

A Chronology of the Crusades

TIMOTHY VENNING

with an introduction by Peter Frankopan



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A Chronology of the Crusades

A Chronology of the Crusades provides a day-by-day development of the Crusading movement, the Crusades and the states created by them through the medieval period. Beginning in the run-up to the First Crusade in 1095, to the fall of Constantinople in 1453, and ending with the Turkish attack on Belgrade in 1456, this reference is a comprehensive guide to the events of each Crusade, concentrating on the Near East, but also those Christian expeditions sanctioned by the Papacy as 'Crusades' in the medieval era. As well as clashes between Christians and Muslims in the Latin States, Timothy Venning also chronicles the Albigensian Crusade, clashes in Anatolia and the Balkans and the *Reconquista* in the Iberian Peninsula. Both detailed and accessible, this chronology draws together material from contemporary Latin/Frankish, Byzantine and Arab/Muslim sources with assessment and explanation to produce a readable narrative which gives students an in-depth overview of one of the most fascinating periods in medieval history.

Including an introduction by Peter Frankopan which summarises and contextualises the period, this book is an essential resource for students and academics alike.

Timothy Venning is an independent scholar educated at the University of London, with thirty years' experience of historical research. His books include *Chronology of the Roman Empire* (2010) and *Anglo-Saxon Kings and Queens* (2011).

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Introduction

On 15 July 1099, an army of western knights stormed the walls of Jerusalem. It brought to end many centuries of Muslim rule, and restored the Holy City to Christian hands for the first time since the 630s. Tens of thousands of men had set off from Western Europe to liberate the city where Jesus Christ lived, was crucified and rose from the dead. Galvanised by the charismatic preaching of Pope Urban II, they were responding to a sudden and dramatic collapse in the Eastern Mediterranean that closed long-established pilgrimage routes to Palestine and put the capital of the Byzantine Empire and its great capital city Constantinople under threat.

The expedition that made its way east at the end of the 1090s was astonishingly ambitious. Marching thousands of miles across terrain that was often inhospitable and frequently involved venturing into the unknown or fending off enemy attacks required resources, bravery and faith. Many who set out never made it. Those that did became heroes in their own time, fêted across Europe for their daring, celebrated in verse and song and commemorated in histories that became wildly popular as the 12th century wore on.

The success of the First Crusade shaped the Middle Ages. It expanded cultural horizons and introduced ideas, goods and technologies from the lands of Islam and from Byzantium to the west. It played a crucial role in the development of chivalry and knightly piety and, in doing so, helped establish the concept of violence as an expression of devotion. It laid the basis for the transformation of the papacy into an institution with genuine political power that dramatically expanded its traditional role as interpreters of religious doctrine. The new territories controlled by the Christians in the Levant needed supplies and reinforcements, which presented opportunities and rewards that maritime city-states like Pisa, Genoa and Venice were quick to recognise.

The establishment of Christian states in the east became Europe's first experience of colonialism – one reason why the Crusades received considerable attention from scholars in Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries, when the parallels of serving King and country sat neatly alongside concepts of duty and self-sacrifice. Despite the excitement of the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099, however, it quickly became clear that holding on to gains made by the golden generation of First Crusaders would be difficult. It took time to realise that Pandora's box had been opened – partly because it took time for the tides to turn, and for new realities to become apparent.

2 *Introduction*

Prior to the First Crusade, the Islamic world had been fractured and disjointed. The fall of Jerusalem proved to be a catalyst for consolidation that would eventually prove decisive. The Christians in the east became a lightning rod for ambitious Muslim rulers, keen to make a name for themselves with military success, either to win support of the local population or to catch the eye of powerful patrons. This tested the resolve of the kings, princes and barons of Europe who were appealed to repeatedly by the Christian communities in the Holy Land to provide men, supplies and leadership in what seemed to be increasingly uphill battle.

The problem was that while medieval kings and knights were enthusiastic to take part in expeditions east, it was not always clear what the precise goals of major campaigns were – or how (or even if) they could be deemed to be successful. For example, the Second Crusade, launched in the 1140s in the wake of the fall of the strategically important city of Edessa to the Muslims, suffered from a lack of a clearly defined target, despite attracting the participation of two of the most powerful men in Europe: Louis VII of France and the Conrad, Emperor-elect of Germany.

Things were no easier even after the catastrophic defeat of the Latin knights in 1187 at the Horns of Hattin and the surrender of Jerusalem, the crown jewel of the Crusader kingdom, to Saladin, perhaps the greatest military leader of the Middle Ages. Although the fall of the Holy City produced scenes bordering on the hysterical in Europe, and prompted the rulers of England, France and Germany to rush to restore and reinforce the Holy Land, defining what was desirable on the one hand with what was achievable on the other, proved all but impossible.

There was no lack of interest in the concept of Crusading, or in recovering the most important sites in Christendom – as subsequent events showed, for expeditions were launched with increasing regularity in the 13th century. They did not always go according to plan. In 1204, those attempting to head east found themselves drawn into the domestic politics of the Byzantine Empire and ended up camped not by the walls of Jerusalem but of Constantinople. In scenes that many contemporary commentators struggled to comprehend, the Crusaders ended up ransacking the city and seizing many of the most important holy relics of Christ's life and that of his disciples that had been collected by the Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena nine centuries earlier.

This spectacular disaster was borne of the problems of squaring motives of spiritual rewards with realities of financing expeditions that were expensive – and of supporting embattled communities whose prospects of survival never seemed to be getting better. To some, the best way to reconcile these competing issues was to change focus. In practice this meant keeping Jerusalem as an idealised final goal, but looking to first secure a series of stepping-stones that were deemed to be essential to the recovery of the Holy Land. Attention turned to Alexandria and the Nile delta ostensibly for strategic reasons, though in truth driven by the extensive trade links between Egypt and the Persian Gulf, India and beyond. Faith and commerce were silent partners in a story that sought to accentuate the virtue gained by the devout, rather than the profits on offer for the mundane.

Nevertheless, Crusade fever continued to burn in Christian Europe. There were moments that flattered to deceive, such as when the German Emperor Frederick

II swept all before him and recovered Jerusalem in 1229. He did so, some said at the time, to prove a point back home, for his expedition took place soon after he had been excommunicated by the Pope. Nevertheless, the hold over the Holy Places was precarious. One by one, towns and mighty castles were again picked off by enemy forces, pushing the Christians back to a handful of locations and finally to Acre alone. The fall of this city in 1291 brought nearly two centuries of western occupation to an end. Knights still held out on Cyprus, and then Rhodes, but it was the end of an era.

Despite the loss of the Holy Land, many of the lessons learned during the previous two hundred years continued to be practised – and not surprisingly. A major shifting of the sands in the east that brought the Mongols tearing across Asia set in motion a chain reaction that eventually saw resurgent Islamic armies under the Ottoman dynasty flood into Asia Minor and across the Bosphorus into Thrace and the Balkans. By the 14th century, the threat posed by infidel armies was increasingly real and worryingly close to home. Standing up to Islam no longer meant liberating Jerusalem, but protecting Europe.

Fighting for Christendom now took on a new meaning, as men were summoned to try to hold back the tidal wave threatening to overwhelm the defenders in the Balkans. Major campaigns were organised to hold back the Ottoman armies at Nicopolis in 1396 as the situation became increasingly bleak. By the middle of the 15th century all that remained of the great Byzantine Empire – the heir to Rome – was the city of Constantinople. Its vast land walls could not hold out forever, and in 1453 it too fell to the Turks. With Belgrade only just surviving a major siege three years later, Christianity had been driven onto the back foot.

Some held out hope: an ambitious and optimistic sea captain in the service of the Spanish King was convinced he had an answer at the start of the 1490s. If he could find a way to the markets of the east, it would be possible to produce great profits that would pave the way for an assault on Jerusalem and the re-establishment of Christian control of the Holy Land. The discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus was driven by the desire to emulate the Crusades. Little wonder, then, that the small fleet of ships that crossed the Atlantic in 1492 bore a cross on their sails – the emblem that Pope Urban II had decreed that the soldiers of Christ should wear on their tunics four centuries earlier.

As this book shows, the Crusades were remarkably durable, spanning many centuries of competition, achievement and defiance. Although the dominant visual image in popular culture is that of a knight in shining armour, the impact of the Crusades resonated far beyond the world of Western Europe. As Timothy Venning makes so clear, reverberations and reactions were felt from Scandinavia to Baghdad, from Palermo to Cairo, from Portugal to Central Asia. This is just one reason why intense wars, fought in the name of religion, have fascinated readers for centuries.

Peter Frankopan

1 Prelude to the First Crusade 1055–1094

1055 PERSIA

Fall of Baghdad, seat of the Abbasid Caliphate, and the Iraqi plains to the new steppe power which has overrun the Iranian plateau, the Seljuk/Saljuk Turks; their ruler Tughril Beg assumes the title of 'Sultan' ('slave of the commander of the Faithful'). The Turks have recently started to pressurise the Byzantine frontier in Armenia with devastating 'hit-and-run' cavalry raids. The outmoded and underfunded Byzantine central army and frontier defence-system are not up to the task of defence.

1057 BYZANTIUM

September. Accession of rebel general Isaac Comnenus (uncle of 'First Crusade' period Emperor, Alexius I) to the throne after a military revolt by aristocratic generals in Anatolia against the civil bureaucracy of the capital under the new, elderly civilian Emperor Michael VI Stratioticus. (The 190-year-old Macedonian dynasty ended in 1056 with the death of Empress Theodora, niece of Basil II.) Drastic military rearmament is undertaken against Turkish raiders of eastern Anatolia and the lower Danube valley.

ITALY

August. Robert 'Guiscard' ('the Cunning') assumes power as the new Duke of Apulia and Calabria (southern Italy), controlling emerging Norman principality in lands seized from Byzantine Empire and local Lombard principalities. He is the second-youngest son of a minor Norman knight, Tancred de Hauteville, whose sons have come out to Italy to lead mercenary bands of Normans in Byzantine and Lombard service and carve out a new state at their expense; his younger brother Roger will soon be installed as ruler of lands retaken from the Arabs in Sicily (from 1060). Robert has recently divorced the mother of his eldest son Bohemund (future Crusader Prince of Antioch) to marry the local Lombard heiress Sichelgaita, by whom he has son Roger 'Borsa'.

1059 **BYZANTIUM**

November. The sick Isaac I (aged c. 57) is induced to abdicate by civilian ministers and replaced by the ineffectual Constantine X Ducas (aged c. 54); military decline resumes. Constantine's brother John is the father of the later First Crusade era emperor, Alexius.

1064 **SPAIN**

January. Siege and capture (*July*) of Coimbra (later part of Portugal) by the army of Castile under King Ferdinand I – first King of Castile (previously Count by maternal descent) and King of Leon from 1037, and younger son of King Sancho 'the Great' of Navarre. His brothers inherited Navarre and Aragon. The fall of Coimbra is the climax of the year's campaign down the river Mondego valley from the Castilian plains. The first significant advance of the Castilian frontier in the 'Reconquista', for which Ferdinand and later his sons recruit international knightly help for a series of campaigns promoted with Papal help as fighting for Christ.

1065 **SPAIN**

Spring–Summer. Ferdinand I of Castile attacks the Moslem emirate of Valencia to his East, and defeats Emir Abd-al-Malik al-Muzaffar; he is given tribute by the neighbouring emirate of Zaragoza/Saragossa before he has to call off his campaign due to illness.

24 December. Death of Ferdinand I, aged around 51; he was married to Sanchia, heiress of Leon, whose brother Vermudo III he overthrew. His domains are divided between his sons Sancho (eldest), King of Castile, Alfonso, king of Leon and Garcia, Count of Galicia/Portugal. His daughter, Urraca, receives the city of Zamora.

1066 **ITALY/ENGLAND**

14 October. Victory of the Papally-backed Duke William of Normandy, invader of the kingdom of Engand, against the usurper Harold II Godwinson at the battle of Hastings (or Senlac). Pope Alexander sent William a blessed banner as a Papal champion, implying a sacred element to his campaign against Harold who is claimed to have broken an oath to accept William as successor to the late King Edward.

1067 **BYZANTIUM**

May. Constantine X dies aged c. 62; his eldest son succeeds as Michael VII, aged around 19; due to Michael's feeble character his mother Eudocia Macrembolitissa is effectively regent with the aid of Michael's tutor Constantine (monastic name 'Michael') Psellus, the era's most notable

historian and philosopher; she looks around for a strong military man to rely on against the rising number of Turkish raids in eastern Anatolia.

Summer. A Turkish horde ravages Cappadocia unopposed after bypassing frontier garrisons, and its mobile cavalry is not challenged by Byzantine forces; Caesarea is taken by surprise and sacked, the populace are massacred, and the rich shrine of St. Basil looted and desecrated. Eudocia seeks a husband to tackle Turks with full military power as Michael cannot do so; Eudocia calls the general Romanus Diogenes to Court and decides he is what the Empire needs.

1068 BYZANTIUM

1 January. Romanus Diogenes marries Eudocia and is crowned as Emperor Romanus IV, aged c. 45; he starts to reassert Imperial control and improve organisation on eastern military frontier, but cannot leave Constantinople till position secure from disgruntled civilian courtiers.

ITALY/SICILY

Summer. In Sicily, the North African Zirid emirate's general Ayyub gains control of the remaining territories of the local dynasty after killing aged Emir Ibn al-Hawwas in battle, and becomes Emir of Palermo; he leads army against the invading Normans under Roger, younger brother of Duke Robert 'Guiscard' of Apulia. Roger defeats him near Palermo; the Arabs are virtually wiped out. Ayyub flees in panic back to Africa with survivors, leaving Palermo and other Arab cities to defend themselves. Guiscard invades the remaining Byzantine territories in southern Italy, 'Langobardia'.

5 August. Guiscard commences siege of Byzantine capital, Bari, with first Norman fleet to cut off sea-link to Epirus.

1070 BYZANTIUM

Spring–Summer. Manuel Comnenus, eldest nephew of Constantine X's predecessor Isaac I and elder brother of future ruler Alexius I, leads Romanus' army to Sebastea; he is ambushed in his camp and kidnapped by Sultan Alp Arslan's general Chrysocule near Colonea. Manuel is ransomed, but while his army is leaderless a Turkish force strikes right across Anatolia into the unravaged western provinces and sacks the city of Chonae; the local shrine of St. Michael is principal target.

SYRIA

Turks overrun Syrian countryside, and start to pick off isolated cities; Fatimid resistance collapses and most of the cities that hold out, e.g. Tyre under Ibn Abi Aqil, are independent of their authority from now on.

1071 | **BYZANTIUM**

Spring. Romanus marches into Anatolia again with a massive army. Romanus' chief general Manuel Comnenus dies while army are in Bithynia, and Romanus refuses his younger brother Alexius (the future emperor) permission to join army as too young. Romanus marches on into Anatolicon via Dorylaeum, but many horses are killed in fire at camp.

SYRIA

Spring. Seljuk Sultan 'Alp Arslan' (sobriquet, 'Valiant Lion'; real name 'Mohammed', son of Tughril Beg's brother Chagri Beg) besieges Byzantine Edessa, famed seat of an ancient Christian community allegedly written to by Jesus Christ and former home of the 'Mandelion' image (portrait of Christ 'not painted by human hands') taken to Constantinople on the city's capture in 1032.

PALESTINE

The Seljuk general Atziz conquers Jerusalem from the Fatimid Caliphate of Egypt, which is regarded by the Sunni Moslems (including the Seljuks), loyal to the Caliph in Baghdad, as a 'heretic' state as it is Shi'a in religious orientation and has a rival Caliph from the Prophet's lineally-descended family. This leads to more harassment of Christian pilgrims by zealous Turks in Jerusalem than was the norm under the tolerant Fatimids, and growing Western resentment.

SPAIN

Sancho of Castile overruns Galicia and deposes his brother, Count Garcia, assisted by his brother King Alfonso of Leon; he then deposes Alfonso too by an invasion.

ITALY

16 April. Bari surrenders to Guiscard after his partisans in city seize one of the towers; end of Byzantine rule in Italy after over 530 years.

BYZANTIUM

Summer. Romanus' huge army of around 100,000 men, many Western and Balkan tribal mercenaries, marches into NE Anatolia; Romanus heads for Chliat that the Turks have captured, but faces a rebellion of disorderly and plundering German mercenaries at Cryapege; his army arrives safely at Theodosiopolis. Alp Arslan hastens north from Syria to assist his local forces; Romanus sends John Tarchaniotes and best troops to retake Chliat while he besieges Turkish-held Manzikert.

August. Romanus besieges and takes Manzikert; he hears of arrival of Turkish army nearby who have evaded his incompetent scouts, but does not realise its size or that Alp Arslan is in command; he sends out reconnaissance party under Nicephorus Bryennius, which is heavily defeated and call for reinforcements; Basilacius leads reinforcements but is captured, and the Byzantines hear of Sultan's arrival and start to panic.

Turks surround the Byzantine camp. The Balkan 'Uzes' Turkic mercenaries flee, and Romanus decides to break out towards Chliat; Tarchaniotes, in command at Chliat, abandons the town and retreats; Alp Arslan offers a truce to Romanus and peace terms based on no territorial concessions, but Romanus is determined to break up the massive, mobile Turkish army now he has it concentrated against him and demands that Turks abandon their camp to him and withdraw before any talks.

Battle of Manzikert: Romanus in Byzantine centre, Bryennius in command of left, and Andronicus Ducas (son of Constantine X's brother, 'Caesar' John Ducas) in command of rearguard; the Byzantines advance out of camp and after day of fighting are pressing Turks back to their camp but as darkness approaches Romanus requires his army to pull back to undefended Byzantine camp for night.

Andronicus Ducas turns his standard and leads men in hasty retreat, and panic spreads as other troops think he's been routed – it's later believed he deliberately sought this outcome to undermine Romanus' victory. The Turks see the panic and return to attack and Byzantine army crumbles; those who have not fled are killed or captured and Romanus is knocked off horse, wounded and captured.

The first Roman/Byzantine Emperor to fall into enemy hands since Valerian in AD 260, Romanus is taken before Alp Arslan but reassured and invited to dinner; he is required to pay tribute and sign a treaty of alliance, but is released after 8 (?) days and permitted to return home with his few surviving lieutenants.

The Byzantine army's virtual annihilation leaves Anatolia open to influx of raiding and later settling Turks; messengers reach Constantinople saying Romanus is dead or captured, and Imperial councillors decide to regard him as lost and try to persuade his stepson Michael VII to assert authority against Eudocia; he refuses, but his uncle John Ducas intrigues and the latter's son Andronicus returns to assist father. A letter from Romanus to Eudocia explaining his survival and peace terms is ignored as the Ducas family win over the capital's Guards regiments.

24 October. Romanus is deposed in Ducas-led coup, Eudocia is deported to a nunnery and Michael VII proclaimed sole ruler; Michael's uncle John Ducas and Michael's tutor Psellus are the real leaders of government. Romanus is besieged in Amasea, defeated in attempt to break out, but manages to flee.

Winter. Chataturius, Duke of Antioch, comes to Romanus' aid and persuades him to retreat to Cilicia

ITALY

Winter. Sicilian Arab towns and the Zirids of Tunisia send fleet to relieve Palermo, but it is defeated by Guiscard's navy; the Normans break through the harbour-chain of Palermo and burn ships in harbour, but Guiscard has to consider return to Italy as his ambitious nephews Abelard and Herman revolt, aided by Capua and Salerno.

1072 SPAIN

January. King Sancho defeats his fugitive brother Alfonso of Leon at the battle of Golpejera; *12 January* he is crowned king of Leon. He captures Alfonso and imprisons him in the monastery of Sahagun, but Alfonso escapes and flees to the emirate of Toledo, his former ally.

ITALY

5 January. Guiscard's forces storm Palermo; the citizens are granted quarter and free performance of their religion and possession of rights, property, and Islamic law provided they pay tribute; *10 January* Guiscard, brother Roger, and commanders enter Palermo in triumph, and re-consecrate ancient basilica of Santa Maria after 240 years as mosque.

Guiscard claims the overall fealty of all Sicily as invested as its Count by Pope in 1059, but will only rule Palermo, half Messina, and half the Val Demone directly and the rest goes to Roger, Great Count of Sicily, as his vassal; much of Sicilian strongholds still holding out surrender. Part of south coast (emirates of Taormina/Trapani) still resists.

TURKISH SULTANATE (PERSIA, SYRIA, ETC.)

Spring. Alp Arslan is called eastwards into Persia to deal with rebellion by his cousin the Emir Qaward of Kerman; he is successful, but is killed by treachery at parley with a rebel chieftain and his 18-year-old son Malik Shah succeeds as Sultan; the chief minister, or vizier, is the famous Nizam Al-Mulk, the learned Persian patron of culture who later founds the 'Nizamiyyah' academy at Baghdad.

BYZANTIUM

Spring. Andronicus Ducas, nephew of Constantine X, is sent against Romanus IV, and marches to Cilicia; Romanus is besieged in Adana, and Chataturius of Antioch and Crispin lead an unsuccessful sally; Romanus sends urgent envoys east to find Alp Arslan and beg for assistance but

his troops open the gates of Adana to besiegers and he dresses as a monk to show his abdication from power and is arrested.

Andronicus leads army back to Constantinople, and en route orders arrive to blind Romanus. 29 *June* Romanus blinded at Cotyaeum in defiance of original Ducas promises of no physical harm, and sentence carried out with deliberate brutality so that 4 *August*, soon after his arrival as prisoner on Island of Prote, Princes' Islands, he dies.

Isaac Comnenus, Manuel's next brother, appointed commander of Eastern armies to fight influx of Turks into Anatolia. Roussell of Bailleul (relative of Norman family of Balliol?) leads new body of French knightly mercenaries.

SPAIN

7 *October*. King Sancho is murdered (aged c. 34) while besieging his fugitive younger brother Alfonso in their sister Urraca's city of Zamora; he is stabbed by a local noble, Vellido Delfor, by his own sword, at a private interview near the walls (a trap?), and the murderer escapes into the city. His leaderless army accepts Alfonso (aged c. 32) as King of Castile. Alfonso has to swear an oath to the nobles of Castile that he had nothing to do with his brother's murder; later romance has it that 'El Cid' (Rodrigo Diaz of Bivar), a confidante of Sancho's and greatest knight in the kingdom, leads the demand for his oath and is not forgiven for this. Alfonso subsequently claims the rank of 'Emperor of Spain' rather than just a king (c. 1077), a psychological boost for his dynasty's role, as leading the 'Reconquista'.

1073 ITALY

Robert Guiscard returns to Italy and advances on the rebels from assembly at Melfi; 2 *February* fall of Trani. Most towns in Apulia surrender, but when Cisternino refuses (*March*) Guiscard has its captive lord, Peter of Trani, tied to wattle screen and carried in front of his attackers to force them to submit.

Guiscard overcomes most of rebels except Richard of Capua but is delayed by serious illness.

Cardinal Hildebrand, aggressive promoter of the rights of the Holy See over secular rulers, is elected Pope after Alexander II and takes title of Pope Gregory VII (22 *April*).

Summer. Arrival of a letter from Michael VII asking for an alliance (including military aid) against the Turks – possibly the Empire is considering hiring Lombard or Norman troops sponsored by the Papacy. Gregory starts to send out letters to Western rulers warning them of how militant 'pagans' have taken the Holy Sepulchre and are massacring Christians and asking for volunteers to fight them.

BYZANTIUM

Roussell of Bailleul leads his mercenaries against Turks in Central Anatolia, but he is more interested in Byzantine weakness and the potential it offers for his own ambitions.

Autumn. Roussell launches rebellion, and starts to plunder Byzantine provinces in Central Anatolia; an imperial army is prepared to send against him, but Isaac Comnenus cannot assist as his depleted army is defeated by Turks and he is captured.

1074 ITALY

February. Pope Gregory writes to Count William of Burgundy proposing that he send troops to the East; by the Pope's own admission there is a concerted Papal drive to recruit an expedition for the East.

BYZANTIUM

Spring-Summer. Andronicus Ducas made 'Domestic of the Scholae' (supreme commander) under father John Ducas; they advance into Galatia to meet Roussell in the upper Sangarius valley.

Battle of the 'Zompus Bridge', where military road to Syria crosses Sangarius: Roussell routs Byzantines and John taken prisoner; Andronicus seriously wounded and captured trying to rescue prisoner father; Roussell advances unresisted into Bithynia and camps on Mount Sophon.

1075 ARAB CALIPHATE (BAGHDAD)

Death of Caliph Al-Qaim after rule of 44 years, succeeded by son Al-Muqtadi.

BYZANTIUM

Roussell proclaims John as his puppet-emperor, possibly with his victim's connivance, to help overthrow the rule of civilian (eunuch) chief minister Nicephoritzes in capital; Nicephoritzes sends money to the Turks in return for aid, and their general Artouch advances into Bithynia to force Roussell out; Roussell's camp on Mount Sophon is taken by surprise in lightning attack, army routed, and Roussell and John taken prisoner.

Roussell's wife ransoms him and he retreats with surviving troops into the 'Armeniacon' theme to rebuild rebel force as a brigand living off countryside. Michael VII ransoms John Ducas.

Alexius Comnenus sent against Roussell, and Isaac Comnenus to Antioch as Duke.