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The first thing that springs to mind when I think of the Crusades that took place in the 12th and 13th centuries is a charge into battle by armored knights on horseback wielding swords and shields. The Crusaders are frequently portrayed in culture, including literature, movies, and other forms of expression, as valiant warriors defending their faith. But as I learn more about the Crusades' complicated past, I see that there are many more images that continue to be prevalent in modern society.

Religious hostility and conflict is one such image. As a result of religious zeal, political aspirations, and commercial interests, Christians and Muslims engaged in a series of religious battles known as the Crusades during the Middle Ages. Given the ongoing religious conflicts and tensions in the world, the picture of Christians and Muslims fighting violently because of their contrasting religious beliefs is still relevant in modern culture. Religious differences have frequently been a cause of division and war, from the Crusades to contemporary conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Crusades also leave behind the impression of cultural connection and trade. Despite being conflicts of a religious nature, the Crusades promoted cross-cultural exchange of knowledge, goods, and technologies. The Crusaders encountered Eastern cultures, such as those of the Byzantine Empire and the Islamic Caliphates, and were thus exposed to fresh ideas and viewpoints. This intercultural engagement has had an impact on literature, art, architecture, and other facets of society, and it continues to have an effect on how we perceive history and the connections between various cultures.

When thinking about the Crusades, the idea of imperialism and colonization certainly comes to mind. Although they saw themselves as defenders of the Holy Land, the Crusaders' acts nevertheless had an imperialist undertone. The Kingdom of Jerusalem was one of the governments the Crusaders founded in the Eastern

Mediterranean; these states were considered to be European colonies in the Middle East. While we struggle with issues of power dynamics, exploitation, and cultural control in international affairs, this legacy of imperialism and colonialism still has an impact on our modern world.

In conclusion, there are many images of the Crusades that are still prevalent in our culture today. The legacy of the Crusades is diverse and multifaceted, ranging from religious conflict and intolerance to cultural engagement and exchange to imperialism and colonization. It serves as a reminder of the complexities of history and the enduring effects of historical occurrences on our contemporary society. It is vital to evaluate these images critically and take into account their significance in forming our view of the past and present as we continue to research and reflect on the Crusades.

Works Cited:

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