

**Monday, October 26 2020**

On Monday October 26th the History Club held a meeting where we discussed the Crusades. While it's a large and complex topic, we still managed to have a very interesting discussion. We started the meeting by showing a few videos on the Crusades. The videos we watched discussed the Crusades from a broad perspective and were shown just in case members were not very familiar with the topic. Next, more specifically, a club member shared a story about Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II in relation to the Crusades. We talked about how Fredrick II started his own crusade of sorts. We also discussed how he was an enemy of the Pope, and was excommunicated during a period in his life. Another aspect of Fredrick we talked about was how he experimented on children by raising them without much human interaction to see what the natural language of humans was. After our interesting conversation about Fredrick II, we moved on to talking about how religion has been used as a justification for many horrible things to achieve power throughout history. This discussion started after a member of the club brought up how the first few crusades were motivated by spirituality but there are sources that say the later Crusades were motivated by power and excused by spirituality. This devolved into an interesting off topic conversation about how religion was often used to justify slavery, racism, and white supermacy in the United States. We ended the meeting after almost an hour of conversation over Zoom.