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### 11: Research & Writing

When we think about popular images of the Crusades, a few key images likely come to mind. We may picture knights in shining armor, wielding swords and charging into battle against a backdrop of burning cities and oppressed peoples. These images often convey a sense of heroism, valor, and righteousness. However, upon closer examination, it becomes clear that these images also convey a number of problematic messages. For example, they often reinforce the idea of a "clash of civilizations" between the Christian West and the Muslim East, perpetuating a false dichotomy that ignores the complexity and diversity of both regions. Additionally, these images often gloss over the violence, brutality, and atrocities committed by both sides during the Crusades, painting a simplistic and romanticized picture of a complex historical event.

When it comes to the frame value or values that lie around such messages, it is clear that these images are often informed by a sense of nationalism or religious superiority. They reinforce the idea that the Crusades were a just and necessary response to the threat of Islam, and that the Christian West was inherently superior to the Muslim East. This frame value is problematic for a number of reasons, not least because it ignores the fact that the Crusades were often driven by economic and political motivations rather than purely religious ones.

Images of contracts and contractual relationships, on the other hand, convey a different set of messages and frame values. These images often emphasize the importance of trust, fairness, and reciprocity in business and personal relationships. They suggest that a contract is a binding agreement between two parties that must be honored in good faith, and that failure to do so will have consequences. However, these images also highlight the potential for exploitation and power imbalances in contractual relationships, particularly when one party has significantly more resources or bargaining power than the other.

Overall, it is clear that the messages conveyed by popular images of the Crusades and images of contracts and contractual relationships are shaped by a range of cultural, historical, and political factors. By critically examining these images and the values they express, we can gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which visual culture shapes our perceptions of the world around us.