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The Crusades

World Civilization I

The Crusades have a clear and memorable image: the cross. Most often the Crusade symbol is a red cross against a white background however there are multiple different variations of the symbol. The image of the cross represents how the Crusaders believed that what they were doing was God's will or "Deus vult!" The Crusaders were a group of warriors who fought Muslim states and Orthodox Christian states for the land which they believed belonged to God (in their form). When it comes to frame values the images of the Crusade show the religious aspect that framed the whole movement. It was sparked by Pope Urban II who called for warriors to take back God's kingdom in the name of Christianity. The land he was talking about was considered "Christ's patrimony". Another frame value of the Crusades is the location of where the Crusaders originated from. Many came from Northern Italy, Germany, and France which we see represented in some of the images and artworks of the Crusades. This image or symbol of the cross basically contracted each soldier or warrior to the cause. Once they accepted the "calling" they had to sew the cross onto their clothes. The cross was also on their shields as well. The image of the cross bound the soldiers to the movement/army.

(Morillo, p. 371-373)

Morillo, S. Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume One: To 1550.

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