

## **Food and Holy War: the Role of Food in the Crusaders' Conduct of War and in their Encounter with the New Land and its Inhabitants**

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The crusader conquest of the Levant, resulted in almost 200 years of coexistence of Latins and indigenous population. Although the area suffered from continues military and religious confrontations, it led to intercultural contacts between Latins, living side by side and interacting with the local population. This paper will examine, through the prism of food and food habits, the evolving relationships between the crusaders, the Franks, and the local population in the Near East. It addresses questions regarding the role of food in the Crusades and the conduct of war as well as regarding the discovery, exploitation and consumption of local food stuffs.