

LESSON 2

THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD IN THE MIDDLE AGES

INTRODUCTION

Why was the Mediterranean basin a real crossroad between these three civilizations?

First, let's define the features of the three civilizations.

Then , let's study the crusades which witnessed the violent contacts between them.

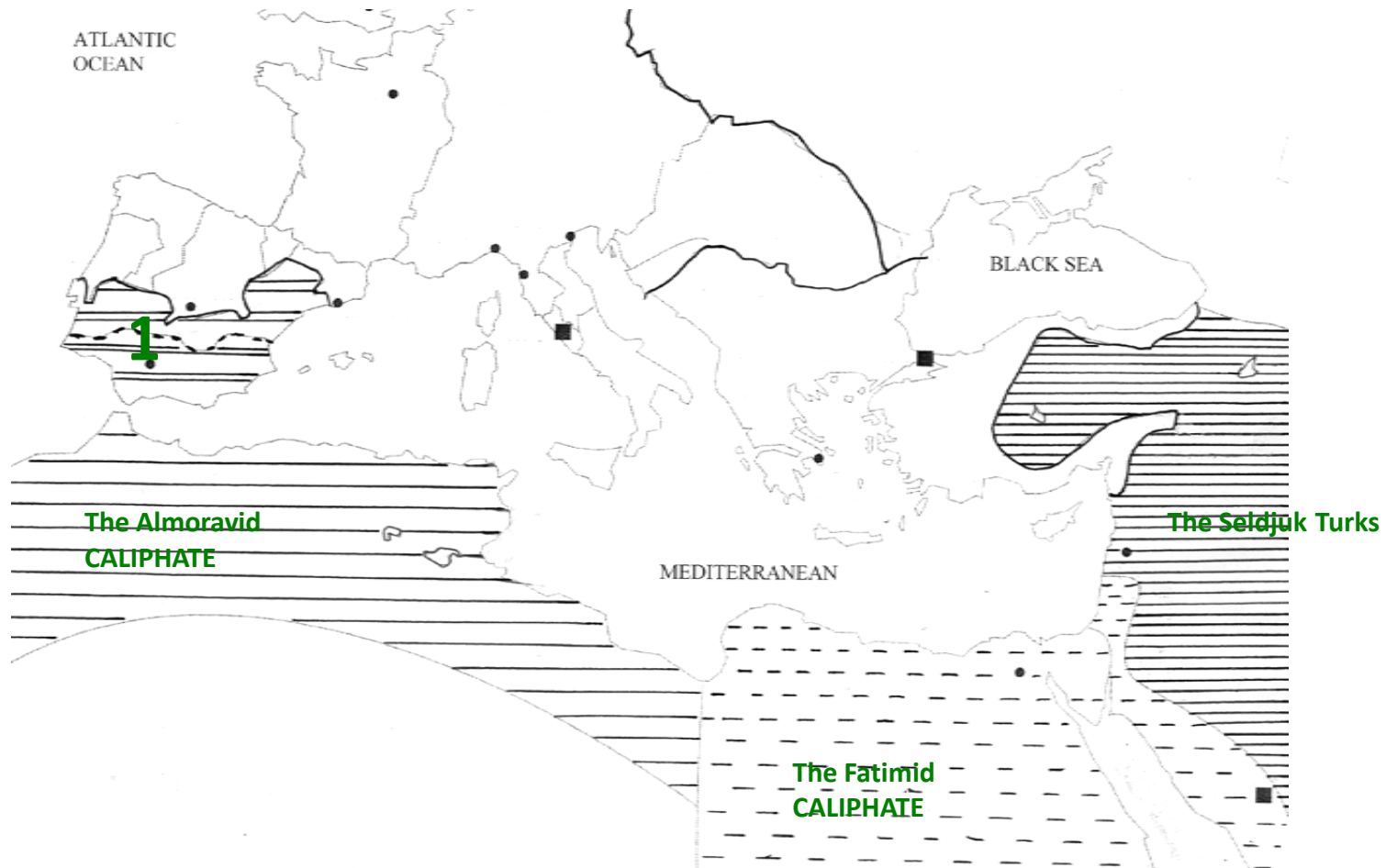
To finish, we'll put all this into perspective and explain there were lots of peaceful exchanges too.

I/ Three different civilisations around the Mediterranean Basin

A/ Location:



1) The Muslim world

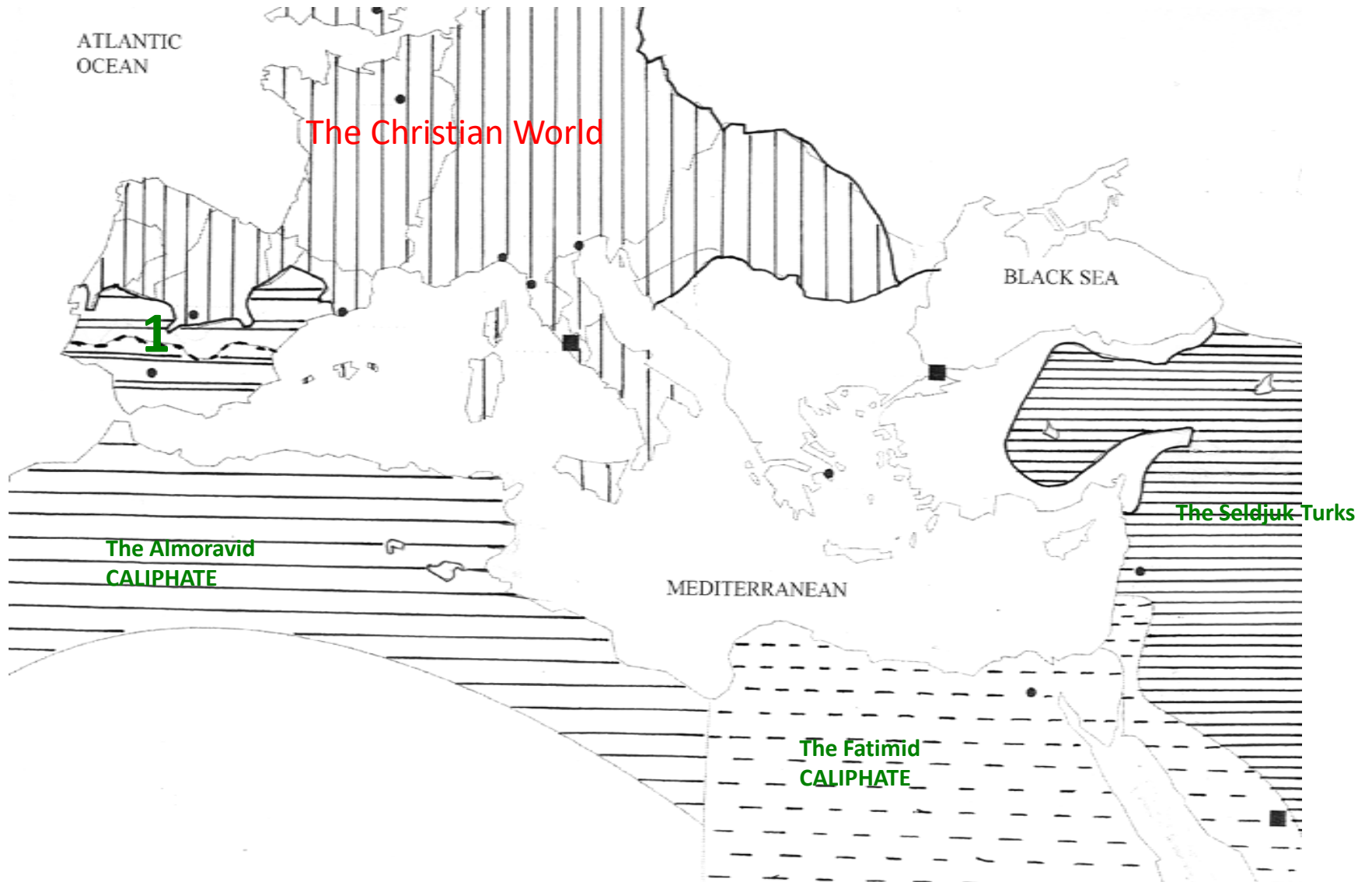


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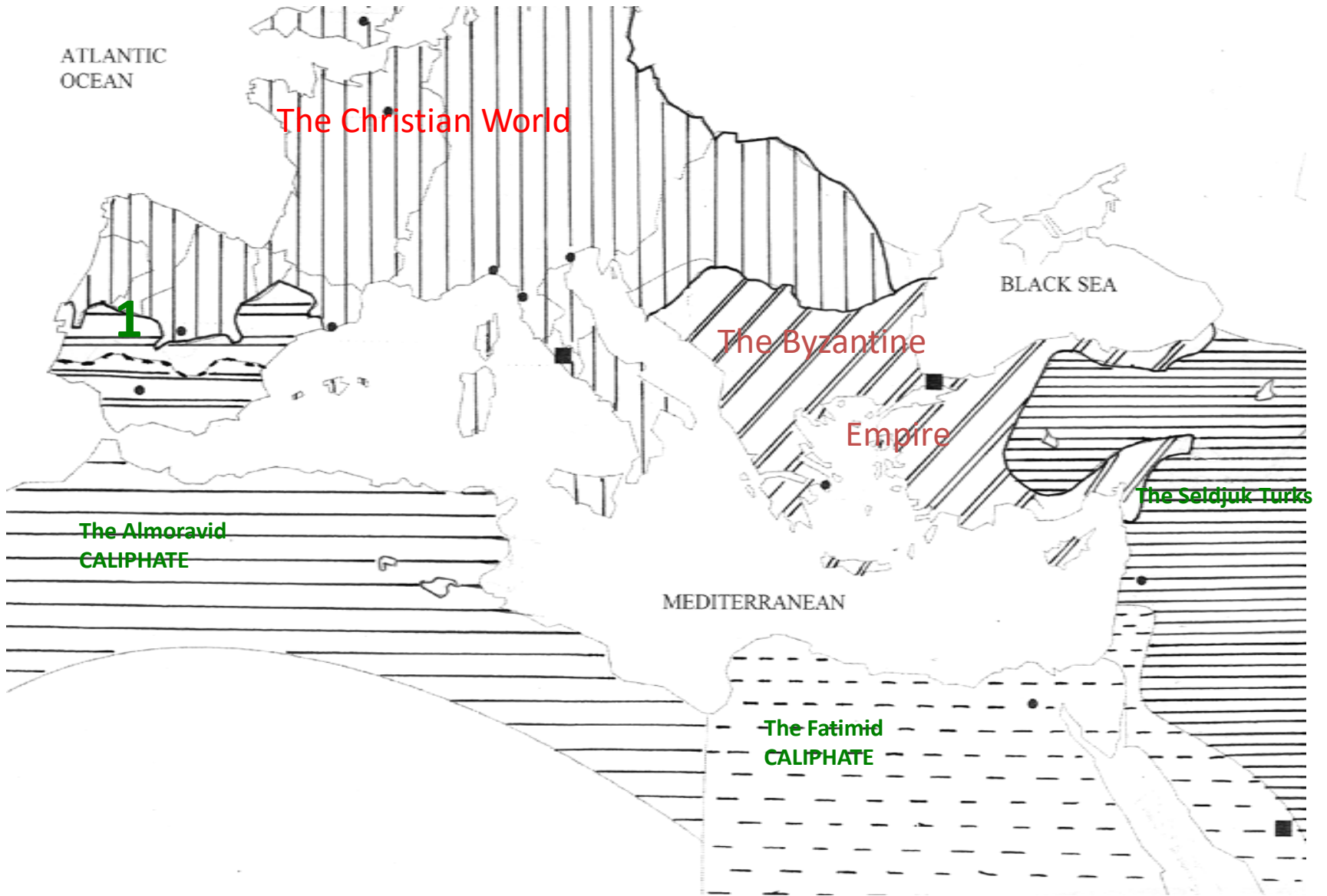
The **CORDOBA**
CALIPHATE

Caliphate: Territory ruled
by a Caliph, a Muslim
sovereign.

2) The Christian world:



3) The Byzantine Empire:



B/ Features/ characteristics of the three civilisations:

Socio-political organisation:

Muslims are united around the Islam but it is politically divided into

-caliphates: caliphs were political and religious leaders

Shiites (Muhammad's descendents as caliphs) and Sunnis (Sunni: real Islam, elected caliphs).

B/ Features of the three civilisations:

1) The Muslim world:

Religion:

Monotheistic religion: the Islam

The holy book is called the Koran and they pray in mosques.

Jerusalem and The Mecca (where Muhammad proclaimed the Islam: each Muslim has to do a pilgrimage in his life) are holy places.

there is no secularism as caliphs are both religious and political leaders

Situation:

it's composed of very prosperous civilizations thanks to trade (Souks) and they were very ahead in sciences.

Religion:

It had a monotheistic religion called catholicism (branch of christianity: le christianisme) founded by Jesus Christ

Jerusalem is the Christian holy place because **the Holy Shrine** is located there.

Christians refer to the Bible and their religious leader is the Pope.

Situation:

It faced an economic crisis and it was not technologically advanced

It was also very weakened by many wars.

B/ Features of the three civilisations:

3) The Byzantine Empire

History:

It was formed on the former Eastern Roman Empire.

It was based on the Greek culture.

Socio-political organisation:

It was ruled by a BASILEUS (emperor in Greek) who was also seen as God's representative on earth:

This political system is called a Theocracy

Religion:

Monotheistic religion: Orthodox religion (a branch of Christianity)

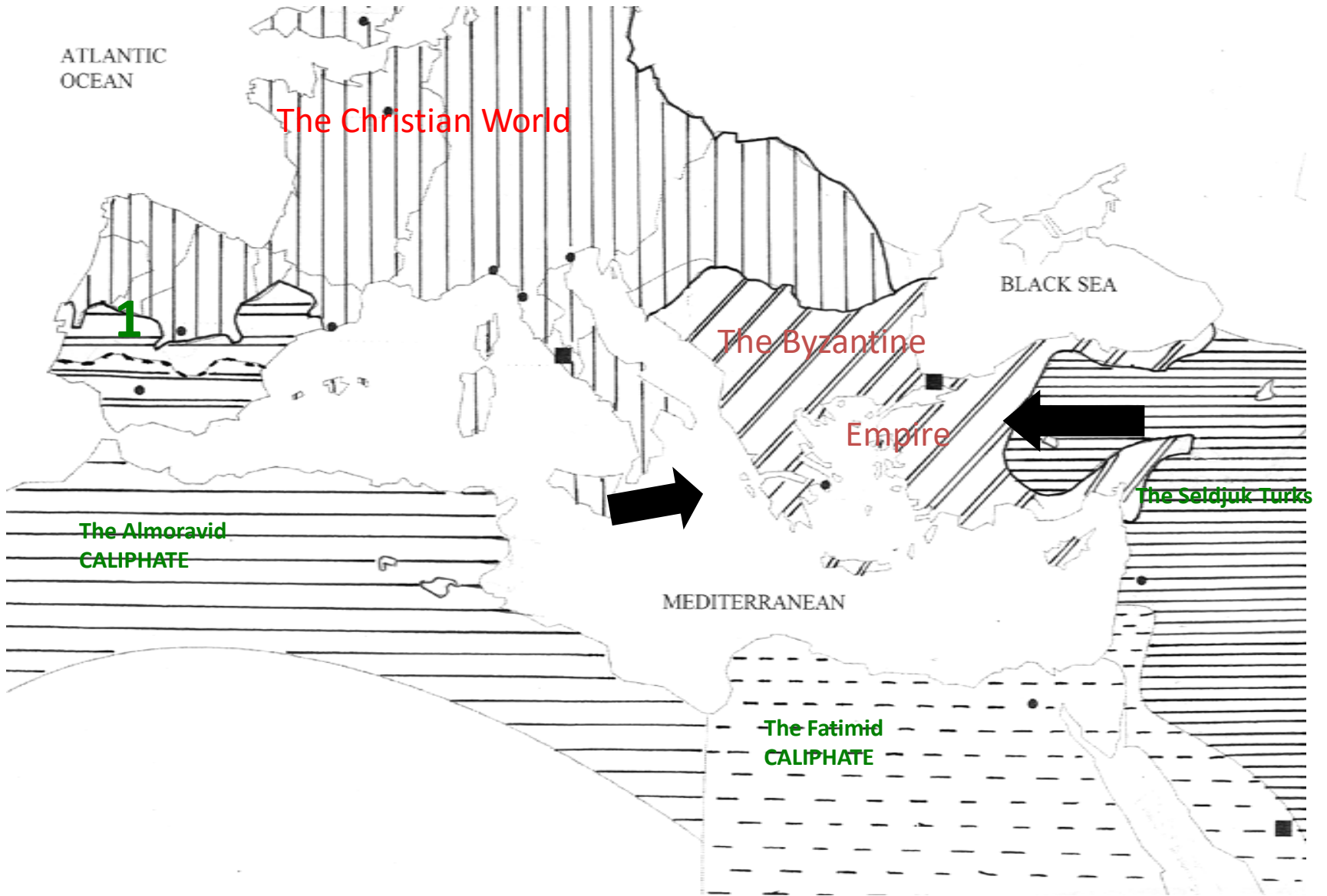
they also believe in Jesus and refer to the Bible but their cult is different (there was a schism)

They don't obey the Pope but the **PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE.**

Jerusalem is a holy place for them as well as Constantinople.

It was threatened by the Turks and the Normans from Sicily.





ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Christian World

1

BLACK SEA

The Byzantine Empire

The Almoravid CALIPHATE

The Seldjuk Turks

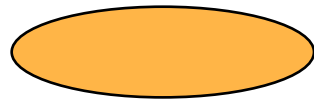
MEDITERRANEAN

The Fatimid CALIPHATE

II/ Violent contacts between the three civilisations: the Crusades

A/ Definition

As early as 1063, the Christians tried to get rid of the Muslims in Spain: this was called the RECONQUISTA.



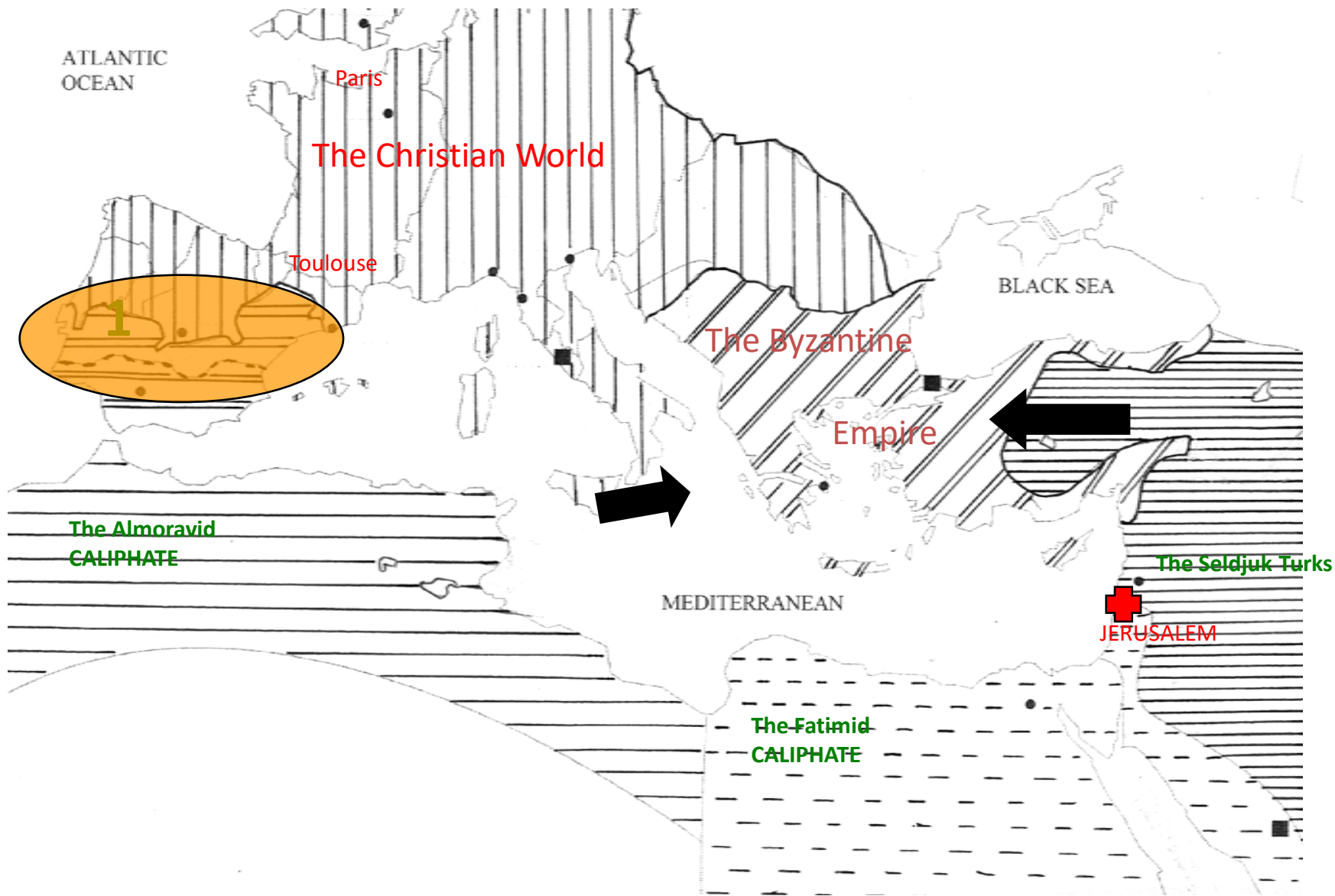
Area of the
Reconquista

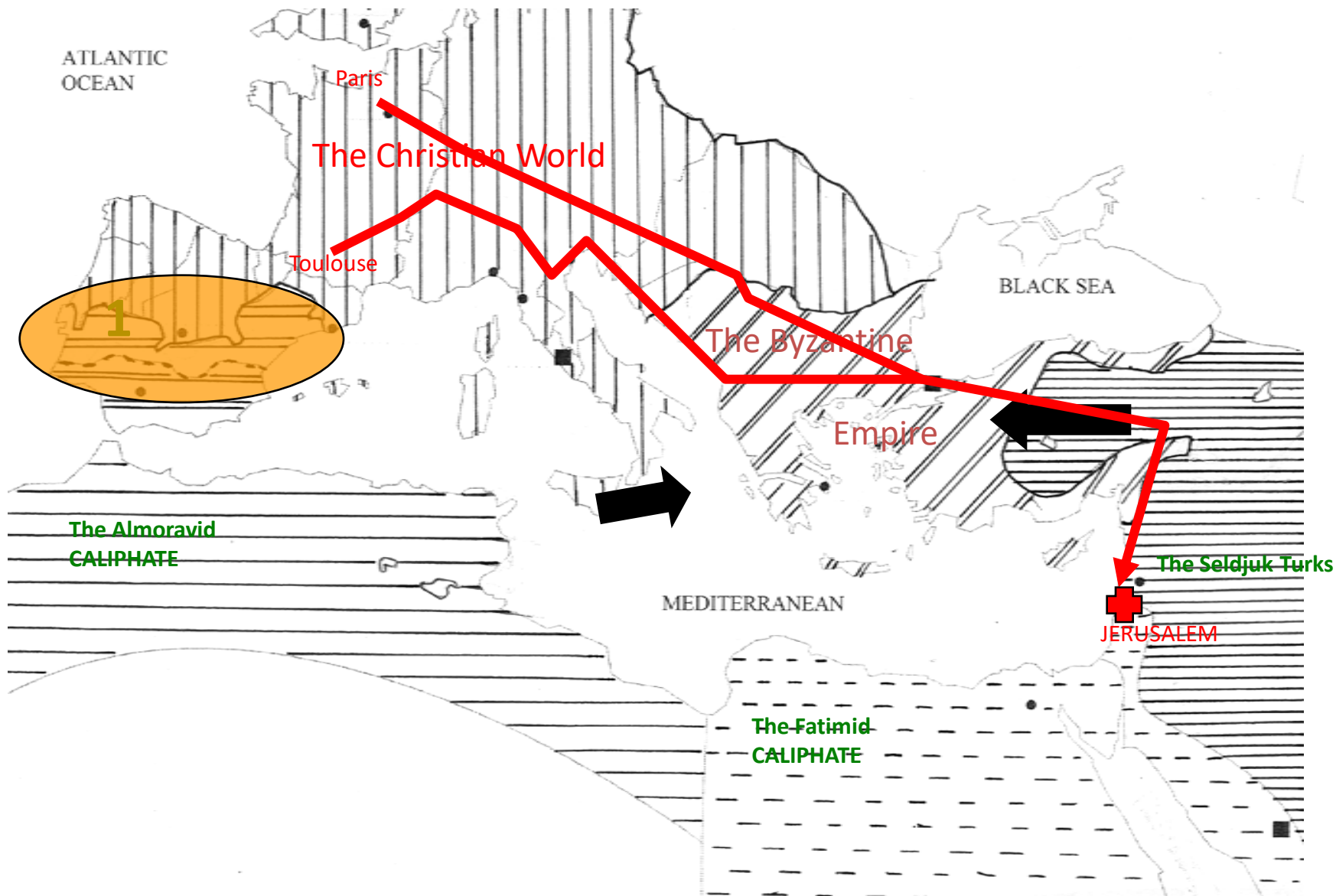
In 1095 the Christian Pope URBAN 2nd called on a crusade against the Muslims who lived in Jerusalem.



First crusade

Crusades were holy wars, armed pilgrimages by the Christians to set the « holy land » free from Muslim domination.





Pope Urban II calls for the crusade in 1095 in the Council of Clermont in France

For you must haste to exterminate and carry aid to our brethren dwelling in the East who need your help (...)

The Turks a Persian people have attacked them and have advanced into Roman territory, seizing more and more of the lands of the Christians, have defeated them already in many battles, have destroyed churches and have devastated the Kingdom of God.(...)

Wherefore, I, not I but God, exhorts you as heralds of Christ to urge men of all ranks to hasten to exterminate this vile race. (...)

For those going there, there will be remission of sins if they come to the end of their fettered life... this I grant to all who go by the power vested in me by God.

Let those who liked waging war against other faithful, now march upon the infidels, let those who have been robbers now be soldiers of Christ and those who've been hireling for a few pieces of silver now attain an eternal reward (...) On the one hand will be the enemies of the Lord and there his friends.

1- What did the Pope ask?

He asked the Christians from the Occident to help the Christians living in the East.

The East means Jerusalem where Jesus' s grave is .

Paragraphs 1 and 2.

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2-What did they have to do once in Jerusalem?

They had to kill the Turks: « exterminate this vile race »

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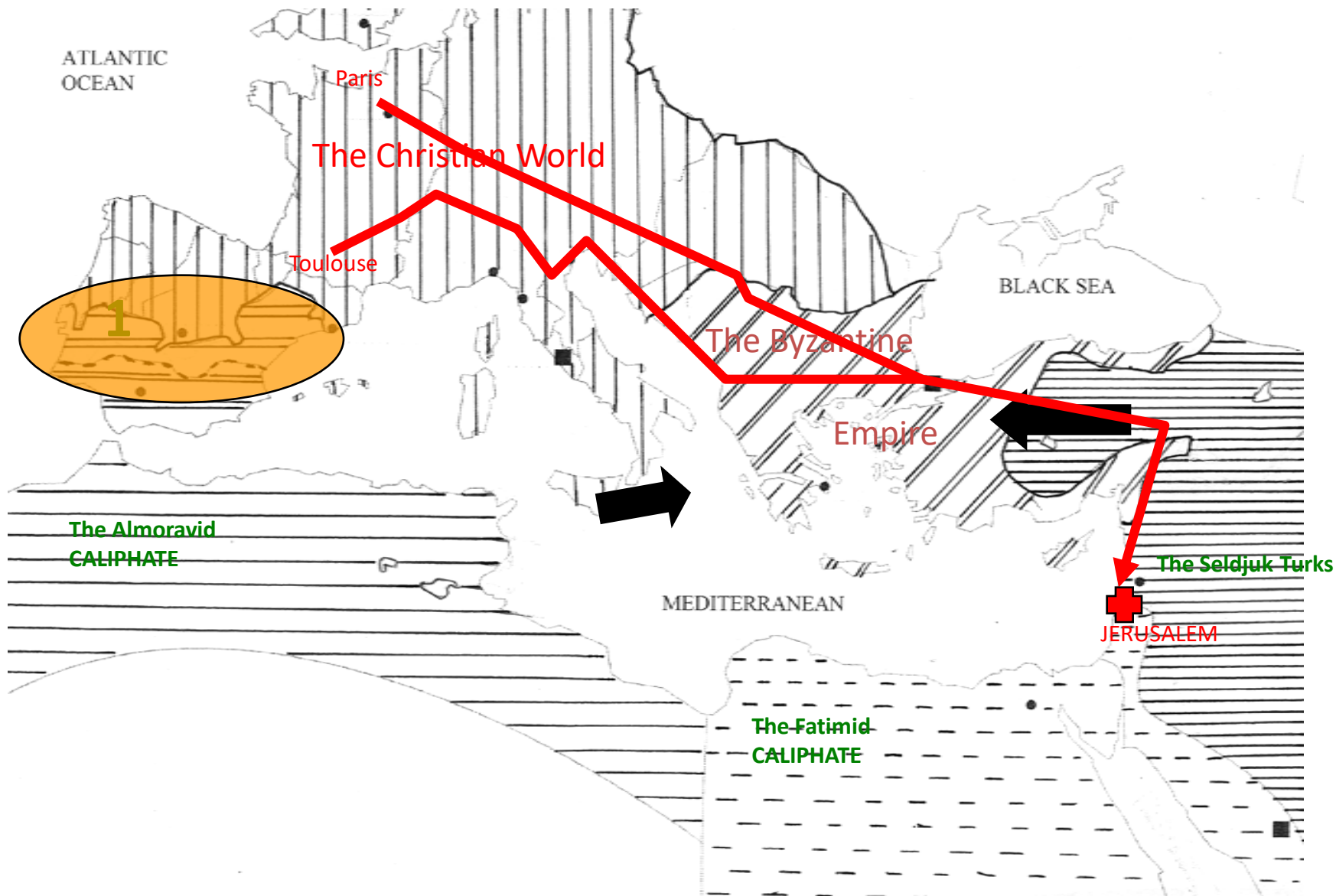
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3- What did they get in return?

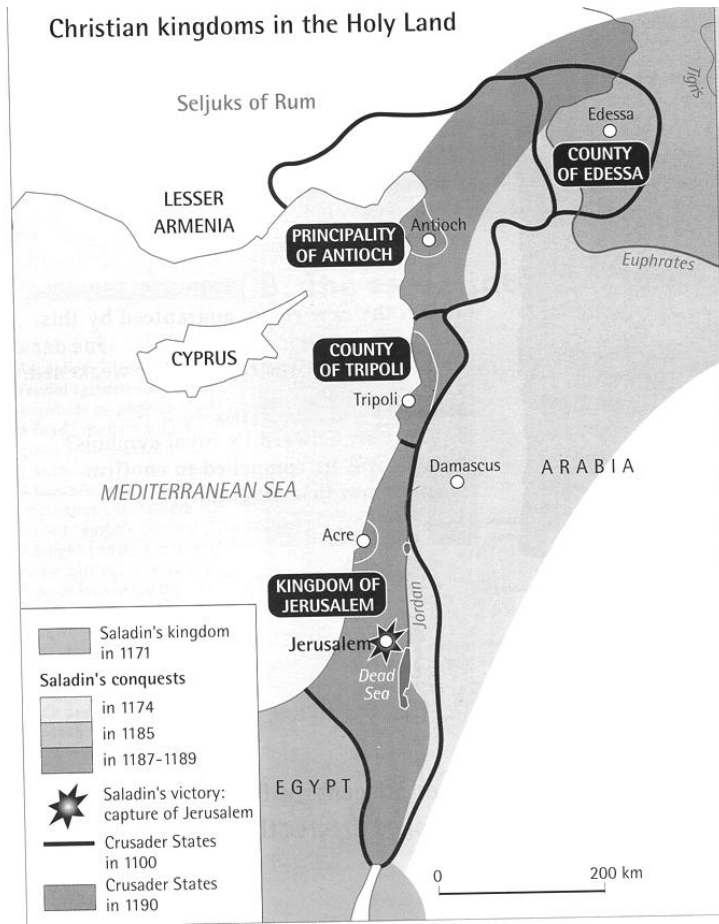
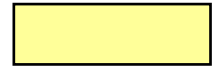
They were promised “ remission of sins”.
It meant they were forgiven by God for all their bad actions.

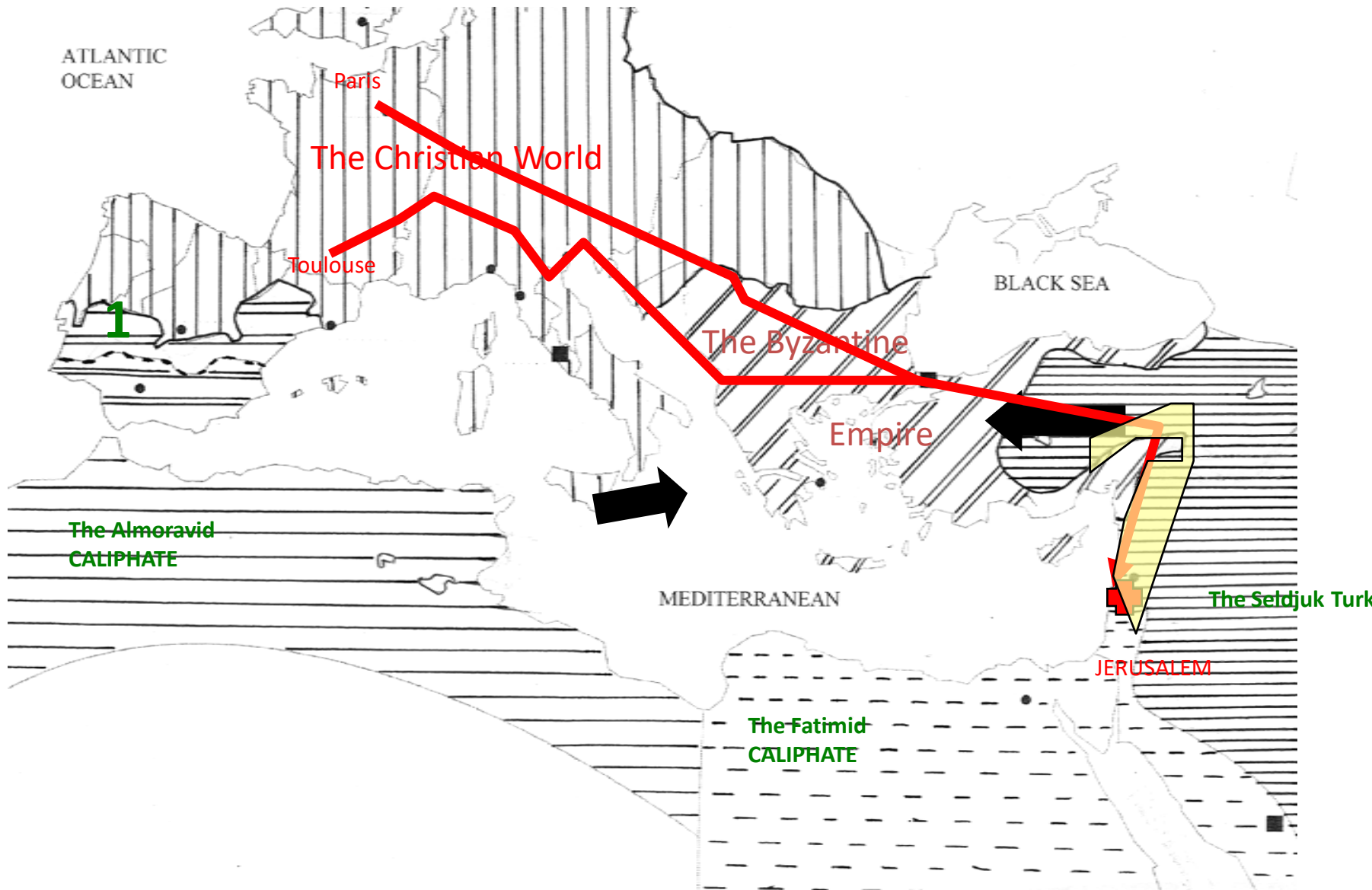


B/ Consequences of the crusades

When the Christians arrived in Palestine ,in 1099, they conquered lands.

They quarreled and ended up dividing Palestine into crusader states.





B/ Consequence of the crusades

The Muslims fought back hard and step by step , they reconquered some lands

So , a second crusade was launched, but this time not by the Pope but by a French priest BERNARD DE CLAIRVAUX in 1146.

B/ Consequence of the crusades

In 1146 as the Muslims had reconquered the lands in Palestine, BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX launched a second crusade, here is his call in 1146

If it were announced to you that the enemy had invaded your cities, your castles, your lands; had ravished your wives and your daughters, and profaned your temples—which among you would not fly to arms? Well, then, all these calamities, and calamities still greater, have fallen upon your brethren, upon the family of Jesus Christ, which is yours. Why do you hesitate to repair so many evils—to revenge so many outrages? Will you allow the infidels to contemplate in peace the ravages they have committed on Christian people? Yes, the living God has charged me to announce to you that He will punish them who shall not have defended Him against His enemies.

Fly then to arms; let a holy rage animate you in the fight, and let the Christian world resound with these words of the prophet, “Cursed be he who does not stain his sword with blood!” If the Lord calls you to the defense of His heritage think not that His hand has Christian warriors, He who gave His life for you, to-day demands yours in return. These are combats worthy of you, combats in which it is glorious to conquer and advantageous to die. Illustrious knights, generous defenders of the Cross, remember the example of your fathers who conquered Jerusalem, and whose names are inscribed in Heaven; abandon then the things that perish, to gather unfading palms, and conquer a Kingdom which has no end.

WHAT DID HE ASK?

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WHAT DID HE ASK?

Yes, the living God has charged me to announce to you that He will punish them who shall not have defended Him against His enemies.

He ask to defend the Christians and God against his enemies

Here, the enemies are the Muslims even if he does not mention them

These are combats worthy of you, combats in which it is glorious to conquer and advantageous to die.

He ask crusaders to go and fight to gain glory and to risk their lives

HOW DID HE JUSTIFY HIS CLAIMS TO KILL THE MUSLIMS?

If it were announced to you that the enemy had invaded your cities, your castles, your lands; had ravished your wives and your daughters, and profaned your temples—which among you would not fly to arms? Well, then, all these calamities, and calamities still greater, have fallen upon your brethren, upon the family of Jesus Christ, which is yours. Why do you hesitate to repair so many evils—to revenge so many outrages? Will you allow the infidels to contemplate in peace the ravages they have committed on Christian people? Yes, the living God has charged me to announce to you that He will punish them who shall not have defended Him against His enemies.

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HOW DID HE JUSTIFY HIS CLAIMS TO KILL THE MUSLIMS?

He will punish them who shall not have defended Him against His enemies.

If they don't go to the crusade, he says God will punish them

“Cursed be he who does not stain his sword with blood!”

He used very strong words as “curse” to scare/frighten the Christians

It worked because people were scared of Hell

and whose names are inscribed in Heaven

He refers to the first crusade saying that they will go to Heaven if they go in the crusade, like the Pope promised in 1095

The Muslims replied by a **Jihad in 1187 led by Saladin** a famous Sultan.

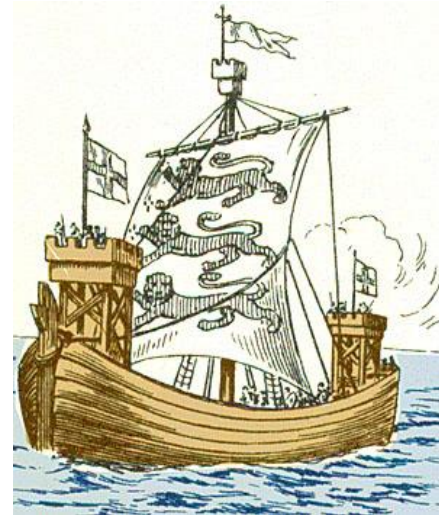
He managed to take lots of territories back from the Christians

At the end of the 8 crusades the **CRUSADERS STATES WERE DEFINITELY LOST IN 1204**

III/ But sometimes the civilizations co-operated and exchanged

A/ Trade

In the Mediterranean basin the Italians and particularly the Venetians were efficient traders. Venice, Genoa and Pisa became commercial ports. There were new faster boats called Vessels (sails) that could be hired from the Venetians.



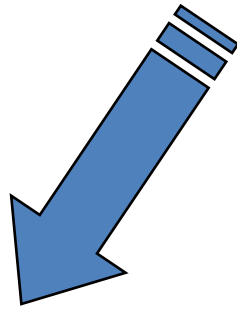
The Occident had lots of surpluses to sell and the “East” had “exotic” products the Occident wanted

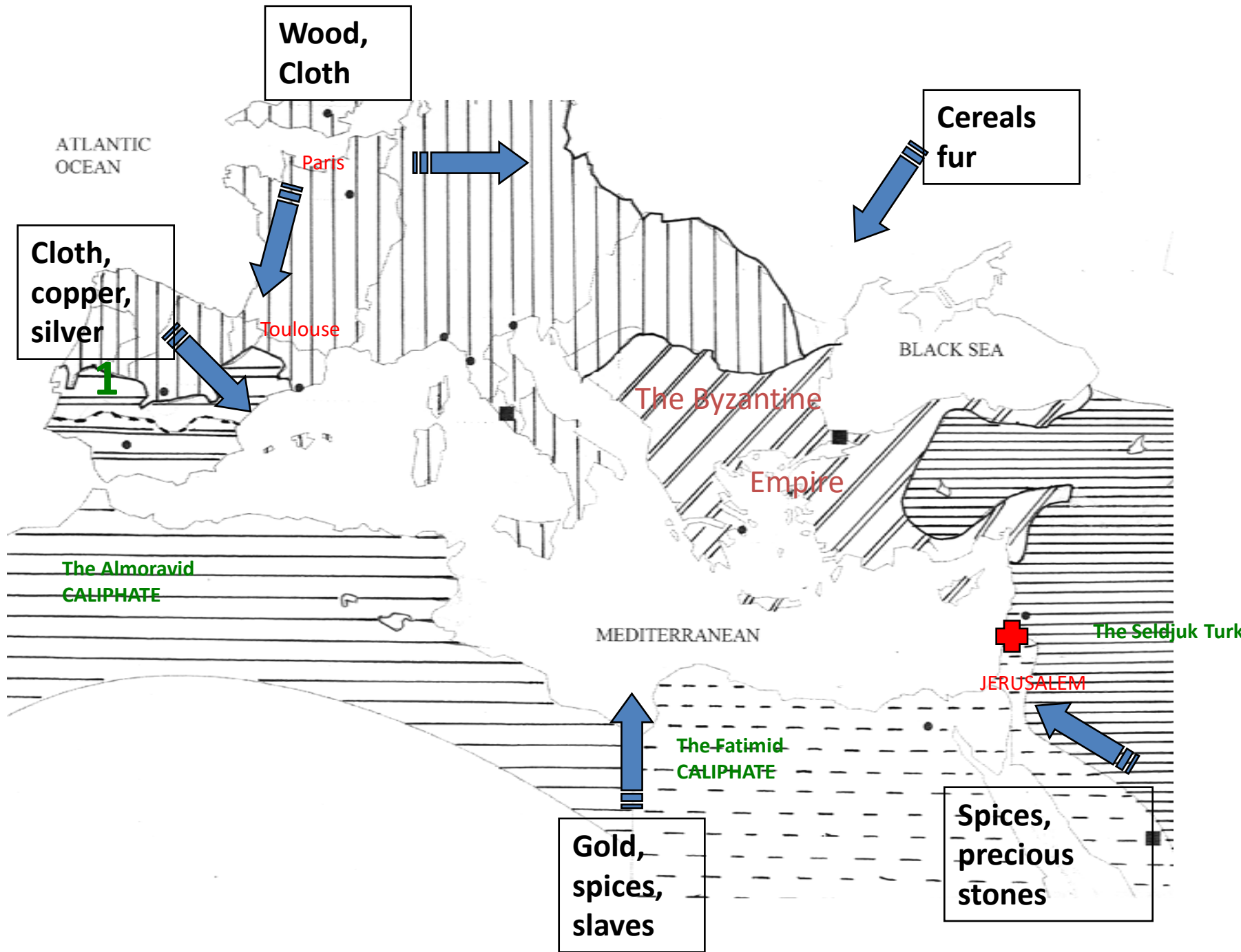
There were new inventions too:
the loan and letters
the compass



the astrolabe (to be guided by the stars) which
made maritime trade easier

So, lots of commercial flows were created.





III/ But sometimes the civilizations cooperated and exchanged

B/ Cultural co-operation

Muslims and Christians collaborated in Toledo, Cordoba (there were 70 libraries in Cordoba) and Palermo

The Muslims were very ahead in sciences and shared (medicine: Averroes).

The Muslims took a lot from the Greek and Latin culture. (Averroes translated Aristotle)

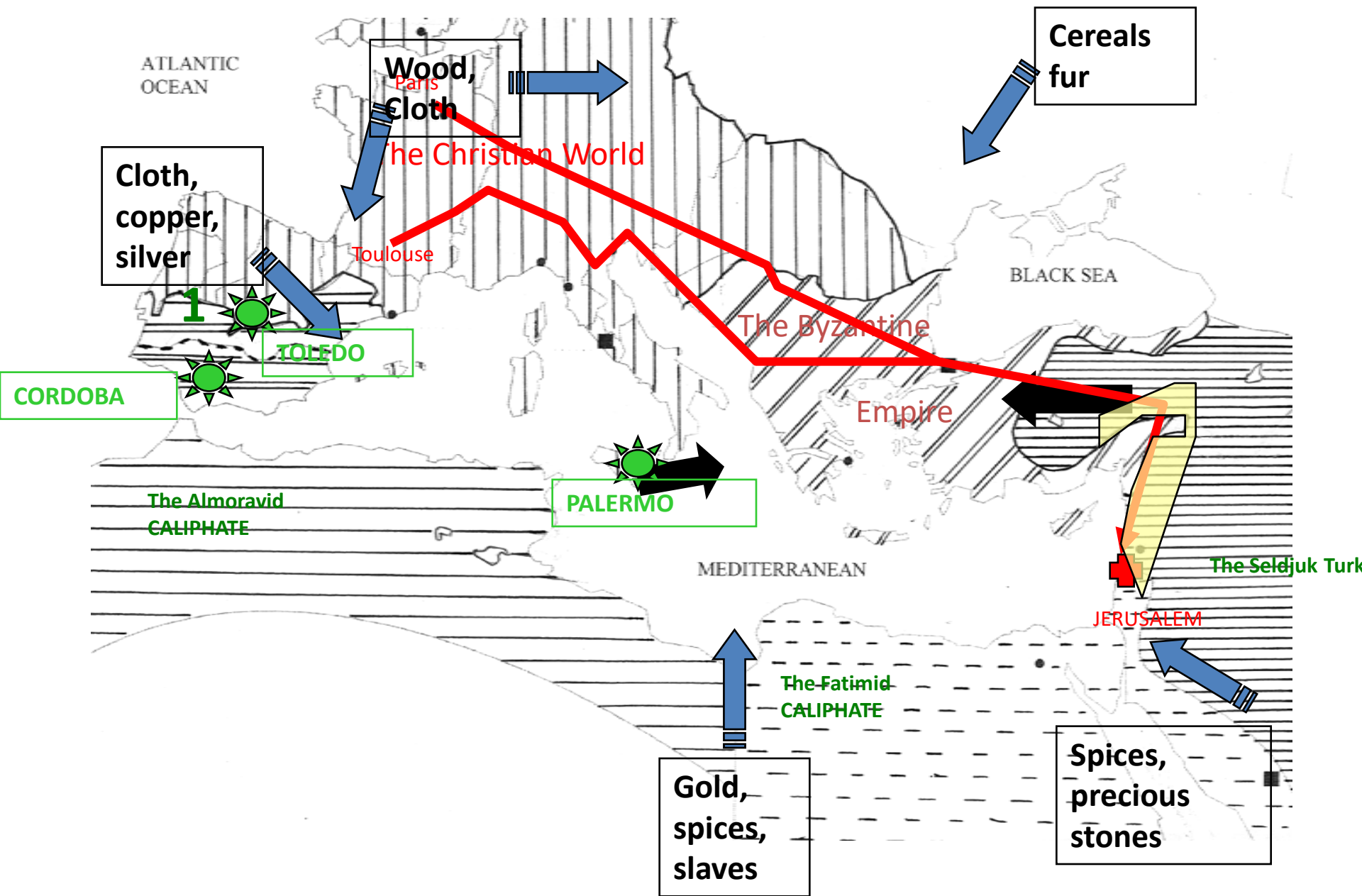
The Christians translated lots of Muslim texts from Arab to Latin, even the Koran in 1142 by Pierre le Vénéral.

Some Christians lived in peace in Muslim areas: they were called MOZARABIANS.



TOLEDO

Commercial and cultural crossroad



CONCLUSION

Three different civilizations lived around the Mediterranean in the Middle ages

They had different religions and customs which caused wars called the crusades.

But, they also took advantage of their differences by trading and exchanging their knowledge.

So we can say that the Mediterranean basin was a real crossroad, a meeting place.

The crusades showed the importance of religion in medieval diplomacy and also the influence of religion in the Occident.

This religious influence lasted after the Middle-Ages and created other wars of religion in the 16th century

THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE 12th CENTURY: A CROSSROAD

