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World Civilization I

04/06/2022

### Research & Writing Assignment Week 11

In this week's research and writing assignment there will be a deeper dive into the time of the Crusades and what images from that time are still in our society today.

The first thing that comes to my mind when I think about the Crusades is a series of religious wars which were initiated by the western European Christians and the Red Cross on their shields, armor and flags. The Crusades wanted to reclaim the Holy Land from the Muslim rule and they had significant impacts on the economy, politics and also the society. They were characterized by brutality, violence as well as widespread suffering and death and their legacy is still felt today.

When looking and thinking about images of the Crusades, the first thing that comes to mind is probably the image of noble heroes with shining armors, swords, shield, riding horses and fighting in heroic battles to reclaim the Holy Land. The Crusades were presented as glorious heroes, while on the other hand the Muslim forces were seen as brutal and savage warriors, trying to reinforce negative stereotypes.

The frame values, which seem to underlie such messages, include notions of religious piety, honor and chivalry, as well as the belief of moral superiority of the Christian West over the Islamic East. The values listed above were also used to justify the Crusades and also to gain support among the Christian population.

The last aspect which I will talk about, are images of contracts and contractual relationships. These images were less common among popular cultures, but they did exist. One example

here is the Treaty of Ramla, which was signed in 1101 between the Crusades and the Muslim forces. This contract established a truce between the two sides and the image of these kind of diplomatic contract solutions showed an alternative to war and also the potential of peaceful solutions. However these kinds of images were less common than the more common used images of violence and heroism.

Works cited

Frameworks (pages 359-373; 384-388)