

Major Events in the Northern Crusades

EARLY CHRISTIANIZATION OF SCANDINAVIA & W. BALTIC

- 960s-990s: Churches est. among W. Slavs, Danes, Poles, Russians
- 997: Martyrdom of St Adalbert of Prague in Prussia
- 1086: Martyrdom of King Canute IV in Denmark
- 1118: Hospital of St Mary for Germans est. at Jerusalem (became model for later hospital at Acre)
- 1124: Mission of Bishop Otto of Bamberg to the Pomeranians
- 1127: Bishopric est. at Wollin
- 1129-36: Bernard of Clairvaux composes Templars' Rule
- 1143-44: Cistercians enter Sweden & Denmark

WENDISH CRUSADE

- 1147: First N. Crusade launched against Baltic Slavs (Eugenius III, "Divina dispensatione")
- 1171: Alexander III authorizes crusade against Finns/Estonians (Non parum animus noster) → technically no papally adm'd crusading in iterm
- 1181: Fall of Duke Henry of Saxony
- 1185: Pomeranian Slavs submit to Canute VI of Denmark
- 1187: Fall of Jerusalem to Saladin
- 1190: Teutonic Order of St Mary's Hospital est. in Acre
- 1195: Celestine V grants full crusading privileges to anyone vowing to make pilgrimage to Dvina
- 1198: Innocent III authorizes Livonian Crusade; Archbishop Hartwig of Bremen sends back bishop Berthold (a Cistercian) to Livonia w/ contingent of Saxon Knights who becomes first Livonian martyr

LIVONIAN CRUSADE

- 1200: Hartwig's nephew Albert replaces Berthold in Livonia; est's archbishopric of Riga & Sword Brothers
- 1200-1231: Conquest of NE Baltic by Bishop Albert & crusaders, esp. through existing indigenous peoples
 - 1200-1209: Livs & Letts
 - 1212: Prince of Polotsk cedes tributaries; Riga gains hegemony over Dvina
 - 1209-18: s. Estonians
 - 1222: partition of Estonia b/w Danish King Valdemar & Bishop Albert
 - 1227: Osel
 - 1230-31: Curonians

PRUSSIAN CRUSADE

- 1236: Lithuanian attack annihilates Folkwin & the Sword Brothers; Hermann Balk & Teutonic Knights take over defense of Livonia in May 1237
- 1215: Innocent III consecrates Christian bishop of the Prussians
- 1217: Honorius III authorizes Prussian crusade
- 1226: Frederick II's Bull of Rimini grants Prussia to Teutonic Order
- 1230: Gregory IX authorizes Teutonic Knights to conquer the Prussians
- 1231-40: Conquest of W. Prussia from Chelmino & Thorn then gradually up Vistula, est'ing forts along river
- 1240s: Counter-offensive led by Prussians & Polish Duke Swantopelk ^(in Danzig); D.O. regains upper hand w/ help of papal legates (EST. of 3 independent bishoprics out of conquests) & Polish princes
 - 1242: Defeat at Lake Chud → Prussian Revolt
- 1254: Crusader King Ottokar of Bohemia pays for Samland fort of Königsberg
- 1260s: Prussian revolts severely weaken Order
- 1265-1270s: German crusaders reinforce Prussia & retake, rebuild/renovate, & garrison strongholds along Vistula — Königsberg (1260s); Marienwerder & Marienburg (1270s)
- 1277: All central nations submitted to Teutonic Knights by this point; powerful Yatvingians subdued by 1283
- 1277-1300: Guerilla war continues as Order asserts control over Prussia