



Lessons of the Crusades and the Mongol Hordes

Salahuddin al-Ayyubi and his Successors

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“Verily never will Allah change the condition of a people until they change it themselves.”

(Qur'an 13:11)

The Muslim world is now going through one of the most difficult times in the history of Islam.

The Crusades and the invasion of Mongol hordes were the two tragic events in Islamic history which almost wiped out the Muslim world out of existence. If we were to look at the religious, moral, social and political conditions of the Muslim peoples in those days, there will be no difficulty in finding out the reasons for these calamities. Such a survey would amply bear out that these carnages did not take place all of a sudden. Ignorance, debauchery, disunity and infighting had put the whole Islamic world in a state of chaos and moral vacuum. Some of them so debased that they did not hesitate to seek assistance from the Crusaders against their brethren.

The parallel today is the many statelets littering the world of Islam after the break-up of the Othman Caliphate, creating again a situation which has tempted the new crusaders to attempt on their long cherished goal of annihilating what is left of Islam, the only obstacle to their dream of world domination. History appears to be repeating itself.

This little book is meant to give the readers an insight into the nature of historical process and the reason for the rise and fall of communities and nations. The lessons from the two calamities mentioned in this book, we pray, will not be lost on the present day Muslims. They should not lose heart, for at critical moments such as today, when the despair of the Muslims was at its height, Allah s.w.t. had intervened and His help had come from unexpected quarters. Allah s.w.t. may yet again intervene but only on condition the Muslims return to Him, for He has promised and His promise is true:

“Fain would they extinguish Allah’s light with their mouth, but Allah will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest.”

(Qur’an 9:32.)

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The aggression unleashed on the Muslim world today by its enemies combines the elements of the spirit of both the Crusades and the invasion of Mongol hordes, the two tragedies in history, which almost wiped out Islam.

We will be struck with the parallel we find in the conditions just preceding the two catastrophes mentioned in this book and the social, religious and political conditions prevailing in the present day Muslim world. The readers may draw their own conclusions as to the reasons of present day humiliation and sufferings of the Muslim Ummah, in spite of the fact that the Muslim world has been blessed with the most strategic land mass and natural resources.

Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (1914-1999) was indisputably one of the greatest exponents of Islam in the second half of the twentieth century. The two essays contained in this book have been taken from his celebrated work *Saviours of Islamic Spirit* (vol I).

"... European nations have joined hands with the United States of America against Islam and Muslims; their goal is to destroy the way of life prescribed by the Noble Book. Of course, there is no Salahuddin today anywhere in the Muslim world, but even without him, the memories of his life and times, vividly presented in *Lessons of the Crusades and the Mongol Hordes*, provide important insights into the current crusade as well as the state of the Muslim world."

Muzaffar Iqbal,
Centre for Islam & Science, Canada.

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