### Title:
The Teutonic Knights in the Holy Land: 1190-1291.

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### Abstract:
This study is a comprehensive analysis of the Teutonic Knights in the Holy Land. It discusses their early development and their rising importance in the Latin East. It explores the strong connection between the order's growth and the enthusiasm of the German nobility for crusading to the Holy Land. Within this the brethren's relationship to the empire and the papacy at this time is examined closely. Crucially, this thesis seeks to nuance the current contention that the order was merely an expression of the emperor's Mediterranean policies and demonstrate that its intentions, like its interests, lay in the defence of Christendom, not in the wars of the papacy and empire. Over time the order acquired major territorial holdings in Livonia and Prussia and the effect of these growing military and financial commitments upon its Levantine branch is examined to show the way in which defeats and opportunities on these northern frontiers could impact upon the Levant. Within the Latin East itself, the order's relationship with the lay and ecclesiastical hierarchies is analysed to evaluate their contribution to the local politics of the Holy Land. Furthermore, the brethren's role in the Eastern Mediterranean is continually contrasted with that of the Templars and Hospitaliers to highlight the similarities and differences between their institution and these older orders. Internally, the order's system of control and organisation is examined to discuss how effectively the institution overcame the challenges of its geographically dispersed commitments and how factions within the order, which advocated the needs of each separate frontier, affected its general policy. In short, this is a detailed study of the Teutonic Knights in the Holy Land which places both their military and internal affairs in the context of their responsibilities in the Baltic and the wider politics of the medieval world.

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