



Hattin: Great Battles Series

By John France

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On July 4, 1187 the legendary Muslim leader Saladin destroyed the Crusader army of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem with a terrible slaughter at the battle of Hattin - and subsequently restored the Holy City of Jerusalem to Islamic rule.

The carnage at Hattin was the culmination of almost a century of religious wars between Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land. It had enormous consequences for the whole medieval world because it produced an intensification of holy war between Islam and Europe for over another century and, in retrospect, marked the beginning of the end for the Crusader presence in the Middle East.

In the 20th century, memory of the battle was revived as a symbol of Arab hope for liberation from Crusader Imperialism and in the 21st, it has become a rallying cry for radical Muslim fundamentalists in their struggle for the soul of Islam.

In this new volume in the *Great Battles* series, John France analyzes the origins and course of this pivotal battle, illuminating the roots of the bitter hatred that underlay it and explains its significance in world history - from medieval times to the present.

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Editorial Review

Review

[France] reminds us why Hattin, more so than the subsequent Christian victory four years later at Arsuf, became embedded in popular culture. Victor Davis Hanson, *Times Literary Supplement* France's highly accessible book examines the causes and consequences of [the Battle of Hattin], tracing its impact way beyond its immediate aftermath and impact on Euro-Islamic relations. He follows the path of its tremors all the way up to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the uneasy relationship between Eastern Islamic culture and Western Christian culture that still exists today. *History of War* a useful and absorbing examination of the importance of the Battle of Hattin *Battlefield Magazine* [A] tour de force. I was surprised how much information an author can squeeze into only 168 pages of text ... a delightful read ... Hattin is a good book, well-written and full to the brim with information. Jona Lendering, *Medieval Warfare*

About the Author

John France is Professor Emeritus and Director of the Callaghan Centre for Conflict Studies at Swansea University, and a former Visiting Professor at the United States Military Academy, West Point. A specialist on the history of crusading and warfare, he has travelled extensively in the Middle East and is the author of numerous articles and books on the subject, including *Victory in the East: a Military History of the First Crusade* (1994), *Western Warfare in the Age of the Crusades 1000-1300* (1999), *The Crusades and the Expansion of Catholic Christendom 1000-1714* (2005), and most recently *Perilous Glory: The Rise of Western Military Power* (2011).

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