

The University of Arizona Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies,
the Department of History, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Department of Near Eastern Studies,
the Religious Studies Program, and the Medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation Committee (UAMARRC) present the

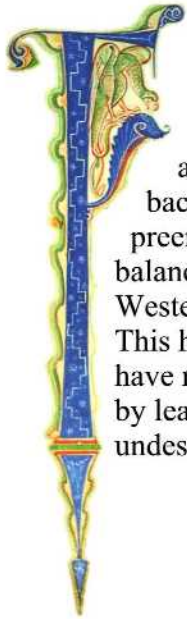
18TH ANNUAL TOWN AND GOWN LECTURE

CHRISTENDOM

VS.

ISLAMDOM

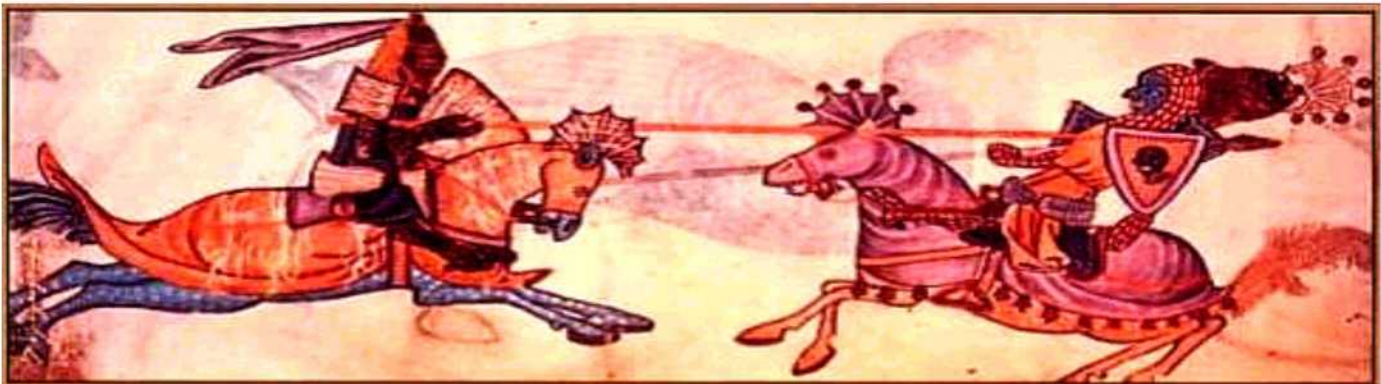
The Background War of the Early Modern Era, c. 1500-1700



From about 1500, even as Christian states mainly fought other Christian states and Muslim states mainly fought other Muslim states, there was also a broader background rivalry, in which competition for trade, dominion, and cultural preeminence often led to war between "Franks" and "Moors." By about 1700, the balance had tilted toward Europe, not through any inherent superiority of Christian or Western institutions, but through a properly historical concatenation of circumstances. This history of conflict is often down-played in recent studies, perhaps because scholars have reacted to Samuel Huntington's prediction of a coming clash of civilizations by leaning, as it were, in the opposite direction. But one does not conjure away an undesirable future by minimizing the reality of past hostility.

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