Conquest and Communities

Trace why campaigns began and how their effects differed.

9-12.WC.26 "Analyze the causes and consequences of the Crusades and Reconquista on Christian, Muslim, and Jewish populations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the Crusades and two causes of the Reconquista. Circle consequences, then write C, M, or J beside each to show which Christian, Muslim, or Jewish population was affected.

After the Armies Arrived

1. In 1095, Pope Urban II urged western Christians to help the Byzantine Empire, which faced Turkish advances, and to seize Jerusalem, a city sacred to Christians, Muslims, and Jews. His call joined religious devotion to hopes for land, status, and wealth. Armies traveling east created danger for people far beyond the battlefield: some crusaders attacked Jewish communities in the Rhineland before reaching the eastern Mediterranean. In 1099, crusaders captured Jerusalem and killed many Muslim and Jewish residents. Christian rulers then established states along the eastern Mediterranean coast, while Muslim leaders organized campaigns to recover lost territory.

2. In Iberia, the Reconquista was not one continuous war but centuries of shifting campaigns by Christian kingdoms against Muslim-ruled territories. Kings sought land, taxes, and political power, while religious claims also shaped their goals. Alliances sometimes crossed religious lines, and periods of trade and shared learning occurred alongside fighting. After Christian forces took Toledo in 1085, its Muslim and Jewish inhabitants initially remained under new rulers. In 1492, Granada, the last Muslim-ruled kingdom in Iberia, surrendered to Castile and Aragon. Its surrender agreement promised Muslims religious freedom, but later policies violated that promise.

3. Neither campaign changed every community in the same way. Crusading could bring Christian soldiers and merchants opportunities, but it also cost lives and resources; Christians living in the eastern Mediterranean faced renewed warfare. In Iberia, Christian rulers gained territory and tax revenue, while some Muslim families lost political power or fled. In 1492, Spain's monarchs ordered Jews to convert or leave, uprooting communities that had lived there for generations. Later, Muslims in Castile faced forced conversion, and some left. These policies were decisions made after Christian conquests, not an inevitable result of every earlier encounter.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What religious and political or economic aims helped drive the Crusades? What did Christian rulers gain after the capture of Jerusalem?

2. How did the capture of Jerusalem affect Muslim and Jewish residents, and how did Muslim leaders respond to crusader rule?

3. What political and religious aims shaped the Reconquista? How did Christian victory at Granada eventually affect Muslims there?

4. Compare a consequence of the Crusades for Jews with a consequence of the Reconquista for Jews. What action caused each?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a brief advisory note to a fictional council governing a newly conquered city. Use one cause and two consequences from the passage to explain possible effects on at least two religious populations, then propose one specific policy not described in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Conquest and Communities

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.WC.26

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the Crusades and two causes of the Reconquista. Circle consequences, then write C, M, or J beside each to show which Christian, Muslim, or Jewish population was affected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What religious and political or economic aims helped drive the Crusades? What did Christian rulers gain after the capture of Jerusalem?	**Urban II called for aid to the Byzantine Empire and the seizure of Jerusalem. Religious devotion and hopes for land, status, and wealth also motivated crusaders. Christian rulers established states along the eastern Mediterranean coast.**
2	How did the capture of Jerusalem affect Muslim and Jewish residents, and how did Muslim leaders respond to crusader rule?	**Crusaders killed many Muslim and Jewish residents. Muslim leaders organized campaigns to recover lost territory.**
3	What political and religious aims shaped the Reconquista? How did Christian victory at Granada eventually affect Muslims there?	**Christian kings sought land, taxes, and political power, and religious claims shaped their goals. Granada's surrender agreement promised Muslims religious freedom, but later policies violated that promise.**
4	Compare a consequence of the Crusades for Jews with a consequence of the Reconquista for Jews. What action caused each?	**Some crusaders attacked Jewish communities in the Rhineland while traveling east. After the conquests in Iberia, Spain's monarchs ordered Jews to convert or leave, uprooting their communities.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To the council: Your soldiers may see conquest as a chance to gain land and taxes, as Iberian kings did. But a new ruler's choices can turn victory into lasting fear. Granada's Muslims received a promise of religious freedom that later policies broke, while Jews in Spain were ordered to convert or leave. Such actions harmed both groups and could weaken trust in Christian rule. Require public hearings, with Muslim, Jewish, and Christian representatives, before any change to worship laws. Publishing each decision and its reasons would make broken promises harder to hide.

Accept other passage-supported causes and consequences when the relationships are clear. For the advisory note, look for a proposed policy that goes beyond repeating an action described in the passage.