

The Islamic Legacy of Spain *Dr. Thomas Deveny, McDaniel College*

Islam in Spain

National Geographic: what was the most important city in the world in the year 1000?

“Spain is Different” (or: “Europe ends at the Pyrenees”)

Geography: Al-Andalus

Córdoba Sevilla Granada (Toledo, etc.)

History:

Islamic Presence: 711-1492 and beyond

Spain at the beginning of the eighth century; the invasion

Córdoba: Umayyad Emirate (756-929): Abd ar-Rahman “The Immigrant”

Umayyad Caliphate (929-1031): Abd ar-Rahman III (Medina az-Zahra)

Al-Mansur: “aceifas”

Sevilla: Taifa Kingdoms (1031-1090)

Hispano-Muslim , Berber, Slavs; Toledo reconquered: 1085

The Almohavids and Almohads (1090-1212): Berber reform movements

Granada: Nasrid Dynasty

Muhammed ibn Nasr:

Coexistence: Mozárabes, mudéjares; moriscos

Alfonso X (1221-1284): school of translators in Toledo

Edict of expulsión: 1609

Art and Architecture

Architectural features: arches, alfiz, ajimez, mocárabes, azulejos

Córdoba: Great Mosque; Medina az-Zahra

Sevilla: Giralda, Almorávid walls, etc.

Granada: Alhambra, Generalife

Toledo, Málaga, Valencia, Zaragoza, Teruel, etc.

Agriculture

The Green Revolution

Scientific Legacy

Mathematics:

numeric system

Translations of Euclides

“Las Tablas”

Optics

Astronomy

Cultural Legacy

Philosophy

Ibn Rushd (Averroes)
Maimónedes

Poetry

Jarchas
Ibn Hasm: *The Ring of the Dove*

History

Ibn Jaldún

Daily Life

Language
Customs
Exhibits, web sites

Language

Administration: aduana, alcalde,
Science: álgebra, cenit, cifra
Home: almohada, alfombra, taza
Agriculture: aceituna, acequia, algodón
Architecture: ajimez, azotea
Music: tambor, laúd
Topography: Guadalquivir, Medinaceli

Today:

Muslims in Spain today
Spain: a bridge between civilizations

Islamic Spain - Terms

Name/ Term	What is that?
Al-Andalus	
Alcázar	
Alfiz	
Alfombra	
Alhambra	
Almohads	
Almoravids	
Generalife	
Giralda	
Guadalquivir	
Jarcha	
Maimonides	
Medina	
Medina az-Zahra	
Mezquita	
Mihrab	
Mocárabes	
Moors	
Moriscos	
Mozárabe	
Mudéjar	
Taifa	
Vandals	
Visigoths	

Questions

- Who ruled Spain prior to 711? What groups did live there?

- Why should we study about Cordoba?

- What does make Spain interesting for us?

- Who and when did the conquest of Spain begin?

- Name the 2 leaders and discuss their heritage?

- Why were the Muslim armies so successful in conquering Spain?

- What is the Arabic name for Andalucia and where did it come from? What does it mean?

- When, at which battle and by whom were the Muslim armies stopped?

- Name at least 3 Spanish cities that played an important role during the Muslim rule?

- Which architectural and historic monuments do you associate with these three cities?

- What are the characteristics of Arabic-Muslim architecture found in mosques and palaces in Spain?

- Who were the Mozarabs?

- How many and what kind of books were the library in Cordoba in the 9th and 10th centuries? Why is this an amazing fact?

- In what areas did the Arabic language influence the Spanish language and culture? Give concrete examples!

Islam in Spain: Selected Bibliography

- Castro, Américo. *The Spaniards. An Introduction to their History*. U Calif P 1971.
- Chejne, Anwar. *Islam and the West: The Moriscos, a Cultural and Social History*. SUNY Albany UP, 1983.
- Chejne, Anwar. *Muslim Spain: Its History and its Culture*. U Minnesota, 1974.
- Collins, Roger. *Early Medieval Spain: Unity in Diversity 400-1000*. London: 1983
- Collins, Roger. *The Arab Conquest of Spain 710-797*. Oxford, 1989.
- Diaz-Plaja, Fernando. *La vida cotidiana en la España musulmana*. EDAF, 1993.
- Echevarria, Ana. *The Fortress of Faith : the Attitude towards Muslims in fifteenth-century Spain*. Brill, 1999.
- Fletcher, Richard. Moorish Spain**. Henry Holt, 1992.
- Glick, Thomas F. *Islamic and Christian Spain in the Early Middle Ages: Comparative Perspectives on Social and Cultural Formation*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1979.
- Goodwin, Godfrey. *Islamic Spain*. London: 1990.
- Grabar, Oleg. *The Alhambra*. Harvard UP, 1978.
- Harvey, L.P. *Islamic Spain 1250-1500*. Chicago 1990.
- Hillgarth, J.N. *The Spanish Kingdoms 1250-1516*. 2 vols. Oxford: 1976, 1978.
- Jackson, Gabriel. *The Making of Medieval Spain*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1972.
- Kedar, Benjamin Z. *Crusade and Mission: European Approaches Toward the Muslims*. Princeton UP, 1984.
- Lopez de la Plaza, Gloria. *Al-Andalus : mujeres, sociedad y religion*. U. Málaga, 1982.
- MacKay, Angus. *Spain in the Middle Ages: From Frontier to Empire 1000-1500*. London: 1977.
- Medina, Antonio de. *Cervantes y el islám*. Carena, 2005.
- Menocal, Maria Rosa. *The Ornament of the World : How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Little, Brown, 2002
- O'Callaghan, Joseph. *A History of medieval Spain*. Cornell UP, 1975.
- Sánchez Albornoz, Claudio. *La España musulmana : segun los autores islamitas y cristianos medievales*. Espasa-Calpe, 1978.
- Smith, Colin. *Christians and Moors in Spain*. 2 vols. Aris and Phillips, 1988, 1989.
- Wasserstein, David. *The Rise and Fall of the Party-Kings: Politics and Society in Islamic Spain 1002-1086*. Princeton: 1985

Selected Web sites

<http://www.legadoandalusi.com/>

Andalusian Legacy in Spain: various languages

<http://www.webislam.com/>

(El portal del Islam en español: in Spanish)

<http://www.sitiosespana.com/paginas/islam.htm>

Asociación de Musulmanes en Córdoba; Musulmanes Andaluces; Yama (Liga morisca) (In Spanish)

http://www.cislamica.org/nos_hist.asp

El resurgimiento del Islam en España (In Spanish)

http://www.mosaicfound.org/andalus/andalus_readings.htm

Suggested readings from an exhibit at the Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C.