian supporters all across the Europe.

### **9.Conclusion: The Battle's place in Crusader and Medieval History**

Historically, the battle is often recognized as a remarkable demonstration of military strategy and leadership on the part of Baldwin IV of Jerusalem has triumphed over a much larger army of Muslims commanded by Saladin's deputy Turan Shah. Fought in 1177, the victory demonstrated the resilience and tactical ingenuity of Crusader forces at a critical time. The success temporarily moderated and halted Saladin's momentum and boosted the morale of the Crusader states, reinforcing their determination in order to defend their territories and the holy sites. It also turned out to be a rallying point and encouraged the support from European powers.

### **10.Additional Resources**

#### *a.Suggested Readings and Bibliography*

P. M. Holt, *The Age of the Crusades: The Near East from the Eleventh Century to 1517* (Longman, 1986)

Jonathan Riley-Smith, *The Crusades: A History* (Yale University Press, 2005)

Anne-Marie Eddé, *Saladin* (Harvard University Press, 2011)

Malcolm Cameron Lyons and D. E. P. Jackson, *Saladin: The Politics of the Holy War* (Cambridge University Press, 1982)

David Nicolle, *Saladin: Leadership - Strategy - Conflict* (Osprey Publishing, 2011)

Carole Hillenbrand, "The Crusades: Islamic Perspectives" in *History Today* (1999)

Bernard Hamilton, "Saladin and the Kingdom of Jerusalem: The Muslims Recapture Jerusalem" in *History Today* (1985)

S. Lane-Poole, "Saladin and the Fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem" in *The English Historical Review* (1898)

H. A. R. Gibb, "Saladin's Wars Against the Crusaders" in The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (1928)

*b. Glossary of Terms and Key Figures*

**Saladin:** Also known as Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub, Saladin was the Sultan of Egypt and Syria who became famous for his role in the Crusades and his recapture of Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1187.

**Ayyubid Dynasty:** A Sunni Muslim dynasty founded by Saladin's father, Ayyub, which ruled Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and other parts of the Levant from the 12th to 13th centuries.

**Crusades:** A series of religious and military campaigns sanctioned by the Latin Church in the medieval period, primarily aimed at recapturing Jerusalem and other holy sites from Muslim control.

**Kingdom of Jerusalem:** One of the Crusader states established in the Levant after the First Crusade in 1099, centered on the city of Jerusalem and extending to parts of present-day Israel and Palestine.

**Holy Land:** Region in the Levant (modern-day Israel, Palestine, and parts of Jordan and Lebanon) considered sacred by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam due to its association with significant religious events and sites.

**Muslim Caliphates:** Successive Islamic empires or dynasties that claimed religious and political authority over the Muslim community (ummah), such as the Abbasid Caliphate and the Fatimid Caliphate.

**Zengid Dynasty:** A Turkic dynasty that ruled parts of Syria and northern Iraq during the 12th and 13th centuries, known for its conflict with the Crusader states and its eventual absorption by the Ayyubid Dynasty.

**Battle of Hattin:** A decisive battle in 1187 where Saladin defeated the Crusader armies led by Guy of Lusignan, resulting in the fall of Jerusalem to Muslim control shortly thereafter.

**Dome of the Rock:** Iconic Islamic shrine in Jerusalem, built in 691 CE, located on the Temple Mount and considered one of the oldest extant Islamic structures in the world.

**Fatimid Caliphate:** Shiite Muslim caliphate that ruled Egypt and parts of North Africa from 909 to 1171, known for its rivalry with the Sunni Abbasid Caliphate and its eventual defeat by Saladin.

**Crusader States:** Various feudal Christian states were established by Crusaders in the Levant, including the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the County of Tripoli, the Principality of Antioch, and the County of Edessa.

**Sultan:** Title used by Muslim rulers, typically meaning "authority" or "power," often used interchangeably with "emir" or "caliph" depending on the specific historical context.

**Siege:** Military tactic involving the surrounding and blockade of a city or fortress to force its surrender, commonly used during the Crusades and other medieval conflicts.

**Vizier:** High-ranking official in Muslim states, serving as prime minister or chief advisor to the ruler, responsible for administrative affairs and policy implementation.

**Jihad:** Islamic concept referring to struggle or effort, often used in the context of religious duty or striving, including military struggle in defense of Islam or against perceived enemies.