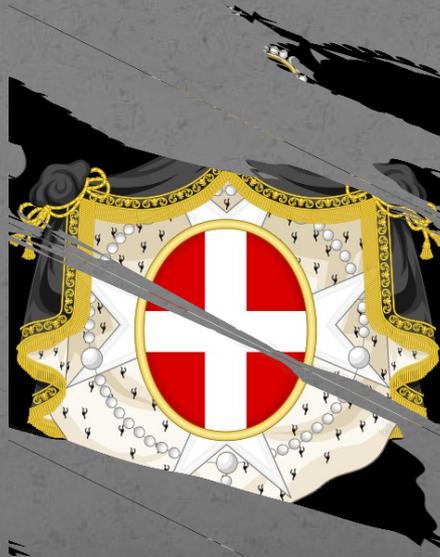


# Order of the Knights of Malta

## HISTORY

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# The beginnings in Palestine

The order was created before First Crusade, It's started as a informal brotherhood tied at Hospital of St. John the Baptist which was founded by citizen of Almafia in 1070.

At the time of the First Crusade the brotherhood transform into the order of the knights and It was formally accepted by pope in 1113.

The Order had an international character. The knights were divided into 8 groups, called languages (*Langues*) or speeches. They were:

- Provence

補 Auvergne

補 France

補 England

補 Italy

補 Germany

補 Aragon

補 Castile.

The rulers of the Kingdom of Jerusalem levy duty of safeguarding internal security. The knights start at this time the building of the whole system of strongholds including the stronghold-hospital Margat which became the official headquarters of the order. In this time The Order of Knights from Malta gained a lot of privileges in christian Europe.

# Margath stronghold



## Castle in Rodos



After the fall of Jerusalem and The kingdom of Jerusalem the Order with Templars moved to Cyprus . After liquidation the Order of Templars Joannites invade the Rodos island and formed there their own religious state. They also accepted the name of Rhodes Bachelors. His state became sea power which was control trade in the eastern part of the Mediterranean.

- The Ottoman Empire which was trying to take over control of the sea trade started war with The Order. In 1522 The Order capitulated and knights had to leave island.
- After 7 years of wandering through the world , the Emperor Carl V permit bachelors to settle down on Malta. At this time The Order changed it`s name to The Order of the Knights of Malta.

- In 1556 The Order start to build the newcapital city of Malta called for the part of the great master – Valletta.

The new state of bachelors started to lose its position in napoleonic wars ,when Malta fell.

After 1798 the new priory became russian emperor and his capital- Sankt Petersburg. In 1803 the priory of Order became John the Baptist Tomassi.

In XIX century the bachelors starts to set up in whole Europe informal lay associations wich refered to the Order. A part of them was catholic-others protestant. The first of this kind os associcions was Maltese Association of Rhenish-Westphalian found in 1864. Its protestant competition was Comtat Brandenburg Knights Hospitaller renewd in 1856.

Similar associations was started in other countries, like :

-England(1876)

-Spain(1891)

-Italy(1877)

-France

-Portugal

-Poland(1920)

The End

# Sources

- Wikipedia
- Ekai.pl