

The Crusader Strategy

Defending the Holy Land

ISBN: 9780300253115

Tibble, Steve

“*The Crusader Strategy* tackles the fundamental problem faced by 'the defenders of the East' in the twelfth century. How did practical men implement God's will in almost impossible circumstances? Tibble's penetrative analysis shows that they responded by developing intelligent long-term strategies, skilfully adapted to the numerous challenges which confronted them.”
—Malcolm Barber, author of *The Crusader States*

“Viewing the crusader states' first century through the lens of strategic theory, Steve Tibble finds broad designs amid a whirlwind of battles, sieges, and negotiations. It is a compelling story vigorously-told of medieval men and the plans that they made.”
—Thomas F. Madden, author of *The New Concise History of the Crusades*

“Confident, brisk and engaging, Tibble offers a sharp new understanding of the Crusader States. He deftly reveals the strategic imperatives that shaped the early eras of conquest and consolidation, convincingly showing how and why the crusaders made their strategic choices. Pithy anecdote and clever analysis illuminate the crucial competition for Egypt, a race won by Saladin, who forced the crusaders out of their mighty castles and onto the fateful battlefield at Hattin. Insightful, original and persuasive - the perfect sibling to Tibble's *Crusader Armies*.”—Jonathan Phillips, author of *The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin*

“Yes indeed! The kings of Jerusalem did have a strategy. The case is argued with great panache. Tibble brings a freshness and a breadth of knowledge to his subject and has clearly thought long and hard as to why things went wrong. A welcome addition to a lively debate.”—Peter W. Edbury, author of *The Conquest of Jerusalem and the Third Crusade*

“Engagingly written... This is an effective entry point for those interested in the grand politics of crusader states.”—Andrew D Buck, *BBC History Magazine*

“In this compelling book... Tibble argues persuasively that although the crusaders lacked the jargon and analytical apparatus of what we now (often incorrectly) call 'strategy', their ability to support policy by actions repeated over time and modified in the light of constraints properly amounted to just that.”—Ian Garrick-Mason, *Spectator*

“Tibble is the most interesting military historian of the Crusades writing today. . . . While he does not break new ground, he helps readers see the old ground more profitably. He is an entertaining writer and his tone is often casual, but that does not come at the expense of scholarship or insightful use of historical sources.”—Timothy D. Lusch, *Chronicles Magazine*

Shortlisted for the 2020 Duke of Wellington Medal for Military History

The Crusader Armies

1099–1187

ISBN: 9780300253221

Tibble, Steve

“An extraordinarily vivid and scholarly picture of the clash of arms in the age of the crusades. Tibble demolishes old ideas about crusading warfare with élan.”—John France, author of *Perilous Glory*

“In this important book which rips away false assumptions and stimulates fresh thinking, Tibble argues that it was climate change on the Asian steppes driving the mass migration of nomadic horsemen which was the determining factor behind the crusades – and not religion nor Western intervention. Remarkable.”—Michael Haag, author of *The Tragedy of the Templars*

“A fresh and fast-paced study of conflict in the medieval Near East. Tibble challenges us to look anew at crusading warfare and in doing so delivers a compelling, convincing and cleverly-nuanced understanding of this multi-dimensional struggle. An essential read for historians of the Crusades, the Near East and medieval warfare.” Jonathan Phillips, author of *The Crusades, 1095-1204*

“In this thought-provoking work, Tibble offers a vivid insight into the realities of warfare in twelfth-century Syria and Palestine. He shows how this was a complex world in which attitudes were shaped as much by pragmatism as ideology, and where opportunism was just as important as religious conviction.”—Malcolm Barber, author of *The Crusader States*

“Now Tibble takes a new approach, one that adds to prior research and may well influence subsequent research. This book is a must read for medievalists.”—R. J. Powell, *Choice*

“I found the author's pace, clarity, and ability to communicate thoroughly, yet briefly, immensely informative. His depth of learning is immediately obvious...I believe that his ability to weave complex ideas with historical narrative is unparalleled. It is all hugely complemented by the skill and quality of Yale's publishing. *The Crusader Armies* is worth every penny.”—Patrick Mercer, *Military History Magazine*

“A book that welcomes everyone, regardless of the reader's background in the subject . . . Crusade historians like to complain that the general public knows nothing about their scholarship. It is books like this that will change that.”—Thomas F. Madden, *Reading Religion*

“*The Crusader Armies* offers more than the obligatory corrections to the historical ignorance of our age. It is a full-scale reassessment of the warfare, armies, and enemies of the Western Crusades in the Middle East . . . readable, expertly sourced, and well organized.”—Timothy D. Lusch, *Chronicles*

“The Crusader Armies: 1099–1187 is a worthy and sound contribution to the literature on its subject. . . . Steve Tibble paints a compelling picture of continual systemic warfare.”—Laurence W. Marvin, *Michigan War Studies Review*

Selected for Choice's 2019 Outstanding Academic Titles List