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Frames and Screens of Crusades in 21 Century

The Kingdom of Heaven, the epic film by Ridley Scott has sparked my interest in the Crusades ever since I viewed the film in Cinemas. As a traveler to the Holy Land, the Crusader “legacy”, if we can use that term, also brought my attention to the subject. Prior to these encounters of this period of history, I’ve always considered a “Crusades” as a term that embodies sound opinion followed by strong action. This term would be used in different societal contexts. For instance, a famous Christian mission was once named Campus Crusade, or the local township would promote a “crusade” against littering. In a sense, the context of the Crusader campaigns were more or less ignored and the term was being “updated” to contemporary society.

From what I understand, the frame that surrounds the subject is a shared historic-cultural background of the understanding of events that took place. How the term is applied (the screen) is not always agreed upon. I remember reading an article or watching a documentary (which I can not locate) about how the western usage of the term brought serious negative connotations to middle eastern societies, especially after former President George W. Bush announced on national television that America would embark on a “Crusade” against terrorism following the

tragic events of 9/11. The religious overtone of Christianity's war against Islam was once again revived, at least in the eyes of the Islamic world.

More recently, the attitude and use of the term has shifted, Campus Crusade has since modified their name to simple "Cru". Ridley Scott's movie, on the other hand, presents the Crusader as serious religious fervor against a much more temperate Muslim society. Slowly, we've come to realize the picture is just not necessarily simply black and white as it was once presented to us.

Contractual Relationships

I believe modern society is built upon a mutual understanding and respect of contracts. Social order in a sense is based on contractual relationships. From everyday life between husband and wife, to an agreement between a client and an internet service provider, even agreement between nations to that extent. It constructs a large portion of our cultural frame, how the contract is applied, on the other hand, is subjective and debatable. As we can see when contractual relationships break down, social order sometimes is affected. For example, Russia and Nato's understanding on expansion is very different. Although they have agreed on the limits of NATO expansion, Russia understands Ukrainian recline towards the west as signs of NATO expansion, resulting in the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In short, contracts present a platform of mutual understanding that is the scaffolding that upholds modern society, and when there's a breakdown in this understanding, the possibility of collapse is imminent.

Works Cited

Morillo, Stephen. *Frameworks of World History*. New York City, Oxford UP, 2014.