

Naval Power Sources For The Crusades On The Islamic East (590AH / 1096 AD - 648 AH / 1250 AD)

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Abstract:

The study aims to identify the naval power sources of the Crusades against the Islamic East represented by the types of ships, weapons, siege requirements, supplies, and naval combat requirements. To achieve the research objectives, the analytical approach is adopted in studying the sources of the naval power of the Crusades by tracing the routes of these campaigns and clarifying the impact of these sources on the results of the campaigns in the Islamic East and the consequent impact of these sources on the political, military, and economic decision of those campaigns.

The findings indicate that the sources of naval power for the Crusades are ships, siege machines, food and supplies, guidance, donations, granting indulgences, and imposing taxes. The results also show that the religious establishment, including the Pope, the Italian commercial cities, and the islands of the Mediterranean Sea are tools for those sources, as it provides its services in a manner that achieves its interests and privileges. Against these findings, the research recommends reconsidering the economic history of the Crusades against the Islamic East, rereading the course of those campaigns by land and sea, and examining the means of support and services received by these campaigns. The study consists of appendices demonstrating the routes of the crusades' naval campaigns in the Islamic East.

Keywords: sources of naval power, crusades, commercial cities, the Islamic East.

Introduction:

The Crusades that launched towards the Islamic East, relied on supporting sources and factors that pushed them towards reaching their goals. Especially since the itineraries of these campaigns are sea lines, and this study is primarily concerned with tracking the sources of naval power for those campaigns, and what was obtained from sources can be summarized in ships and their types, naval combat tools and requirements for a naval blockade, and is also concerned with highlighting the parties supporting those campaigns represented by European religious institutions, led by the authority of the Pope, in addition to the role of

European commercial cities, led by Italian cities (Genoa, Pisa and Venice), and also the role of the islands of Rhodes, Crete, Sicily, and Cyprus as a source of naval power for the Crusades, the study also included appendices to the plans of the Crusades and sea routes taken to reach the set goals.

The Pope's Authority as a Source of Crusader Naval

Power:

The authority of the Church, headed by the Pope, played a prominent role in directing moral and material support to the Crusades in the Islamic East, and that was by employing its influence and control over the taxes and lands that were under its possession, especially since the Crusades created an ideological conflict between the Islamic East and the Christian West. (Stevenson, *The Crusade*, 1968, p11)

The support of the Church, whether Western or Latin, for the Crusades on the Islamic East came through the Byzantine Christian reconciliation, which led to the freedom of the Latin churches in the East under the auspices of Emperor Alexis Komnenos, so the interests and goals of the two parties united (Ashour, *History of Relations*, 2003, p. 80) and the papal support for the Crusades came from the appeals made by Pope Urban II (1042-1099 AD) to the class of kings, knights, and merchants in order to direct their money to prepare these campaigns, and Pope Urban held a church council in the French city of Clairemont 488 AH / 1095 AD for the purpose of directing the campaigns towards the east and securing the supplies for their preparation, so this complex was a base on which later Church complexes with the same purposes were held. (Bridge, *History of the crusades*, p. 35)

Pope Urban II directed his appeals to the wealthy class of kings, knights, and princes with the intention of directing their financial support to the fighters, and those appeals bore fruit through the participation of simple, destitute, and inexperienced people in the first crusades towards the East., (Fouche: *The History of the Campaign*, 1990, p. 37; unknown author: *The works of the Franks*, 1958, p. 19; Abdo Qasim: *What are the Wars*, 1978, p. 55)

The pope's support came as a moral support for the Crusades by employing the religious authority of the Pope to mobilize that support, and the Church did not participate in direct financial financing of the campaigns, and this is what the Pope emphasized and was keen to clarify in the Claremont Council. (Wendover: *Flowers of History, Encyclopedia*, 2000, pg. 9; Abdo: *What are the wars*, pg. 50)

Perhaps the participation of the wealthy, princes, and feudal lords, and their involvement in the campaigns towards the east, is in the interest of the church, which appointed itself as the guardian of the money and property of these participants. Rather, the matter went beyond the church's seizure of the money of those who die from them, as these holdings were placed under the protection of the church. (Abdo: *What are the wars*, pg. 57; Runciman: *History of the crusades, Part 1*, pg. 190)

The Pope was keen to secure naval support for the Crusades, so he invited the Italian city of Genoa to participate in the support, and the Pope's invitation received a great response from the wealthy of Germany, England and France. Here, it must be noted the great role played by the Italian commercial cities in the naval support of the Crusades. In fact, they could be considered the main source of support for the Crusader naval force. (Runciman: *History, Part 1*, pg. 190; Ashour: *History of Relations*, pg. 80)

The pope's appeal specifically to the city of Genoa indicates the existence of mutual interests between the church, which did not stop supporting Genoa, and Genoa, which supports the authority of the Pope, noting that the church's support was directed to all Italian commercial cities, but it was support in a different way towards Genoa in particular.

It can be said that equipping most of the naval fleets for the Crusades was mostly the responsibility of the Italian commercial cities. For example, the city of Pisa equipped a fleet of fifty-two ships that arrived in Tire, destined for the Holy Land in 584 AH / 1189 AD. (Wendover, *Flowers of History*, p. 329; Runciman: *History of the crusades, Vol. 2*, p. 58).

Among the sources of the naval power of the Crusades was the source of the alms money that was supervised in collecting and distributing by the clergy. In the siege of Acre, for example, these alms were distributed to the infantry and cavalry participating in the siege. (Ibn Al-Athir: Al-Kamil, vol. 10, p. 80; Ambroise: Richard's Crusade, 280)

The ecclesiastical support for the Crusades went beyond the material side to the spiritual side, so came the papal promises of forgiveness of sins for everyone who contributes to the financing of the Fourth Crusade against Egypt 590 AH / 1195 AD, and these promises included even the clergy who gave part of their property in favor of the campaign and the Pope Innocent's attempts reached his thinking of establishing religious unity between the churches in the hope of obtaining Byzantine support by presenting the project of unity to Emperor Alexios Komnenos. (Livilharder, the seizure of Constantinople, The Encyclopedia, Articles 10, 30; Runciman: History, Vol. 3, pg. 150).

The ecclesiastical support for the Fifth Crusade came through raising taxes on the clergy by orders of Pope Innocent III in 612 AH / 1216 AD, participating in financial support and generous donations to the campaign, and instructing commercial cities to give up transporting goods and devote themselves to transporting fighters, the pope's support went beyond exempting all participants in the campaign from taxes and relieving them of their debts. Papal support for the fifth campaign was distinguished by its direct supervision by appointing a religious figure to lead the campaign, Cardinal Pelagius. (Imran: The Fifth Campaign, p. 120)

The role of the Church came as a pivotal role in the Fifth Crusade, by supervising the campaign in preparation and preparation, especially after the kings and princes of Europe gave up supporting the campaign due to its exorbitant costs. The Church used its authority by imposing the penalty of deprivation on anyone who stood in the way of the campaigns, including the deprivation inflicted by Pope Gregory IX on the German Emperor Frederick II for not presenting what he promised to support the

campaign.(Runciman: History, vol. 3,200; Imran: The Fifth Campaign, pg. 210)

The clergy came to pay their money and savings in order to support the Crusades, and that happened during the First Crusade after a conflict of interests broke out between the princes of that campaign, as one of the bishops accompanying the campaign gave a large part of his share of the spoils for the purposes of stopping the conflict between the Crusader princes over the sharing of the spoils of the Principality of Antioch 491 AH / 1098 AD.(Runciman: History of the Crusades, Part 1, p. 480).

The revenues from cultivated lands it seized or obtained were provided by the Church to motivate new feudal lords to come from west to east. And their temptation to expand their fiefdoms and increase their wealth, and even bribery money was not spared from the church's use of it in order to support the movement towards the east.(Daniel, The Russian Pilgrim: The Journey of the Russian Pilgrim, 1992, p. 13; Theodoric: Description of the Holy Places, 2003, p. 100)

The Church's support for the Crusades was not limited to material support only, but also extended to moral support by raising the morale of the fighters, addressing the entire West with books and reports on the course of the campaigns, and implementing many embassies that resulted in bringing Western and Byzantine support, especially in the aftermath of the siege of Acre and Ashkelon, and the fall of the emirate of Edessa at the hands of Imad al-Din Zangi.(Burchard: Description of the Holy Land, 1995 CE, p. 60; William Al-Suri: The Crusades, Vol. 3, 1991 CE, p. 180; Ibn Al-Athir: Al-Kamil, vol. 10, p. 65).

Among the sources of naval power for the Crusades is the Church's harnessing of its authority and influence in buying ships and arming fighters. The Pope's deputy in Damietta paid money to the knights and ship owners in return for engaging in the Crusade against Egypt and perhaps the role of the church appeared clearly in the establishment of the military monks' organizations represented by Daoism and the Hospitallers and taking them out from their religious charitable character to the character of military organizations in which the monk takes on the character of a

warrior knight who adopts the function of implementing the will of the church, thus bringing together the warrior knight and the religious monk.(Matta: *Al-Tarikh Al-Kabir*, p. 1100; Ibn Al-Athir: *Al-Kamil*, vol. 10, p. 35; Al-Asbhani: *Al-Fath Al-Qasi*, 2004, p. 80; Ibn Wasil: *Mufarrej Al-Karub*, 1957, vol. 2, p. 290).

The Church has defined the duties of these organizations by directing them to supervise the protection of the roads for the Crusader pilgrims heading to Jerusalem and the East, secure their accommodation, serve food depots, secure the weapons needed by the knights, and supervise the horse stables, soon after, these organizations practiced the business of banking, lending money, supervising its spending, and securing its storage. Soon, these organizations became the strongest financial arm of the Church because of the resources it possessed from spoils, taxes, lands, donations, trade, plunder, and speculative deals.(Wendover: vol. 39, p. 125; *Flowers of the History*, James: *Fighters for God's Cause*, p. 35; Theodoric: *Description of Places*, p. 100; Smith: *History of Wars*, vol. 2, p. 30, Matta: *Al-Tarikh Al-Kabir*, 600A.D. 40; William Al-Suri: *the crusades*, vol. 3, p. 400.)

These organizations provided unparalleled support to the Crusades by securing them with professional soldiers in combat. They also played a role in collecting the necessary funds to build forts and castles and build fleets that provided their services to the naval crusades. They also contributed to the purchase of weapons and securing the war machine for the naval campaigns in addition to their therapeutic services.(Ambroise: *Richard's Crusade*, ed. 32,200; Runciman: *History of the Crusades*, Vol. 2, p. 360).

To sum up, the methods adopted by the Pope to support the campaigns are summed up in imposing taxes, granting forgiveness, protecting the money and property of the participants, reconciliations between commercial cities, attempting to unify the churches, collecting donations, and paying the money and savings of the bishops, perhaps these methods were distinguished and differed between the eastern and western churches, as each church had its own ways and methods in the issue of support.

Italian cities as a source of naval power for the Crusades:

The contribution of Italian cities in the Crusades has been active since its inception in 488 AH / 1096 AD through the volunteers provided by these cities, which included simple people or knights with experience in fighting as a group of poor pilgrims joined in the popular campaign and fought on the side of the Norman knights under Bohemund I, who succeeded in obtaining the support of the Italian cities by providing him with horses, archers, and war machine. (Albert: History of the Crusade, v. 51, p. 35; Joseph: The Arabs and the Romans, p. 45; Parker: The Crusades, p. 25)

The role of the Italian cities as a source of the Crusader naval power emerged through the means of combat and tools of war that these cities provided, including ships, catapults, cruisers, and everything that achieves the campaigns achieving their goals. Here, a distinction must be made between the role of the inner Italian cities, such as the city of Rome, the center of the papacy, and the role of the commercial cities that constituted a real source of the Crusader naval power. (Fouche: History of the Campaign, 111; Komnena: Alexiad, p. 390).

The Italian cities supported the First Crusade with a fleet carrying Italian pilgrims along with the siege equipment that was used in the siege of Antioch. The fleet included a number of princes, counts and knights of the Italian cities 489 AH / 1097 AD. (Runciman: History of the Crusades, Vol. 1, p. 350; Parker: Wars, p. 30).

The Italian city of Venice participated in presenting a fleet and pushing it towards Jaffa in the year 493 AH / 1101 AD carrying five thousand cavalry and one hundred thousand infantrymen who crossed Constantinople after they had been provided with supplies and their necessary needs. (Fouche: History of the Campaign, p. 110; Alexiad, p. 440; Albert: History of the Campaign, P. 51, p. 200).

The efforts of Bohemund I and his son Bohemund II resulted in obtaining support from the Italian cities represented by ten ships with long oars and twelve ships for transporting baggage, weapons and supplies, and the ships provided by the Italian cities for the Crusades varied between ships with

short and long oars, some of them included several rows of oars, and these ships were known by different names, including “qarqura”, “aghraba”, “bernas”, “galleys”, and “pots”. The tasks of these ships varied between transporting baggage and weapons, and transporting warriors, some of which were intended for throwing Greek fire, and some were allocated for maneuvering. (Imran: *The Fifth Campaign*, p. 195; Fouche: *The History of the Campaign*, p. 230; William Al-Suri: *Al-Hroub*, Vol. 3, p. 50)

The support of the Italian cities (Pisa, Genoa, and Venice) for the Crusades came out of their desire to control the maritime trade routes and markets, and Stevenson notes that the Italian cities' support for the Crusades came in exchange for special privileges in the East. That is why these cities responded to the pope's calls, hoping for economic privileges and a flourishing commercial movement, so they rushed to lead the Crusader armies and carry them on their ships in exchange for those privileges. (Stevenson: *The crusade in the east*, p. 5)

These cities competed and competed with each other to establish unique commercial relations with the East, until the Venetians became the commercial mediators between East and West, so merchants in all of Europe engaged in participating with Italian cities in supporting the Crusades and establishing commercial relations with ports in the East and working to limit Arab influence on the Mediterranean trade, and this was evident in the attack of the Italian cities on Mahdia, the coastal port in North Africa, with the help of the Genoese and Pisa fleets in 480 AH / 1087 AD. (Zaburov: *Crusaders in the East*, p. 27; Ashur: *History of Europe in the Middle Ages*, p. 441).

This support for the Crusades by Italian cities and European merchants coming from all over Europe came because of the hateful feudal system spread in Europe, which was reflected in the weakness of internal trade in Europe, which prompted the establishment of commercial relations with the countries of the East through participation in and support of the Crusades. (Zaburov: *Ibid.*, p. 28; Joseph Nassim: *The Arabs, Romans, and Latins in the First Crusades*, 1988 AD,

pg. 15, 16; Al-Sayyid: The Crusades through the writings of Jan de Vitry, 2006, p. 206).

The Italian cities harnessed all their capabilities towards directing and supporting the Crusader campaigns. These cities were characterized by caution, prudence, and lack of extravagance and extravagance. They were keener than the rest of the Europeans in preserving Italy and its future, without submitting to any other authority, no matter how powerful it was, It exercised its powers as independent cities, even as it provided its services to the Pope's soldiers and the fighters of the Cross.(Surreal: The Crusades and their impact on relations between East and West, 2003, p. 180; Abu Surra: The Commercial Medieval Revolution, 1977, p. 87; Zaburov: Ibid., p. 27; Durant: The Story of Civilization, vol. 15, p. 75; al-Naqash: Social and Cultural Relations Economics between the Arabs and the Franks during the Crusades, 1958, p. 12).

Genoa is a source of Crusader naval power:

Genoa played a major role in supporting the Crusader Sea route through its services to the Crusader armies coming to the east, where this city worked on an alliance with European merchants to preserve the Crusader entity in the Levant and support the stability of the Crusader entities in the east with the aim of protecting their commercial interests, as Genoa's activity in this aspect emerged since the first Crusade.Wendover: Flowers of the History, vol. 39, pg. 50; Runciman: History of the Crusades, Vol. 1, p. 340; William Al-Suri, part 1, p. 320; Abu Surra: the previous reference, pg. 92; al-Sayyid: The Crusader Movement, the era of Baldwin III, 2006, pg. 289).

Genoa's early support for the Crusades came through the efforts of Raymond of Toulouse to urge Pope Urban II to use naval fleets to strengthen the power of the Crusades in the East, so the Pope agreed and asked Genoa to play this role and supervise the transfers of the Crusaders, so Genoa welcomed and found an opportunity to strengthen its presence in the East. and get new business franchises there.(William Al-Suri, Part 1, p. 315; Ashour: The Crusader Movement, a Bright Page in the History of Islamic Jihad in the Middle Ages, Part 1, p. 112).

Twelve naval ships carrying Crusader soldiers and carrying the emblem of salvation to the tomb of Jesus Christ were launched from Genoa, motivated by the motives of obtaining new commercial concessions in the East., perhaps among these privileges that Genoa obtained in exchange for its maritime services to the First Crusade was what it had in Tripoli after the Crusaders took control of it, as the two parties agreed that the Genoese would get a third of the spoils of the city and a share for Raymond of Toulouse, while King Baldwin allocated a share in the center of the city.(William Al-Suri, Part 1, p. 315; Wendover: Flowers of the History, Part 39, p. 50; Ashour, Relations between East and West, p. 213; Ibn al-Qalanisi: The History of Damascus, 1908, p. 135; Hayek: International Relations, Part 1, p. 281)

The services provided by Genoa to the First Crusade went beyond the issue of facilitating the transportation of the Crusaders and securing them with transport ships and fleets to include assistance in the occupation of Jerusalem, as many Genoese ships arrived in Jaffa, carrying on board all that the Crusader army needed in terms of siege machines, weapons, equipment and supplies, and the role of the Genoese went beyond helping in the siege of Antioch (490 AH / 1097 AD) and providing all means of support to overthrow the city.(Albert: History of the Campaign, Vol. 51, p. 160; Foucher: History of the Campaign, pg. 112; Runciman: History of the Crusades, Vol. 1, pg. 380; Qasim: The Nature of Crusades, pg. 77).

Pisa as a source of Crusader naval power:

The city of Pisa, like other Italian commercial cities, played a role in supporting the Crusades, motivated by the desire to obtain privileges of its own in the East, and it entered the arena of competition with Italian commercial cities in this field, may be the role of Pisa was evident through its efforts to control the coastal cities driven by the desire to expand and gain at the expense of other cities.(Albert: History of the Campaign, 51 CE, p. 160; Komnena: The Alexiad, p. 450; Ibn al-Qalanisi, p. 229; William al-Suri: al-Hurub, vol. 2, p. 170).

The efforts of Pisa have emerged through its role in supplying the Crusader armies with money and weapons and participating in combat operations and cases of siege.

Through these services, the Crusader armies were able to control the Levantine coastal cities extending from Antioch, Edessa and Jerusalem and the role of the city of Pisa expanded to include supervision of the administrative, political, military and commercial aspects. (Runciman: History of the Crusades, Vol. 2, p. 81; Ambroise: Richard's Crusade, ed. 32, p. 250; al-Humaida: The Crusades, p. 195).

The city of Pisa actively participated in the Crusades and supported its entities in the east, and perhaps the participation of Pisa in the First Crusade came late in comparison to the timing of the participation of the city of Genoa, and it seems that what prompted the city of Pisa to enter the line of support for the First Crusade is the competition with Genoa to obtain spoils and privileges in the East by engaging in transport operations for soldiers, weapons, and supplies. The Byzantine participation in the First Crusade came with a huge fleet of fast ships numbering about nine hundred ships under the leadership of Archbishop Dembert, with which he arrived at the port of Lattakia. (Ibn Al-Athar: Al-Kamil, 2003, Part 9, 19; Alexiad, 451; Imran: History of the Crusades, pg. 56)

It is clear that the contributions of these cities were of a religious nature on the surface, and of a political, military, and economic nature in secret, as these cities moved with the motives of love for expansion and the desire to gain and obtain commercial privileges and open new markets in the East, this is what the Western historian Jacques de Vitry referred to in his talk about the skills of the Italian cities in preserving their money, saying, "It was distinguished by its care for its interests and affairs more than other nations, and it showed an ability to cope with life in the East." (Al-Hamidah: The Crusades, pg. 196; William Al-Suri: Al-Hurub, pg. 102)

Venice as a source of Crusader naval power:

The city of Venice constituted the most prominent naval power in the Mediterranean, and it was distinguished by its ambitions to control the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, and the cities of Genoa and Pisa emerged as its competitors in these waters, despite Venice's late role in participating in the First Crusade. However, this role was

distinguished in the siege of the city of Antioch and in supporting the Crusader army in entering it. (Ibn Al-Athir: *Al-Kamil*, Vol. 10, p. 289; Ibn Katheer: *The Beginning and the End*, 2003, Vol. 14, p. 32; Albert: *History of the Campaign*, Vol.

The role of the Venetians also emerged in controlling Jerusalem and supporting the siege on it, bringing in many supplies and siege machines, supervising combat operations and assisting in entering the city, in return for obtaining commercial privileges like other supporting cities. (Al-Maqrizi: *Behavior*, 1997, Part 1, p. 275, Parker: *The Crusades*, p. 45).

The role of the Venetians also emerged in the course of the Fourth Crusade, as most sources indicate the role of the Venetians in changing the direction and course of the Fourth Campaign, and this is supported by the agreement concluded by the Venetians under the supervision of their old Duke Enrico with King Al-Adil Al-Ayyubi. (Ibn Al-Qalanisi, p. 275; Runciman: *History of the Campaigns*, Vol. 2, p. 120; Fouche: *History of the Campaign*, p. 190)

Venice provided the Fourth Crusade (597 AH / 1200 AD) with a large naval fleet to transport soldiers to Alexandria, and many princes in Europe participated in this campaign and it fell upon the Venetians to provide their services in transporting and shipping soldiers and weapons in return for obtaining financial revenues instead of transportation, which amounted to eighty-five thousand marks, in addition to obtaining half of the open areas in the coastal cities in Egypt, so the Venetians agreed to provide their services in exchange for these privileges. (Livilharden: *The Conquest*, Article 10, p. 35; Badrbon: *The seizure*, Article 33, p. 82; William Al-Suri: Part 3, p. 25; Ghoneim: *The Fourth Crusade*, p. 13).

Venice played a decisive role in the course of the Fourth Crusade according to its own interests, and therefore we find it defending these interests through its role in changing the direction of the campaign to Constantinople after it had been destined for Egypt, perhaps what prompted the Venetians to play a role in changing the course of the fourth campaign towards Constantinople was their attempt to

strike Byzantium, which stood against their interests and privileges, in addition to the traditional hostility between the Normans in Sicily and the Byzantines, and the Venetians were associated with interests and trade agreements with Egypt that prompted them to oppose any Crusader project towards it, and it seems that the Venetians realized early on the size of the commercial interests that would result from the fall of Constantinople, and so they rushed to take advantage of the inability of the Crusaders to pay their dues in exchange for their services in transportation, and therefore they played a role in putting pressure on the Crusader princes to change the course of the campaign. (Mark: *The Fall of Constantinople to the Crusaders*, *The Comprehensive Encyclopedia*, Vol. Abdul Hamid: *Issues from the History of the Crusades*, pg. 97).

These reasons explain the Venetians' motives in changing the course of the campaign, and the role that Venice played in defending its commercial interests, and putting these interests before others, even if they were religious or political interests. This explains why Venice raised the slogan, "Let us be guns first, then let us be Christians.", the efforts of Venice resulted in diverting the course of the campaign towards Constantinople, after it adopted the process of equipping and financing it with the ships, supplies and weapons it needed. Along with the Duke of Venice, three princes participated in leading the campaign towards its new destination, where the princes shared the city, while Venice got the islands of Agritus and Rhodes. (Robert: *The Fall of Constantinople*, A.D. 10, pg. 200; livilharden: *The seizure*, A.D. 10, pg. 205; Ibn Al-Athir: *Al-Kamil*, C. 10, Pg. 291; Imran: *The Crusades*, pg. 217; Ghoneim: *The Fourth Crusade*, pg. 14; Al-Zaidi: *Encyclopedia of the History of the Crusades*, p. 85).

The role of the Italian commercial cities went beyond to include support for the Fifth Crusade, whose destination was Egypt, as these cities realized that the center of political and military weight for the Muslims was Egypt, these cities viewed Egypt as the main base for the Islamic forces that threatened their commercial interests in the Levant, especially after the death of Salah Aldin. (Runciman: *History of Crusades*, Vol. 3, pg. 200; Badrboun: *The Conquest*, Vol.

33, 83; Ibn al-Athir: al-Kamil, Vol. 10, 290; Ibn Katheer: The Beginning and the End, Vol. 14, 34; Imran: The Fifth Crusade, pg. 149)

Despite the great competition between these cities, they called for unity against everything that threatens their interests in the east, so Venice, under the directives of Pope (Innocent III), refrained from trading with Muslims and conducting commercial exchanges with them, especially with regard to materials that influence war, the pope's threat came explicitly to all Italian cities regarding his directives.(Al-Fitry: The History of Jerusalem, p. 53; Badrboun: The seizure, P. 33, p. 84; Imran: The Fifth Crusade, pg. 150).

The Italian cities welcomed the speech of Pope (Innocent III) and expressed their desire to support the Fifth Campaign, motivated by their ambitions to control all Egyptian coastal ports, and to control the maritime trade routes linking the East with the West.(Al-Hamidah: History of the Crusades, vol. 4, p. 20; Jab: Salah al-Din, p. 210).

The Pope offered forgiveness to everyone who offers his ships to carry the soldiers of this campaign, or who build ships in preparation for participating in the campaign, so the Italian cities rushed to compete with each other to support the campaign until the matter reached an armed conflict between them, not out of love for the service of the cross, but rather a desire to reach Egypt and expand their interests in it. (Imran: The Fifth Crusade, p. 158)

The Italian cities made their contributions to the preparation of the fifth campaign, as Venice equipped ten large ships in return for obtaining fifty-five silver marks for each ship. In addition to a number of small ships, where these ships set out with thirty thousand Crusader fighters, Austrians and Scandinavians, with their full equipment of weapons and trebuchets. This fleet arrived in Acre 615 AH / 1218 AD(Imran: The Fifth Crusade, p. 159)

The Crusaders tightened their grip on the city of Damietta and besieged it thanks to the great services of the Italian cities, where the Genoese forces supported by the Byzantine forces and the Venetian forces besieged the city

from the north, until they succeeded in forcing it to surrender, but the circumstances had changed in favor of the Muslims due to the climatic conditions and the flood of the Nile.(Abu Shamah: *Al-Dhil ala Al-Rawdatain*, 109; Sibte bin Al-Jawzi: *The Mirror of Time in the History*, Part 8, Part 2, pg. 590).

The Italian cities played a major role in this campaign. They interfered in concluding political and military agreements for the Crusaders. The influence of these cities was evident in the Crusades through their support and guidance, and even the issuance of political and military orders, according to their interests in the first place.(Davis: *Europe in the Middle Ages*, 1958, p. 205; Meyer: *A History of the Crusades*, 1990, p. 322)

The services of these cities were credited to the Crusader campaigns in facilitating their tasks in controlling the coastal cities in the Levant, and these cities also contributed to the defeat of the Crusader forces sometimes, as happened in the fifth campaign when these cities refused to accept the evacuation agreement from the city of Damietta in Egypt, and it was driven by its economic greed, and the result was the defeat of the Crusader army in that campaign.(Imran: *The Fifth Crusade*, p. 160).

Thanks to the services of the maritime trading cities, the Crusaders were able to establish centers of power for them in the Islamic East, but these maritime services are matched by the privileges obtained by these cities, including what Venice obtained after the Crusaders took control of Jaffa 494 AH / 1100 AD, where Venice participated in a military fleet of two hundred ships to control the Levantine coastal cities in exchange for exempting them from taxes and obtaining commercial privileges in every city they conquered.(Fouche: *History of the Campaign*, p. 195; Vitlos: *Description of the Land*, p. 75; Yusuf: *History of Relations between East and West*, p. 74).

The Crusaders took control of all the cities of the Levantine coast, with the exception of Tiberias and Ashkelon, thanks to the services of the Venetians, and William of Tyre refers to this by saying, "All other cities from the Nile to Antioch had become, by the grace of God, under our control."(William

Al-Suri: *The Completed Works*, Part 1, p. 597; Archild: *The Naval Forces*, 1960, p. 282; Al-Naqash: *Relations*, p. 185)

Genoese merchants concluded an agreement with the Kingdom of Jerusalem (495 AH / 1101 AD) according to which Genoa provided all possible assistance to the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem in its war with the Muslims, in exchange for the Kingdom's pledge not to conclude any commercial agreements with other cities, especially Venice, the Genoese assisted the Crusaders in seizing Arsuf and Caesarea, while the city of Pisa provided its services to the Emirate of Antioch (594 AH / 1098 AD) to participate in the military operations against Latakia. Venice also participated in a campaign consisting of a naval fleet of one hundred and twenty ships against the city of Tire (518 AH / 1124 AD) and succeeded in repelling the Egyptian attack on the Kingdom of Jerusalem. (Ibn al-Qalanisi: p. 270; Parker: *The Crusades*, pg. 45; Runciman: *History of the Crusades*, Vol. 2, p. 195; Durant: *The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 15, pg. 27).

It is noticeable that the maritime services provided by the Italian cities to the Crusader campaigns in the Islamic East were not limited to providing ships, transporting soldiers, supplies and weapons, directing the course of those campaigns, and providing aid, advice and advice to them. Rather, he went beyond that to participate in those campaigns, determine their fate, and issue political and military orders for those campaigns. It seems that had it not been for the role of those cities, the path of those campaigns would have faltered, their fates would have differed, and their results would have changed.

The role of the commercial cities (Genoa, Pisa, Venice) varied in their contributions and support for the Crusades against the Islamic East, depending on the gains that each city would reap, and the amount of papal support for it and it can be said that the city of Genoa has achieved gains and privileges in the Kingdom of Jerusalem thanks to the support of the Pope, while the cities of Pisa and Venice gained gains in the east thanks to their relations with the Crusader princes there. (Matte: *Al-Tarekh Al-Kabir*, vol. 40, p. 1050; Al-Shuaibat: *Sources of Funding the Crusades*, 2021, p. 203).

Sicily was a source of Crusader naval power:

The Sicilian fleet played a major role in supporting the Crusader presence in the Islamic East, as the first participation of this fleet came in the year (550 AH / 1156 AD) by attacking the Egyptian city of Tennis, where it practiced looting and looting in the city for three consecutive days. (Ibn Jubair: *The Journey of Ibn Jubair*, p. 295; Albert: *History of Campaigns*, vol. 51, p. 300; Ibn al-Qalanisi, p. 501; Al-Shuaibat: *Sources*, p. 204).

The Sicilians, along with King Amorian, also participated in his campaign against Egypt with a naval fleet that included many ships loaded with weapons, siege machines, and combat supplies. In the year (569 AH / 1174 AD), a Sicilian fleet of two hundred ships attacked Egypt and caused the destruction of many Egyptian ships anchored in the port of Alexandria. (Ibn Wasel: *Mufarrej Al-Karub*, vol. 1, p. 180; William Al-Suri, vol. 4, p. 177; Ibn Al-Atheer: *Al-Kamil*, vol. 9, p. 400; Ibn Katheer: *The Beginning*, vol. 12, p. 280; Imran: *The Fifth Campaign*, vol. 76).

Among Sicily's naval contributions was the sending of a naval fleet to the city of Tire in the year (582 AH / 1187 AD), in addition to its role in standing up to the Islamic forces led by Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi in the siege of the cities of Tripoli and Acre and extending a helping hand to the Crusaders in them. (Al-Asbahani: *Al-Fath Al-Qasi*, p. 120; Ibn Al-Atheer: *Al-Kamil*, vol. 10, p. 50; Ambroise: *Richard's Crusade*, pg. 95)

The role of Sicily was not limited to providing ships and fleets to the Crusader side, but rather it went beyond providing supplies and paying money to all the armies participating in the campaigns in the east, as it provided this kind of support to the English army in the Third Crusade. While the fifth campaign was supported by forty ships that pushed it towards the city of Damietta, which had arrived late. (William Al-Suri: *Tail*, p. 190; Runciman, *History of Crusades*, Vol. 3, p. 76; Ibn Katheer: *The Beginning and the End*, Vol. 13, p. 120)

Sicily also participated in the siege of Sidon in the year (625 AH / 1228 AD) and seized it with the support of the German Emperor Frederick II, then Sicily became a supply center for campaigns in the east later on. It seems that the strength

and weakness of these Sicilian contributions was governed by its commercial relations with Muslims and the recent departure from Islamic control over it. (Matte: Al-Tarekh Al-Kabeer, Article 40, p. 135)

Cyprus is a source of Crusader naval power:

The role of Cyprus in supporting the Crusades against the East emerged early on by providing supplies, food, wine and some equipment to the Crusaders during their siege of the city of Antioch in the year (489 AH / 1097 AD). The Cypriot role continued in the support and supply of the Crusader forces heading to Jerusalem under the leadership of Bohemund I and Baldwin I in the year (491 AH / 1099 AD) and provided a helping hand to Count Raymond in the year 497 (AH / 1104 AD) near Tripoli. Ibn al-Adim: Butter of Aleppo, p. 237; Bridge: History of Wars, pg. 90; Runciman: History of Crusades, vol. 1, 470)

The contributions of the Cypriot ships appeared by transporting the French King Louis IX from the Holy Land on his way back to France in the year (543 AH / 1149 AD), and Arnaut obtained large quantities of gold and supplies from them after his attack on them. (William al-Suri: al-Hurub, vol. 3, p. 400; Runciman: History of the Crusades, vol. 2, p. 325).

King Richard I realized the importance of Cyprus, so he seized it and turned it into a supply base for the Crusader armies in the East. He was prompted by his poor relationship with the Byzantine Empire and the Byzantine-Ayyubid rapprochement. (Wendover: Flowers of the History, Vol. 39, p. 360; Ibn al-Atheer: al-Kamil: Vol. 10, pg. 90; al-Fitri: History of Bayt al-Maqdis, p. 160.)

King Richard I seized huge amounts of money, supplies, and equipment from his control of Cyprus, instead of selling them twice, the first to the Hospitallers and the second to King Lusian, for an amount of one hundred thousand golden dinars, and he used these funds to spend on the armies of the Third Crusade. (William of Suri: Wars, p. 120; Ambrose: Richard's Crusade, p. 150).

Cyprus supported the Crusader army in the Emirate of Antioch by sending a fleet that attacked the Muslims and succeeded in capturing some Ayyubid ships in the year (602

AH / 1206 AD). Cyprus' contribution to the Fifth Crusade (613 AH / 1217 AD) came by sending a fleet to Acre and supporting the Crusaders in Damietta (615 AH / 1219 AD) by sending them supplies and equipment.(Ibn Al-Athir: Al-Kamil, vol. 10, p. 245; Imran: The Fifth Campaign, p. 100).

The Cypriot fleet accompanied the soldiers of the Seventh Crusade (645 AH / 1248 CE), and it consisted of eight galley ships with many Crusaders army on board. It reached Acre and then Ashkelon, and this fleet was responsible for supplying the Crusader garrisons there.(Bardrbon: the seizure, Article 33, p. 85; Matte: Al-Tarekh Al-Kabir, Article 40, p. 1010; Ibn Al-Athir: Al-Kamil, Part 10, pg. 430; Ibn Katheer: The Beginning, Part 13, 120)

Cyprus formed a major supply base, a large food store, and an equipment depot for the Crusader armies, on which the leaders of the campaigns relied. .(Abu Al-Fida: Al-Mukhtasar, Vol. 3, p. 170; Runciman: History of Crusades, Vol. 3, p. 270; Matthe: Al Tarekh Al Kabir, Vol. 40, p. 300; Al-Shuaibat: Sources of Funding, p. 211).

Rhodes and Crete from the sources of the Crusader naval power:

Other islands in the Mediterranean played a role in the naval support of the Crusader campaigns against the East, and among these islands are the islands of Rhodes and Crete, where the role of the island of Rhodes emerged through sending aid to the Crusader army besieging Antioch (489 AH / 10976 AD) which included wheat and livestock, Rhodes also supported the Byzantine forces heading to the Holy Land to participate in the fighting alongside the Crusader armies there.(Komnena: The Alexiad, p. 445)

The role of the island of Crete was highlighted by the crossing of the armies of the Third Crusade to Cyprus, where supplies and equipment were provided to the Crusader armies, which stopped there for a short period. It is noted that the role of these islands was limited to providing food and securing livestock and supplies for the Crusader armies crossing to the east, and other islands played the same role, such as the islands of San Nicole and Corfu.Livilleharden:

The seizure, Article 10, p. 49; Badrboun: The Conquest, vol. 33, p. 75).

Conclusion and Results:

The study dealt with the issue of the sources of the naval power of the Crusades, as these campaigns took land and sea routes in their routes.

In terms of showing the importance of these sources, their quality, and the degree of their impact on the results of the campaigns, and the consequent change in the course of events during the course of the Crusades towards the East, the study reached the following results:

European religious institutions, led by the authority of the Pope, in addition to European commercial cities, led by Italian cities (Genoa, Pisa and Venice), constituted major sources of naval power for the Crusades against the Islamic East.

The sources of naval power for the Crusades are summarized in the ships and their types, the tools of naval combat, the requirements of the naval blockade, and the requirements of the routes of the marine campaigns.

The methods adopted by the pope to support the campaigns were taxation, granting indulgences, protection of the money and property of the participants, reconciliations between the merchant cities, attempting to unify the churches, collection of donations, and the payment of money and savings for the bishops.

The church appeared responsible for conducting, preparing and equipping these campaigns. Perhaps these methods were distinguished and differed between the eastern and western churches, as each church had its own ways and methods in the issue of support.

Equipping most of the naval fleets for the Crusades fell mostly to the Italian trading cities (Genoa, Pisa, Venice).

The Italian cities played a major role in concluding political and military agreements for the Crusaders, so the influence of these cities appeared clearly and clearly in the Crusades through their support and direction, and even the issuance

of political and military orders, according to their interests in the first place.

The services of the commercial cities were credited to the Crusades in facilitating their missions, and these cities also contributed to the defeat of the Crusader forces at other times, driven by their economic ambitions.

The islands of the Mediterranean Sea (Sicily, Cyprus, Crete, and Rhodes) constituted a source of the Crusader naval force, and its role went beyond the process of providing ships and transporting fighters to adopting them as stores and warehouses for food, weapons, and supplies, and resting stations for the participants in the Crusades, taking advantage of the distinguished strategic location of these islands.

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