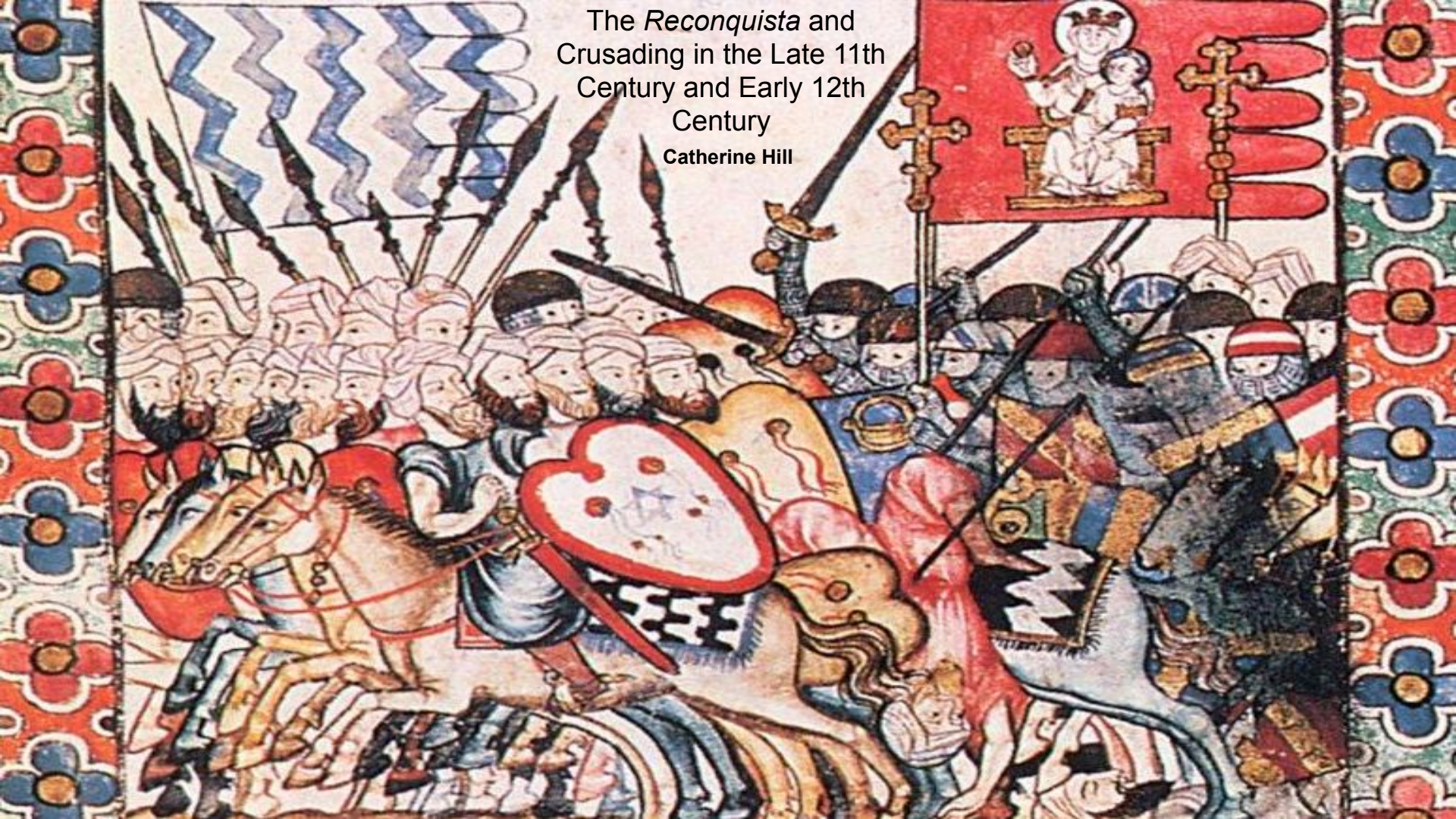


The Reconquista and  
Crusading in the Late 11th  
Century and Early 12th  
Century  
Catherine Hill



كتاب في الرسالة  
المعروفة بقطب الخوارزمي  
تأليف ابن خلدون  
مصر سنة 800 هـ  
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# THESIS

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- ❖ The Crusades and the Reconquista share a complicated history and a relationship that is hard to ignore
- ❖ This work will serve as a useful account of how these two medieval events have become interlaced and developed into large scale narratives of the past, which should continue to be analyzed by medieval scholars

# QUESTIONS

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What is the Reconquista and its major phases? How are the Crusades and the Reconquista defined in the historiography? Can the Reconquista be considered a crusade?



# HOW SCHOLARS HAVE TRIED TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS

- ❑ How can we define the Crusades?
- ❑ How can we define the Reconquest of Spain?
- ❑ How much did they impact one another?
- ❑ Can we call the *Reconquista* a crusade?
  - ❑ Are crusades just another form of a Reconquest?





## Structure of my Thesis Project

Abstract

- I. Section 1: Contextual History of the Christian Reconquest of Iberia
- II. Section 2: Historiography and Literature Review of the Crusades and the Reconquista
  1. Crusades and Crusading
  2. The Reconquista
- III. Section 3: Literature Review of the Relationship between the Reconquista and Crusading
- IV. Conclusion

# SECTION I

## Five main phases of the Reconquest

- ❑ The Muslim conquest of Iberia (711)
- ❑ The Creation of the Muslim Caliphate of Cordoba (756)
- ❑ The Breakup of the Caliphate into *taifa* kingdoms (1031)
- ❑ The second wave of Muslim invasions (11th-12th centuries)
- ❑ The Final Reconquest of al-Andalus by the unified Catholic monarchy (1492)



## SECTION I: MAIN FINDINGS

- ❑ “Reconquista” lasted almost 800 years
- ❑ State and nation hood-created
  - ❑ Nationalism
  - ❑ Story of State-building
- ❑ The importance of Visigothic Spain
- ❑ The story/narrative is complex
  - ❑ Disputable
  - ❑ Many different players
  - ❑ Many different motives
  - ❑ Iberia as political power and influence





## SECTION II: HISTORIOGRAPHY AND LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE CRUSADES AND THE *RECONQUISTA*

- ❑ Historiography of the Crusades from the 17th century to present
- ❑ Literature of Crusades
  - ❑ Defining the Crusades
  - ❑ How can we talk about them today?
- ❑ Historiography of the Reconquest
  - ❑ Traditional narrative of eight centuries of reconquest
    - ❑ Generation of 1898
    - ❑ Revisionist and later half of the 20th century
- ❑ Literature of the *Reconquista*
  - ❑ When does it begin?
  - ❑ Did it actually happen?
  - ❑ Duration?
  - ❑ Was it more about territorial expansion or religious ideologies?



## SECTION 2: MAIN FINDINGS

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- ❑ The concept that most medieval phenomena have had centuries of constructions
  - ❑ Words themselves being modern
  - ❑ Myths as tools for construction
- ❑ The importance of national identity and nationalism in the propagation of narratives
- ❑ Ideas of civilization and modernity
  - ❑ “Period eye”
- ❑ Both the *Reconquista* and the Crusades are complex narratives
  - ❑ More scholarship is required



# SECTION 3: LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RECONQUISTA AND CRUSADING

- ❑ *Precroisades*
- ❑ Reconquista as a crusade?
  - ❑ Reconquista a crusade in name only
  - ❑ (Revisionist phase) religion did not play a major role in Europeans coming to Spain to fight
- ❑ Section 3: Reconquista as Crusade?
  - ❑ Idea of crusading as no more than a refined Reconquista (Taking back any land from the Muslims/infidels and restoring it to Christendom)
- ❑ Reconquest was not a crusade
  - ❑ deas of Reconquest evolved over centuries
  - ❑ Lack of coherthness in crusading
- ❑ Importance of Pope Urban II



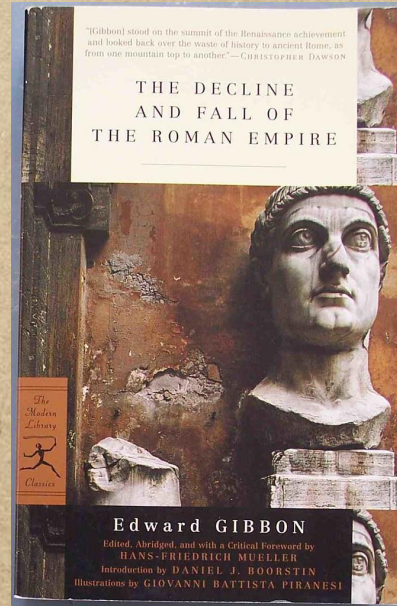
## SECTION 3: MAIN FINDINGS

Weight of the scholarship shows that crusading did happen in some capacity in Spain in the late 11th century and early 12th century



# TYPES OF SOURCES I USED

- ❑ Secondary sources singularly
- ❑ Large-scale volumes and historiographies



## MY ULTIMATE CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Crusading in Spain is something that is hard to pin down due to the nature of both the Reconquest and the ambiguity of the Crusades
- ❖ However, there is no doubt that crusading and the Reconquest have a heavily entwined relationship and history
- ❖ Both O'Callaghan and Gaztambide, as the two leading scholars on crusading in Iberia, have suggested that by the 1120s, there was virtually no feature of crusading that did not make an appearance in the context of the Reconquista
- ❖ The evidence seems to suggest the awareness of Crusading practices in Spain during the late 11th and early 12 the centuries within the larger picture of Reconquest

# LESSONS I DREW FROM THE PROJECT

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- ❑ The importance of constructions
- ❑ History is a conversation of arguments and disagreements
  - ❑ Disagreeing with prominent people is normal and a part of the process
- ❑ History is always written after the fact
  - ❑ The modern eye must be considered
- ❑ History is Global
  - ❑ Nothing is ever happening in a vacuum



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