

Amin Maalouf, *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*

Discussion

- What is the nature of this book? What sources did the author use? What kind of accounts did these sources provide? (enumerate and identify authors and sources as extensively and precisely as possible)
- Describe the political situation of the Eastern Mediterranean at the arrival of the crusaders.
- What were the motives of the crusaders for invading the Eastern Mediterranean and what attitude/interactions did they have toward/with the population—namely, toward Jews, Christians, and Muslims? What sense do we thus gain of their perceptions of local populations and of their vision of Christianity?
- Explain the ways by which Beirut, Tripoli, and Saida were conquered and what effect this had on local populations.

Please give precise examples and references to sustain your arguments.