

# Why Richard was stronger than Saladin

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Saladin and Richard were great leaders of the 3<sup>rd</sup> crusade. Saladin, the noble sultan of Syria, and Richard, the courageous king of England, were both entirely different leaders. I have decided to write about Richard and attempt to persuade you that he was in fact the better of the two.

Firstly, Richard was a visionary. This can be observed during the intense planning he put in to preparing for the crusades. Convinced that in order for victory much money was required. He forced a "Saladin" tax on the people he ruled over and also sold everything he himself owned to fund the war. Some say he would have sold London if he could have. In contrast, Saladin was less ambitious, he didn't want to fight; but he was forced to fight at Hattin {1187} when he avenged his sister after being kidnapped.

Secondly, Richard was a strategic thinker. This is seen during the Siege of Acre when Saladin counter attacked Richard's superior battlements with Greek fire, he made the decision to pay his soldiers four gold coins for every stone they moved from the city walls. This quick thinking allowed the crusaders to gain entrance to the city and be victorious in their battle. However, Saladin also showed himself a strategist when, at the battle of Hattin, he stood between the franks and the lake galilee, preventing from meeting their hydration needs.

Lastly, Richard was courageous. An example is when he fought at the Battle of Jaffa which the Saracens were easily winning. His presence and determination to fight until the end turned around the battle and forced Saladin to retreat. This victory was a determining factor in the teaty of Jaffa, allowing the crusaders to maintain access to the Holy Lands. Saladin was more likely to show mercy than fight to the bitter end. At Hattin Saladin spared Guys life saying "kings don't kill kings" and also when Richard was ill he sent water and ice instead of attacking.

Although both men are generally considered to be strong leaders it is my opinion that Richard show more variety of leadership skills.

