Notes on Asbridge’s *The First Crusade: A New History*

- Hugh of Vermandois arrived August, shipwrecked so had to be rescued by the Greeks
- Main force of French- Robert of Normandy, Stephen of Blois and Robert of Flanders. They were informed that it was too late to cross the Adriatic but Robert of Flanders didn’t wait. Robert of Normandy and Stephen of Blois waited for spring. April 1097 set sail and the first ship cracked in the water. 400 people drowned. Some left to go back home but most stayed to continue the journey.
- Fulcher of Chartres- a priest who joined the crusade in Stephens army
- Raymond of Toulouse and Adhemar of le Puy leave November 1096
- Godfrey of Bouillon- set out In summer 1096. Same route as the Peoples crusade. Just like with Emicho of Leiningen the king of Hungary wouldn’t let them enter. He finally agreed after negotiation and Baldwin was kept temporary hostage.
- Bohemond and nephew Tancred had the shortest journey
- 1071 battle of manzikert- emperor Romanus Diogenes defeated and captured. Much of the western frontier is destabilised and a lot of Asia Minor becomes Turk territory
- Alexius had already forged an alliance with Robert of Flanders- 1091 on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem 500 knights dispatched to aid Alexius’s military efforts
- Peter the hermit couldn’t stop looting at Nish. Arrived at Constantinople 1st August 1096 and things got worse. Lead stolen from the roofs of churches and sold to the Greeks- emperor ordered them to cross the Bosphorus
- 7th August Peter and minions are shipped across the Gulf of Nicomedia and then they had to set up camp at Civitot.
- Alexius still provided provisions. They were raiding everywhere with brutality- by September doing this through the environs
- Italian and German crusaders foraging near Xerigordos- major force of Nicaean Turks arrived around them-trapped for 8 days hot and ran out of water. Muslims broke in and the whole Latin force enslaved or killed
- The crusaders at Civetot heard about this and started to advocate a pre-emptive strike on Nicaea
- 21st October 1097 Walter sans avoir and all the rest of the crusaders marched out of Civetot. Nicaea army was planning to attack so they met fought and Turks thrashed them with their skilled archers
- Turks then went to Civetot where woman, children and the elderly were raped, girls and nuns as well as beardless and beautiful young men were taken away
- Peter the hermit convinced Alexius to send a rescue mission
- Main armies of the second wave arrived in Constantinople in October 1096 and April 1097
- Hugh of Vermandois arrived November 1096
- Godfrey of Bouillon in December 1096
- Stephen of Toulouse and Bohemond in April 1097
- Bulk of French forces didn’t arrive until mid-May 1097
- High ranking envoys sent to greet and guide them but also acted as spies
- Limited success as still flashes of hostility. Raymond of Toulouse not enough food so foraging. Adhemar of le Puy attacked by the Perchenegs- captured and stolen from
- Raymond and a handful of followers went to Constantinople with just a handful of followers to restore relations with the emperor
- 18th February Bohemond’s forces attacked by an imperial army
- Only 5-6 people let into Constantinople each hour
- Oath- to let the emperor have any territory that used to belong to Byzantium and an oath of vassalage
- Bohemond wanted to be the de facto military leader of the crusade
- Raymond of Toulouse refused to give the same oath- promised not to threaten the emperors possessions or power
- Tancred and Baldwin also didn’t take an oath- crossed the Bosphorus quickly
- Muslims lack of visionary unity
- Had Kilij Arslan chosen to attack the crusading forces as they arrived the French expedition could have collapsed.
- He made a massive blunder by assuming that the second wave was just as weak as the first so instead of facing them first he continued trying to resolve a minor territorial dispute
- Early May 1097- 2/3 of the crusading force set out for Nicaea (Godfrey, Robert of Flanders, Hugh of Vermandois and Tancred as well as Peter the Hermit
- Taticius was the chief representative of Alexius- official commander in chief but never wielded power
- Communication a barrier- lots of languages
- No single leader: Adhemar could claim spiritual supremacy but strategic command could be contested by 7 or more nobles