Leadership – the Second Crusade

want the Germans inside Constantinople, so supplies his army with the resources needed to immediately move onto Asia Minor instead of staying and waiting for King Louis as agreed (possibly causing tensions between the leaders down the line). After 10 days of travelling through Asia Minor, the food begins to run out. They begin to be attacked by the Seljuk Turks more and more frequently. Conrad's forces agree to retreat to Nicea, where many crusaders return home or are killed by further attacks. This leads to a severely reduced crusader army, and to some extent can be to blame for the failure of the Second Crusade.

Conrad will allegedly become so infuriated at Damascus that he cuts off the head and shoulder of a man with one swing of his sword, inspiring the other crusaders. This will cause panic amongst the Damascenes, who will retreat. This looks to be the point of victory over Damascus, but they proceed to retreat and the Second Crusade ends there over an argument between the leaders as to who will claim Damascus for their own.

**Louis VII, King of France (Eleanor and Raymond of Antioch)**

Goes on the crusade because he is in need of pilgrimage after a feud with the Count of Champagne, Thibault, in which he accidentally sets fire to a Church that collapses with 1,200 villagers inside. This causes Louis to become ill, and Bernard tells him that by participating in the crusade he will recover and be forgiven of his sin. The king probably didn't need much preaching before he was convinced.

When he arrives in Antioch, his wife (Eleanor) and Raymond (Prince of Antioch), will begin having an affair, humiliating Louis. For this reason, he will ignore Raymond's wise plan of Aleppo, the vulnerable headquarters of Nur ed-Din, and move onto Jerusalem. When there, Louis and Conrad will decide to attack Damascus, the only Christian ally, to prevent it from losing its independence and siding with the Muslims. This is a questionable choice.

**Manuel Comnenus, Byzantine Emperor**

Not overly thrilled at the idea of the Second Crusade. In the First Crusade, the crusaders had promised to return any reclaimed lands to the Byzantine Empire – they had not kept this promise. As the Second Crusade was sparked by the attack of Edessa and the want to take it back, the Byzantines were not very supportive. Edessa had been a part of the Byzantine Empire, taken by Baldwin in the First Crusade and never returned. Though Manuel did provide the western armies with food and resources, he was not eager for them to remain in Constantinople for longer than necessary, pushing Conrad's army away earlier than intended and changing the plan for Conrad and Louis to meet there. This may have been a reason that the two leaders argued at the siege of Damascus and subsequently returned home, declaring the Second Crusade a failure.

Manuel will send an army, however, to Montferrand when King Fulk is trapped by Zengi in a castle. This army will arrive too late to be of any help, and King Fulk will suffer from the embarrassment of paying out an unnecessary ransom.