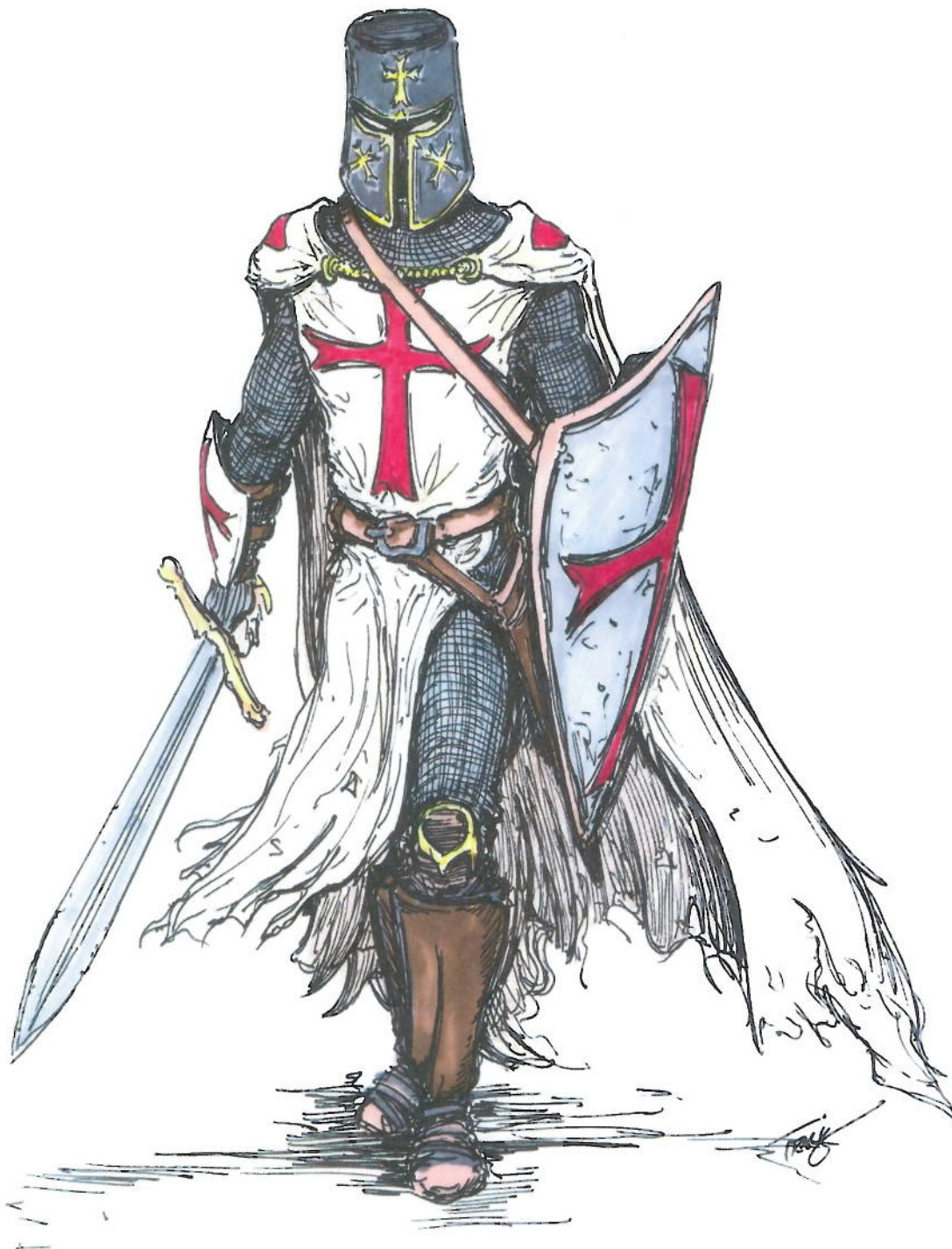


KNIGHTS TEMPLARS



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Report

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Knights Templars may have shaped human civilization more than previously thought. The earliest recorded history dates back as far as the 11th century, "The Crusades".



Was this a religious movement to gain power and wealth? Christians and Muslims alike believe the crusades of the 11th and 12th century have an effect on wars we are fighting today.

Two common perceptions are regarded in Western Civilization. One comes from the 18th century and the other from the 19th century. "The first, which gained currency during the Enlightenment, was the Crusades

where series of unnecessary wars in which a barbaric people steeped in ignorance and superstition attacked a peaceful and sophisticated muslim world" (Antonia). This perception has cast a negative perception and demonizes the Knights Templars as a roving band of outlaws working behind the mask of religion. In contrast the 19th century perception views the Knights Templars as noble individuals led by a heavenly power. These were motivated men guided by honor and chivalry (Antonia). Both of these views tend to question the real relevance the crusades have on today's wars.



What is the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Knights Templars? History indicates early Catholicism known as 'interims' or Catholic separatism are vastly different than modern Roman Catholics (Gibson). As recent as 1960 the Second Vatican Council reform voted to tolerate other faiths. Gibson is convinced the earlier Catholics embraced a Masonic plot backed by the Jews (Gibson). Fast forwarding this time-line to the twenty-first century we identify yet another set of Catholic ideals ranging from religious right, regressive populism, racial nationalism and white supremacy. Does this modern view undermine the human right's movements of the fifties, sixties and seventies? One could argue this threatens American democracy and the right-wing social movements of today. Why do we explore this extensive timeline from the 11th century to now? The reason is clear. Templars still play a big part in today's financial, religions, and political realms.

You may have heard of the Masons or Masonic. Today's Templar Knights do not wield

swords or carry out the wishes of one specific religion. However they do express power in many other effective forms. The LDS Church practices many of the Masonic ways. This is evidenced by many of the signs carved into the LDS Salt Lake temple. Prominent names such as the Sinclair, Godfrey, Bison, Pane, Monteverd, Archamband and St. Aguan, represent and practice many of the skills and ability's created within the Templar's secret society.

Let's take a look at the Catholic's motive to sponsor the Templar Knights beginning in the 11th and 12th Century's. There were three great faiths that considered Jerusalem to be sacred: Jews, Christians, and Muslims (Chesnoff). As Gibson alluded earlier, the Templar Knights were Nobel men who took their orders from the Catholic Church. The first crusades effectively took the City of Jerusalem by brute force. "The battle between Saladin and Richard marked the high point for the Crusades. The first major clash between Islam and Western Christendom started a battle that lasted more than three centuries"(Curry). As of

today the Crusades are still fresh in the memoirs of many Muslims. This is evidenced by the "Holy War", politics



and corruption effecting the Middle East. The beginning of the end for the Crusaders occupancy of Jerusalem was defined on July 4, 1187. The Crusaders army's positioned in Latin East lead by Lusignan was crushed by Saladin's armies in a battle fought near Tiberius, Israel. The Crusaders attempted to take the city of Damascus shortly afterwards. However this battle also ended in a bloody showdown, demonstrating the Crusaders would not be expanding their holdings in the Middle East. The final blow was the defeat at Hattin. Within months the Muslims lead by Saladin had

retaken every Crusader city and stronghold, including Jerusalem. This dominos effect was the result of betrayal and alliances for religious fervor. The Crusaders lost everything they had won the previous 300 years of fighting (Lacey).

Christianity and other religious groups have set about to correct the stain left behind by the Crusades. For example, in July of 1999, on approximately the nine-hundredth anniversary after the takeover of Jerusalem, approximately 450 American and European Christians gathered in Jerusalem to ask forgiveness (Dixon). This is certainly a start, however one must recognize this



Muslim hatred has been building up for

hundreds of years. It will take a few more hundred years to chip away at this ill-will before peace will be established in the Middle East.

The Catholic Church was deeply indebted to the Knights Templars after the collapse of the second Crusades. Fearful they would lose their power for not having the ability to pay this debt back, they devised a plan to exterminate the noble men they once embraced. As a result, many of these Knights were hunted down and killed. However a number of them escaped and lived the rest of their lives in secrecy.

The "Red Cross" is one of the most prominent symbols of the Knight Templar. Nobody knows for sure, however, how this symbol came about. It may have been influenced by Christianity, based on its first appearance and use of Templars who defended pilgrims traveling to and from the holy land. In the 12th century the Pope ordered the figure of the cross to be cut out of any material and sown into tunics and cloaks for the members of the

expedition. It was pleasing to the Pope to see the crosses, stitched in silk or gold, or made out of any kind of material, which the Pilgrims, following the order of the Pope, fashioned on their shoulders after pleading to set out on their march" (Guibert). Crusading armies may have also endorsed the cross due to its bold distinction. Christopher Columbus's ships bore the Templar's cross on each sail. This was evidence of their influence on early exploration efforts to the Americas. Many believe the Templars financed part of Columbus's exploration in addition to Spain. The cross served as advertising. Moving forward, to present day, the "XX" in the Exxon signs originated from the Templar cross.

Evidence points to Knights Templars activities in the Americas three-hundred years before Christopher Columbus. Due to their vast amounts of wealth they funded many expeditions of early explorers. For example, they funded the Portuguese and Spaniards who later became famous for their explorations in Africa and the West Indies. The famous King

Henry the Navigator was a known Grand Master of the Order, and explorers like Vasco Da Gama were also members (Todd).



The city of Veracruz, located in the facility of San Juan Da Ulua Mexico, was officially founded in 1600. However, there is a treasure trove of evidence suggesting the Templars were there and conducting business some 75 years earlier. Fort San Juan De Ulua was a Spanish military installment positioned to defend and store the Spanish gold and other valuables from the Orient. The Templar Knights also used this facility to safeguard many of their treasures as well. As unrest continued in Europe the Templars viewed the Americas as an end destination place to move their wealth. It is said by many historians, the Grand Order of The Templar Knights moved fleets of treasure to Fort San Juan. Over time the treasures were spread out over the Americas in various

locations. It is a mystery where many of these treasures are today. Once the treasures were safe in San Juan Fort, the Templars began doing business as bankers. They would finance anyone who they felt a good investment. For example, they financed the construction of multiple churches from all denominations. The



Chapel of the Third Order of the Franciscans now houses the first Masonic Lodge in Mexico, and that is not a coincidence. A strong bond was established between the Franciscans and Templars. Tons of gold and silver would be stored in the chapel and hidden in secret rooms beneath the church. In its boom, the city of Veracruz had up to ten convents for a population of only 6,000. Typically one or two convents would serve a community of this size.

A network of secret tunnels were established between the convents. This provided hiding places and safety from enemies within the city walls. However, one church was not big enough to hide all of the treasures so they kept building them until they accommodated the Templar's needs.

The next time you see a Templar cross or a Masonic symbol, stop and pause. They are the guardian's watching from the shadows. They operate our world from the underground as they have done for the past 8,000 years. Once a Knights Templar, always a Knights Templar.



Knights Templar-Bing Images

Position

Knight Templars have rightfully earned their place in history. It's true; the Catholic Church gave birth to the Templars in the beginning. To the churches credit, they embedded the very values that cemented the Knights steadfast in a timeless bond of brotherhood. As time went on, they simply outgrew their religious origins and took on a life of their own. The ability to achieve education, money and support soon matched that of the Catholic Church.

To the Templar's credit they keep and practiced their founding core values alongside of their new found skills, power and financial abilities. Breaking free from the shackles of the church soon turned these two forces against each other. In an effort to maintain power and money, the church employed many murderous,

unscrupulous methods in an effort to exterminate the Templars. To the Templars credit they held fast to their oaths and covenants in spite of the criminal actions of the church. Evidence of this can be seen in their actions. For example, they continued to assist armies in battle in an effort to dismiss evil and preserve freedom and prosperity. They did all of this in spite of the fact they were being hunted down like wolves by a devious church. It soon became evident they would have to pack up and move elsewhere, far away to survive the onslaught of religion injustice.

Using their knowledge, wealth and skills Templars explored the world far beyond the maps and trade routes of the time. They are credited for exploring North America and setting up settlements in Mexico in advance of the Spanish. This world has forever been changed thanks to the Knights Templars.

Proposal

The Catholic Church should be held accountable for the unjust atrocities they have inflicted on the Knights Templars. Why are criminal actions protected under the mask of religion? The churches motives were founded over money and power. If religions are truly a god then why do they get to break all the rules they teach. These kinds of double standard are a hot topic. Human rights are openly violated in the name of religion. Religions have used their power to control and manipulate the masses through history.

I propose we bring the Knights Templars back out of the shadows and let them do what they do best. Defend the weak, poor and innocent from the grips of religion and oppressive governments. I'm not advocating they wield a

sword or go on a physical crusade.

However, they should be allowed to employ their knowledge, wealth and power in modern civil ways to right the wrongs and bring about equality to our modern society.

The past, present, and future must have a check and balance for equality to exist. Tyranny, monarchy and bondage take root in the absence of a good check and balance system. The Knights Templars have provided this balance since the 11 century. They are still in force and functioning in our society. Let's hope they are allowed to continue to provide their valuable services in spite of the constant opposition from religions and governments to dismiss them from our midst. Truth will always prevail for those who have the courage to carry her cause. Once a Knights Templar always a Knights Templar.

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