

Everyone has beliefs; whether it be religion, human rights, or even something as simple as Santa Claus. It is an inherent part of human nature. The beliefs of people centuries ago oftentimes differ from our beliefs today, but a lot of aspects are either similar or connected. This is because of worldview. According to our teacher, Ms. Willemse, worldview is the “lense” over our eye that affects how we view the world, hence the name. The events of the past have shaped our worldview today.

I was raised Christian, my mom was raised Christian, and even my grandmother was raised Christian. Christianity is a widespread, monotheistic belief. During the Medieval era, this religion was forced upon people whether they wanted to believe it or not. During the Crusades (1096-1291), Pope Urban II told Christians that if they fought for the Holy Land, God would forgive them for their sins. To some people, their Faith was so important to them that they decided to join in the fight against Muslim forces to claim the Holy Land. To others, it may have been the land or the riches they were after.

Regardless, the fight to claim what they felt was theirs went on; which is part of the reason why the Crusades were historically significant. War is extremely notable, as people die fighting for their cause. The consequences of the Crusades still last this very day, as many residents of Jerusalem today are religious. People still value and believe in those religions, even centuries later, which is exactly what makes it worth remembering.

Although today’s culture wasn’t the same as it was years ago, many ideals are still similar. Now, instead of having a religion forced upon us, we get to decide for ourselves. I was taught Christian teachings due to the fact both of my parents were Christians, but in our age in culture, it wouldn’t be against the law to decide to change my beliefs. According to Christian beliefs, through the forgiveness of sins, one could enter Heaven. This one of the reason why the people followed Pope Urban II when he said they would be forgiven should they fight. However, today, there is a much simpler process to being forgiven for sinning. One simply has to check a Parish’s schedule to see when the priest offers sessions to confess one’s sins. Still, the idea of forgiveness is the same as it was in the past; the people of then and now both want to be forgiven for their wrongdoings.

In conclusion, many religions are derived from teachings or beliefs of the past. Most of the people who fought in the Crusades did it for God and for their Faith; just as many religious people of today would make sacrifices and do certain things for their own beliefs. The fact that during the Medieval era, Christianity was forced onto people could be part of the reason it is so widespread today. People’s religion are oftentimes a huge part of their worldview, like my own. Those who do have a Western Worldview usually practice a religion or have heard of many, themselves. Religion and beliefs have impacted thousands of people, just as they do today.