



Zengi and the Muslim Response to the Crusades: The politics of Jihad (Routledge Studies in the History of Iran and Turkey)

Taef El-Azhari

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Zengi gained his legacy as the precursor to Saladin. While Zengi captured Edessa, Saladin would capture Jerusalem, and both leaders fought to establish their own realms. However, Zengi cannot be fully understood without an examination of his other policies and warfare and an appreciation of his Turkmen background, all of which influenced his fight against the Crusades.

Zengi and the Muslim Response to the Crusades: The politics of Jihad, provides a full and rich picture of Zengi's career: his personality and motives; his power and ambition; his background and his foundation of a dynasty and its contribution, along with other dynasties, to a wider, deeper Turkification of the Middle East; his tools and methods; his vision, calamities and achievements; and how he was perceived by his contemporaries and modern scholars. Examining primary Muslim and non-Muslim sources, this book's extensive translations of original source material provides new insight into the complexities of Zengi's rule, and the politics of jihad that he led and orchestrated during the Crusades.

Providing deeper understanding of Islamic history through a close examination of one of its key figures, this book will be a valuable resource for students and scholars interested in Muslim history and the Crusades in general.

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