

Aseel Hindi

HIS 113: World Civilization

7 April 2023

Research and Writing

The Crusades, a series of religiously motivated wars fought between Christians and Muslims for control over the Holy Land, convey a message of righteous struggle against evil and suggest that the Crusades were a “noble endeavor” undertaken to protect Christian civilization from Muslim invaders. Popular images of the Crusades often portray them as “heroic battles fought by noble knights against heathen enemies in a faraway land”. Although, these images demonstrate the historical reality of the Crusades, including the political, economic, and religious motivations of the parties involved, as well as the “brutality and atrocities” committed by both Christians and Muslims. The focus on the image of chivalrous knights also downplays the role of common soldiers, mercenaries, and non-combatants in the Crusades. The messages conveyed by popular images of the Crusades are often associated with “religious devotion, chivalry, and bravery”. These values are linked to a particular view of the Middle Ages as a period marked by devotion to religion, military strength, and individual heroism, which aligns with current cultural narratives surrounding “heroism, national identity, and cultural values.” For example, images of contracts and contractual relationships often convey a message of legal and economic exchange, based on mutual consent and fair dealing. They suggest that “contracts are essential for economic growth, social stability, and individual freedom”. In other words, they often convey the idea of a mutually beneficial agreement between two parties that is binding and enforceable. They can create a frame value of trust, fairness, and responsibility. Overall, popular images of historical events and concepts can both reflect and shape societal values and beliefs. It is important to critically examine these images and the values they promote, as well as the perspectives and experiences they may exclude.

References:

Textbook

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Crusades/Crusade-as-metaphor>

<https://dcc.newberry.org/?p=14390>