

Name _____

The Fourth Crusade's Detour: Consequences of the Unexpected Journey to Constantinople

Short Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: The sacking of Constantinople resulted in the looting of treasures and religious relics, causing immense damage to the city. It also led to a lasting rift between Western and Eastern Christian churches.
2. Possible Answer: The capture of Constantinople weakened the Byzantine Empire significantly. It led to the establishment of the Latin Empire and the fragmentation of Byzantine territories, resulting in a decline in Byzantine power.
3. Possible Answer: The Fourth Crusade is considered controversial because it diverted from its original mission to retake Jerusalem and instead attacked Constantinople. This diversion led to the sacking of Constantinople and strained relations between Western and Eastern Christians.
4. Possible Answer: Venice played a significant role in diverting the Fourth Crusade by entering into a contract with the crusaders. In exchange for Venetian ships and transportation, the crusaders agreed to assist Venice in recapturing the city of Zara. This diversion set the crusade on a different course.
5. Possible Answer: The diversion of the Fourth Crusade strained relations between Western and Eastern Christians, making future cooperation in crusades more challenging. It also highlighted the complex and sometimes morally ambiguous nature of crusading endeavors.

