



# CRUSADES, DARK LEGACY OF CHRISTIANITY

**T**he rise of Islam, another monotheistic religion, challenges the Christian Hellenized Byzantium, but the remnants of Hellenism can still be found in Afghanistan and the Indus Valley where the legacy of Alexander ..... 06 Hellenism Contests and Even Copes with Islam and the Crusades

In 1977, at the middle of the inflationary spiral spawned by the Arab oil embargo of 1973, our houseguest for a week in Singapore was Archimandrite Anastasios Giannoulatos. Professor of thology at the University of Athens. He is now Archbishop Anastasios, the head of the Orthodox who survived 40-years of persecution in Muslim Albania. He authored a textbook on Islam, a subject he began teaching for the first time, and he gave me an autographed copy. I read it quickly and put it away; for communism was then our pre-occupation. I reread it for this article and realized that perhaps no one studied Islam before 2003 when ...

## Crusades, Dark Legacy of Christianity/Taiganides.....159

In the war of moderation against extremism, fanatic religious fundamentalists are challenging secular governance; political hegemony is curtailing freedoms to meet this challenge of extremism. The atmosphere is the way things must have been in the period of the 11th & 12th century Crusades when Pope Urban of Rome promised absolution of sins for those who marched to recapture Jerusalem from the paynim, the infidels. Religious zeal rather than Platonic Aristotelian wisdom formulated political and even military .....

## After 9/11, Among Muslims Fearlessly/Taiganides.....161

Dato Malik and I used to play tennis once a week at noon at the Lake Club in downtown; after the games we would have lunch there at the fast food stalls. During Ramadan, Dato Malik would insist that we continue our tradition (like me, he was a tennis fanatic,) even though he was neither drinking water nor eating during daytime hours. While playing under that hot, humid sun I would consume much water and have a beer for lunch; Dato would not touch water, yet, he would accompany me to the food stall, and would not leave for the office until I...

## Cavafy, Loss of Anatolia, Sadness/Jusdanis .....168

The genius of Cavafy lies in his ability to talk about these earth-shaking developments in only a couple of stanzas. He makes history come alive for us by honing his camera lens, so to speak, on individuals caught in the waves of history, tossed here and there by forces they don't really comprehend. As time goes on, Cavafy is there to record these events for us, offering us the pathos of people living in fascinating .....

## Crusaders Plunder Constantinople/Kaldellis.....170

In 1204, the Byzantine Empire fell victim to one of the first capitalist-colonial ventures in western history. In making their plans, the leaders of the Fourth Crusade contracted with the Venetians for a large fleet to transport the army to the Levant. The Venetians invested an enormous sum in the construction of a transport fleet, but only a fraction of the expected Crusaders turned up. This posed a dilemma. The Venetian investment had to be recouped, or else ....

## Rediscovery of the Parthenon Magic/Kaldellis.....172

What I discovered, in the course of my background reading of Byzantine sources, were many references to travelers -- including monks, saints, emperors, bishops, and tourists -- who went to Athens specifically to visit the Parthenon. Now, we have always known that sometime in late antiquity, let us say in 500 AD, the Parthenon was converted into a church in honor of the Mother of God, the Theotokos, the Virgin (Parthenos) of Christian worship. Not only, then, was there a continuity of religious function in the temple (two honored Virgins, both deemed the protectors of Athens), but the building was changed into a church with .....

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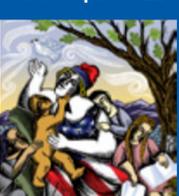
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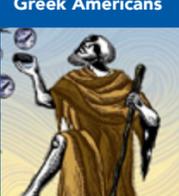
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