

Christians, Jews & Muslims in Al-Andalus

(watch www.islamicspain.tv)

Al- Andalus

Al-Andalus was the Arabic name given to a nation and territorial region also commonly referred to as Moorish Iberia. The name describes parts of the Iberian Peninsula and Septimania governed by Muslims (given the generic name of Moors), at various times in the period between 711 and 1492, although the territorial boundaries underwent constant changes with constant attacks from the Christian Kingdoms.

Following the Muslim conquest of Hispania, al-Andalus was divided into five administrative areas roughly corresponding to Andalusia, Galicia and Portugal, Castile and León, Aragon and Catalonia, and Septimania. As a political domain or domains, it successively constituted a province of the Umayyad Caliphate, initiated by the Caliph Al-Walid I (711-750); the Emirate of Córdoba (c. 750-929); the Caliphate of Córdoba (929-1031); and the Caliphate of Córdoba's *taifa* (successor) kingdoms. Rule under these kingdoms saw the rise in cultural exchange and cooperation between Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Under the Caliphate of Córdoba, al-Andalus was a beacon of learning, and the city of Córdoba became one of the leading cultural and economic centres in both the Mediterranean Basin and the Islamic world.



711 -> -> -> -> -> 1492

ISLAMIC RULE

- Andalusia
- Galicia & Portugal
- Castile & Leon
- Aragon & Catalonia
- Septimania

ISLAM

The Origins of Islam

In 610, Muhammad, a trader from Mecca in Arabia, began to experience divine revelations that were later written down in the Koran, the Islamic holy book. By the time of his death in 632, the new religion of Islam dominated the Arabian Peninsula. Arab armies then set out on a whirlwind campaign of conquest and conversion. They overwhelmed the Sasanian empire of Persia and took Islam from the borders of India across Asia & North Africa into Spain and southern Europe. Islam brought political and religious unity to a vast region, but division soon opened up. Weakened by these divisions, the Islamic world lost some of its territory to Christian forces in Europe.

Islam meant to "surrender in God's will"

Before 8thc

Visigoths (Iberian Peninsula) <-----> Umayyad Caliphate in Damascus

West

Middle East

Mohammed

- Inspired Spain's conquerors
- Influenced their statecraft : the art of leading a country
- Guided their interaction with Non-Muslims.

The structure of Islam

A Moslem has five religious obligations called the "Five Pillars" They are:

1. Profession of Faith: A Moslem's most essential obligation is the repetition of this creed: "There is no God but Allah: Mohammed is His prophet" .
2. Prayer: Prayers must be said 5 times each day. They may be said either privately or at the mosque. In public worship, men & women are usually separated. A worshiper precedes prayer with a ritual washing. He then faces the holy city of Mecca and follows a fixed ritual of recitation and prostration. On Fridays, a worship service at the mosques required. Besides the ritual prayers, the service includes a reading from the Koran and a sermon.
3. Almsgiving: Moslems are expected to contribute generously to their religion. The money is used to maintain the mosques and to help the poor.
4. Fasting: Moslems cannot eat or drink during daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of their lunar year.
5. Pilgrimage: Once in his lifetime, every Moslem who is financially and physically able must travel to Mecca. The pilgrimage is called the Hajj. The pilgrim participates in a number of observances.

Islamic Law

The basic ethical code of Islam comes from the Koran. The most important rule is that all Moslems are brothers. The Koran encourages charity, authorizes slavery, and prohibits wine, gambling, and the eating of pork. A Moslem may have as many as 4 wives, and divorce is permitted. Divorce is effected by the husband telling his wife three times " I divorce you".

The Koran does not provide a political structure for Islam and Mohammed did not reveal how the religion should be organized after his death. His close associates elected a successor, called a caliph, to take his place as a leader - but not as a prophet. This system was called the Caliphate and survived until 1924. At the present there is no universal Moslem leader.

The Governing of Islam

The Caliphs (successors) of Muhammad were both political and religious leaders. The first caliphs were elected, but in 661 the Umayyads set up a hereditary caliphate based in Damascus. By 715 the Umayyad government was the biggest the world had ever seen. In 750 the rival Abbasids took over. The Umayyads fled to Spain, while independent caliphates soon sprang up in North Africa. The Abbasids moved the capital to the new city of Baghdad, where they built many mosques- such as the impressive Al-Kazimayn.

The Sects

The 2 worlds of the Quran

- Dar al Islam : one division
- Dar al Harb

There are 2 great divisions of Islam -

1. The Sunnites (traditionalists): Orthodox Moslems
2. The Shiites (Legitimists) : They believe that Ali, Mohammed's son in law and the 4th caliph, had divine powers. They claim that he was the 1st legitimate caliph and that his heirs, also divinely inspired, were rightful rulers of Islam. The Shiites broke off from Islam by 679, and soon divided into a number of Sects.

Its Mission

Islam is not only a religion but is a mission for all the community- UMMA, which aim to enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong.

Muslims in Spain

In the early 5th century Spain was invaded by Vandals and other Germanic tribes. In the 2nd half of the century, the Visigoths achieved dominance, pushing the Vandals into Africa. The Visigoth Kingdom collapsed in 711 when the Moors-North African Moslems- invaded from Morocco. Within a few years the Moors conquered nearly all the peninsula and advanced into southern France, until turned back by Charles Martel in the Battle of Tours 732. Many Spaniards took refuge in the northern mountains and from there kept up a bitter resistance against Moslem domination.

For nearly 2 centuries, the southern two-thirds of Spain was under Moorish control. A separate Muslim domain, the Western (Spanish) Caliphate, was established at Cordoba in 929. Moorish Spain fostered scholarships and played an important part in transmitting ancient Greek and Roman learning to the Christian countries of the western Europe. Cordoba had in fact become a great intellectual and artistic centre.

¹*Moors : A member of a Muslim people of mixed Berber and Arab descent, now living chiefly in northwest Africa.*

→ The Muslims enter in Spain

- 710 - The Berber General Tariq ibn Ziyad takes Tangier. Several Muslim expeditions raid across the straits into Hispania Baetica (modern Andalusia), including a fairly large one led by a Berber called Tarif ibn Malluk. Civil war is raging between rival kings in Visigothic Hispania.
- 711 - A Muslim force of about 7,000 fighters (mainly Arabs and Berbers) under Tariq ibn Ziyad, loyal to the Umayyad Emir of Damascus, Al-Walid I, enter the Iberian peninsula from North Africa.
 - At the Battle of Guadalete Tariq ibn Ziyad defeats King Roderic, the last Visigothic ruler of Hispania, at the Guadalete River in the south of the Iberian peninsula. Tariq goes on to take Toledo, while a detachment under Mugit al-Rumi takes Córdoba.

- 712 - The Muslim governor of Northern Africa, Musa ibn Nusayr, follows Tariq ibn Ziyad with an army of 18,000 Arabs. He takes Medina-Sidonia, Seville and Mértola.

- 713 - Abd al-Aziz ibn Musa, Musa ibn Nusair's son, takes Jaén, Murcia, Granada, Sagunto.
 - The Christians of Seville and Toledo revolt, but are put down by Abd al-Aziz ibn Musa's troops. Toledo is pillaged and its notables are beheaded.
- 714 - First Muslim campaigns in the lower Ebro valley and south East part of the Iberian Peninsula.
 - Abd al-Aziz ibn Musa takes Évora, Santarém and Coimbra.
- 715 - By this year, virtually all of southern Iberia is in Muslim hands. Abd al-Aziz ibn Musa is left in charge and makes his capital the city of Seville, where he marries Egilona, widow of King Rodrigo, who encourages him to convert to Christianity. The Umayyad Caliph Sulayman ibn Abd al-Malik, orders Abd al-Aziz ibn Musa assassinated.
- 716 - Lisbon is captured by the Moors.

- 717 - Córdoba becomes the capital of Muslim Al-Andalus. Córdoba, the capital of the caliphate, was the largest, richest and most sophisticated city in western Europe. During the wars between Christians and Muslims, Jewish courtiers are valued as diplomats, translators, and advisors to both sides.

- 732- Battle of Poitiers: Arabs against Franks under the command of Charles Martel. Arabs to conquer French land (between the cities of Poitiers and Tours). This was unsuccessful, as Abdul Rahman, the Governor General of Al-Andalus was dead.

Al- Andalus was under the EMIRATE OF DAMASCUS (Umayyad dynasty)

→ Social Background

< - 8th century

The existing ethnic groups:

- Goths: Christian Religion- Hispanic
- Romans: Christian Religion (influenced by Byzantine rule) - Hispanic
- Jews: Hebrew

- > 8th century

The existing ethnic groups:

- The Jews: (pilgrimage in Jerusalem): Awaiting the Messiah
- The Christians: (pilgrimage in Compostela): Jesus is God
- The Muslims : (Pilgrimage in Mecca) : Only one God

Under Islamic law, Christians and Jews were given the subordinate status of "dhimmi". This status permitted Christians and Jews to practice their religions as *people of the book* but they were required to pay a special tax and to be subject to certain discriminations. However they did not encourage by that they converted to Islam, there was in fact a sense of religious toleration.

Christians

- ❖ Little sense of racial discrimination
- ❖ Promised free practice of their religion
- ❖ Promised greater and social justice
- ❖ Hispanic small holders were respected
- ❖ Had to pay a special tribute
- ❖ Permitted to live an almost autonomous local existence.
(sharing of churches with Islamic followers)
- ❖ Muradi was a Muslim who converted to Islam.
- ❖ Mudajar are those muslims living under Christian rule.

Jews

- ❖ Eagerly collaborated with the Muslims
- ❖ Tolerated
- ❖ Special tax to pay
- ❖ Wealthy under the Visigoths but persecuted
- ❖ Important cities were given for temporary administration when Muslims took control.

→ Influence & effect of the Muslims in Spain

- Trade & cultural exchange flourished
- Muslims imported a rich intellectual tradition from the Middle East and North Africa.
- Muslims and Jewish scholars revived and expanded the classical Greek learning in Western Europe.
- New crops techniques which led to a remarkable expansion of agriculture.

In the centuries following the death of Muhammad and the Arab invasion of the Middle East, North Africa & Spain, Muslim scientist , scholars and engineers developed a culture unrivalled in the world at that time. They made huge advances in astronomy, medicine and mathematics-giving the world algebra, trigonometry and the decimal fraction and translated many earlier Greek and Indian works into their own language, Arabic. They also developed a highly decorative architecture that made great use of garden design and calligraphy(decorative writing).

→ Leaders

- Abd al- rahman I
- Abd al-Rahman II
- Al -Hakam I]
- Al manzor (During his rule peek of the Moorish power in Iberia.)

In the 11th century, the Muslim holdings fractured into rival Taifa kingdoms, allowing the small Christian states the opportunity to greatly enlarge their territories.^[17] The arrival from North Africa of the Islamic ruling sects of the Almoravids and the Almohads restored unity upon the Muslim holdings, with a stricter, less tolerant application of Islam, and saw a revival in Muslim fortunes. This re-united Islamic state, experienced more than a century of successes that partially reversed Christian gains.

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LITERATURE

There were 2 types of poetry:

- A. Classical Poetry : Used by the Kings
- B. Natural expression poetry: Contained cultural and ethnical elements. (of Jews, Muslim & Christians)

This fusion of mix cultural etnicthiy helped to not disperse culture in AL-ANDALUS.

• Literature during the last period of the Muslim Rule

In the 15th century, the scholars gathered all the writing of the other scholars into one. This work of the scholars was transmitted to other scholars. Their work was also contributed in the construction of Arabic. There was also a compilation if Islamic science. Such literature included:

- Biographical dictionaries: Are a collection of writings regarding important persons at those time.
- Maqama: It was a sort of literature.
- Odes: Classical poetry.

→ Ibn Zarmak

He was one of the famous poets, and some of his works are painted on the Alhambra.

- Aljamiados: Spanish writings (sound & pronunciation) but written in Arabic form (with their alphabet) . These writing were ought to not be recognised by the Christians, so that the Arabs could secretly discuss their religion.

The Jews in Spain

By the Arabic thought the Jews managed to start their work, as they were highly influenced by the Arabs in Spain.

Jewish scholars wrote the

- Muwashshakcs, were they adopted its style and structure.
- Maqama

These works were translated into the Jewish language.

Pedro Alfonso, a Jewish convert, created the " Disciplina Clericalis" which were 33 tales, that was translated by him from Arabic to Latin. These were of Arabic origin but as soon as he translated them they were spread to the rest of Europe. In this book one can observe some elements in the book Donquijote and decameron.

The Christians in Spain

The Christians were attracted by the Arabic knowledge. Church men managed by than to learn Arabic, as they studied closely their knowledge.

As soon as the Christian came to acknowledge all this Arabic literature, they started to form their own writings. In fact some of the orient stories influenced them to write prose.

1. Kalila wa Dimna
2. Simbad
3. Barlaam and Jospahat

These 3 stories influenced both the Spanish & European literature. These came from India and later to Arabs and by then to rest of Europe.

Influenced by Andalusia literature:

1. Tracian: wrote Criticon
2. : Mi'raj : talks about when Muhammad was transferred to heaven .

Types of Literature

- A. Picaresco: A type of literature that describe the life of poor children who lived stealing to survive.
- B. Maqama: Funny stories who stole things.

Influence between different ethnic groups

- Muslim women who used to entertain in Christian courts.
- Christian & Moors singing together: Las Cantigas de Santa Maria. (written by Alfonso el Sabio)

Alfonso X

He revolutionised art , work and law.

He was interested:

- Philosophy
- Astronomy

- Literature
- Chess & backgammon

He wrote the " Law Code" This was a code written with the vernacular dialect, meaning early Spanish language. With this, the early Spanish language started to emerge.

He is popular also for the Alfonsian tables. These helped navigators to plot where they intended to travel by means of the stars position in the sky. They later started to be used by other foreign navigators. He also wrote treaties on astronomy.

Throughout his reign he issued laws that gave some toleration to Muslims in society.

He gathered a group of multicultural team to revise old manuscripts, mostly of the astronomer AL-Zarkali. His works were translated and they dispersed to the rest of Europe. They also translated mathematical treaties and other books which were written in Arabic(than translated to Latin).

Muslims, Jews & Christians

- Used same machinery
- Owned same business
- Shared mills : to do bread
- Meet during clothes washing
- Did mischief together
- Loved each other (Lover, by means of inter marriages.)
- Worked together : potters, silk makers..
 - (Muslims: their tax was eliminated so they continue to produce such material)
 - (Jews : used to work as lock smiths and good crafts man, and were also physicians in monasteries)