



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 5.2
IJAR 2018; 4(10): 480-482
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 20-08-2018
Accepted: 24-09-2018

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Role of women in medieval India: A study of failure and sequence of crusades

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Abstract

In Ancient India, women played many different societal roles, they picked their husbands, were educated, and played a role in warfare. The rise of Hindu doctrine diminished the female role and their rights to property and education. The traditions of sati and purdah exemplify the marginalized female role in medieval India. Muslim invaders did little to change the female status in society, though Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great introduced some reforms. However, the Muslim period coincided with their enslavement and increased sexualization in harems. The present paper entitled 'Role of Women in medieval India: A study of failure and Sequence of Crusades' found that the, Women rulers in medieval India often took on the traits of men to maintain power.

Keywords: coincided, paper entitled, marginalized

Introduction

A significant development in the history of mediaeval Europe is the Crusades. The word "crusade" literally means to carry the Trinitarian emblem "cross." However, the Crusades were traditionally understood to refer to the conflicts between Christianity and Islam. The goal of the Christian monarchs in Europe was to introduce Christianity to the east. The Khushki route for trade with the eastern nations was shut down as a result of the conquest of Jerusalem and Palestine. At that point, the Christians felt it was necessary to engage in combat with the Turks in order to stop them and continue their trade in the East. These conflicts are known as "religious wars" because, during the middle Ages, religion exerted a strong influence over public opinion. Due to these wars, the Dark Ages came to an end and the Golden Age of Arvachina began in Europe before spreading laterally to other parts of the world. The Crusades were at once religious journeys, ceremonies of purification in which the traveler was cleansed of sin and pollution. Although it was initially unanticipated, women were allowed to participate in pilgrimages, a rite they had enjoyed for centuries. As a result, they were allowed to go on crusades. But not just the male crusaders objected to their presence in the holy war camps and on the battlefields. The participation of women on these expeditions, according to religious ideologies found in the Bible and the works of the period's chroniclers and moralists, was detrimental to their intended goals. Despite the paucity of material on women's participation and presence in the Crusades, I discussed the role of women in medieval.

Background to the crusades

From the eighth century AD, the Holy Roman Empire in the East was subjected to triple attacks, first by the Abbasid Caliphs of Baghdad, then by the Fatimid Caliphs of Egypt, and finally by the Seljuk Turks. The Fatimid Caliphs of Egypt and the Seljuk Turks were more intolerant and fanatical than the Arabs, leading to more bitterness between Christians and Muslims. In the mid-11th century CE, the Eastern Roman Empire was shaken by the overthrow of Armenia, Syria, and Asia Minor by the Seljuk Turks. In 1071, the Turkish sultans consolidated their power and attacked the Roman Empire in the East. These crusades continued from the end of the eleventh century to the thirteenth century. According to some, these crusades were started by the Turks, It stopped automatically after the fall of Constantinople in 1453.

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Among the wars fought during this period, mainly ten crusades are worth mentioning. Among them, the first crusade was happened between AD. 1096 and 1099. Due to the effective orders of the Pope, many people joined these crusades spontaneously and voluntarily. More animosity developed between Christians and Muslims during the reigns of the Seljuk Turks and Egypt's Fatimid Caliphs, who were more fanatical and intolerable than the Arabs. The fall of Armenia, Syria, and Asia Minor to the Seljuk Turks in the middle of the 11th century shook the Eastern Roman Empire. The Turkish sultans strengthened their position in 1071 and launched an offensive against the Eastern Roman Empire. From the end of the eleventh century through the thirteenth century, these crusades persisted.

Role of Women in medieval crusades

Scholars studying women as individuals or social groupings, their perceived roles, and their varied experiences in many facets of mediaeval life have given the history of women in the Middle Ages a lot of attention in recent decades. The crusade movement of the Middle Ages is one such region. It is challenging to evaluate the experience of women who participated in the crusades since, in general, chroniclers of the crusades portrayed participants in terms of stereotypical gender roles, which largely hid women's involvement. Research on the topics of women in conflicts and warfare during the post-medieval era has been quite successful in recent years. The enormous range of women's efforts outside of the battlefields and the purely military parts of the crusades in the course of planning the campaigns and on the home front throughout the wars, we may better understand the roles women played in the crusade movement. The impact women had on the propaganda, recruitment, financing and organising of crusades and their roles in looking after families and properties as well as providing liturgical support.

Since women had been actively participating in pilgrimage for centuries and no one had ever denied them the right to do so, they were allowed to go on crusades. However, their presence on the battlefield and in the camps elicited negative reactions from the majority of crusaders and clergymen. They thought that a woman's menstruation could contaminate holy and religious sites. This was a grave sin because the crusade was a holy expedition, and having these women on it made it less effective. There was a perception that women couldn't fight in war or that it was unseemly and unwomanly for them to do so. However, some people were more accepting of the women who accompanied crusaders. The ladies who remained had to manage their estates and protect their castles themselves. For the sake of themselves and their offspring, these chatelaines had to maintain the family holdings. These women handled financial transactions, managed agricultural tasks, gathered funds for ransoms, and raised the kids while acting in their husband's name. Additionally, women were in charge of the crucial tasks of producing and selling food and beverages. Women on manorial estates laboured alongside men in the fields, moved water, cared for cattle, cooked, cleaned, and spun cloth that was used to pay feudal dues or might be sold for extra cash. Teachers, nuns, abbesses, painters, writers, composers, alewives, washerwomen, and prostitutes were just a few of the jobs that mediaeval women performed. Participation in the crusade was classified as an element of maleness, in addition to the fact that crusading was regarded

as a fundamentally male action. Contrarily, although being portrayed as eager crusaders, women were reported to have been prohibited from engaging in the action of crusading due to a supposed lack of physical strength.

Reason for the failure of the crusades

The main goal of these crusades, which were undertaken by Christians, was to free Jerusalem from Turkish control, however this goal was not realised. The causes of Christians' failure are plain to see. Those who participated in these religious conflicts did so for their own self-serving ends. The pope wished to strengthen his position as the leader of Christianity. The rulers were eager to conquer the east. New markets had to be conquered by retailers. The eastern lands were something that the feudal rulers coveted. Christian kings did not cooperate or stand as one. Women leaders felt the same way about one another. As a result, they were unable to fight together. The fact that these crusades no longer serve their original, only goal is what matters most.

Sequence of Crusades

The missionaries lost their focus on preaching Christianity as a result of their travels to other nations during the Crusades. The Turkish Empire began to expand daily, and its impact on Europe grew. This religion toppled feudalism in the original world. Feudal lords sold their estates to fund and support the crusades, but when they failed, their territories were destroyed along with any chance of acquiring new lands in the east. Throughout addition to this, it's also significant to note that the Great Crusades indirectly stoked the spark of nationalism and patriotism in Christendom. These crusades caused a clash between East and West cultures.

The social and economic repercussions of these crusades were just as significant as their theological and political ones. Feudalism's demise led to the emergence of a free-standing peasant community. The social ties of feudalism were relaxed. Workers rising their demands; trade and industry experienced a significant uptick; and a variety of items from the East started to be consumed in European markets. The demand for many items increased throughout Europe, especially for precious metals, wine, cotton, silk, sugar, tea, cloth, spices, utensils, medicines, fragrant oils, grains, and glassware. The establishment of banks, tradesmen's and craftsmen' guilds, and credit funds started.

Summary

Despite the fact that the Christians were unable to liberate Jerusalem, these crusades had a significant impact on European history. Under the direction of religious institutions, kings, feudal lords, peasants, and common people, including women, engaged in combat. This religious establishment fell into disgrace as the religious establishment utilised its weapons of defamation and denigration against anyone who disagreed. These crusades had social and economic repercussions in addition to their political and theological effects. Feudalism's demise led to the emergence of a free-standing peasant community. But unacknowledged in victory, women bore the brunt of failure and were again expelled from the crusade, Women had been actively making pilgrimages for centuries, and no one had ever forbade them from doing so. It is challenging to come up with an accurate depiction of the complete spectrum of female roles in the context of the military campaigns of the

crusades due to the stereotypical accounts of the narrative sources and the lack of writings by women who went on the crusade.

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