Abstract

Castles in North of Palestine During The Period Of Islamic - Franks Conflict (492-691 A.H/ 1099- 1291 A.D)

"A Historic Strategic Study"

By

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The present study includes an introduction, five chapters and a conclusion. Chapter one talks about the reasons and the factors helped the Francks reach to Bilad Al-sha'm and dominate its coastal part, including most of the lands of Palestine. The chapter also presents the role of the kings of Latin Kingdom in establishing and expanding the kingdom at the expense of the Islamic lands surrounding Palestine from the north and form the east till it extended Egyption boardrs from south to Tropoli in the north.

Chapter two discusses the policy pursued by the kings of latin kingdom towards the native (local) residents. It discusses the kings policy of defending the kingdom which is shown through occupying more lands and buildings more castles and fortreses to avoid anti-Islamic attacks. The chapter describes the role of the Military orders such as Hospitalers, Templers and Teutonics, and thier real participation in that policy of defense, and it also shows the influence of choosing the Geographic and Strategic site upon the role of the castles.

Chpater three is devoted to talking about some aspects regarding the castles. It presents adefinition of the castle and the development of its building, and talks about the reasons which made Muslims and Franks build these castles. In addition, the chapter talkes the Islamic effects upon the franks military building which is represented through the building of the castles. The chapter also discusses other aspects regarding castles such as communication between castles in time of crisis, the way of directing them, and some views of historians concerning types and parts of castles. Moreover, the chapter exhibits the nature of life inside the castle and its contribution in enhancing the Franks military efforts by providing security and comfortable living to its residents so that they can carry out their role in a best way.

Chapter Four covers the historical and military role of the Frank castles in north Palestine. It gives a defenition castles' names, and shows the nature and the military, economic importantance of their site. Besides, the chapter discusses the role played by castles in the Frank-Islamic conflict untill their first and second liberation, the efforts the role of the Military Orders in refartifying the castles after their destruction during the Franks presence in Palestine and the role of north castles in enhancing the Frank military efforts in their battles against Muslims.

Chapter Five is devoted to talking about the military efforts excerted by Ayyibids and Mamluks to get rid of the Franks presence in Palestine in particular and in Bilad Al -Sha'm in general. The chapter also talks about the Ayyubids, and Mamluks, campaigns on the castles especially those huge

campaigns made by Salah Al-Din Al Ayyubi until he liberated these castles after the battle of Hittin. It also presents the role of Al Zaher Baibers who followed salah Al-Din's footsteps , and manged during a short period of time which does not exceed ten years to liberate most of the castles in palestine. Finally, the chapter talks about the role of caliphs who came after Al-Zaher baibers in liberating the rest of the castles till they managed by the year 690 A.H/1291 A.D. to liberate all the castles of Bilad Al-Sham including Palestine from the presence of Franks.