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**Qur'anic Principle 5: Christians and Jews should be accepted by Muslims.**

*“Indeed those who believe and those who are Jews and the Sabians and the Christians ...on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” (The Qur’an 5:69)*

**... BUT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM**

“Toleration for Christians and Jews as ‘Peoples of the Book’ is enjoined by the Koran. But in practice it was limited – Christians under Islamic rule were forbidden to build new churches, to ring church bells, to hold public processions – and sometimes it broke down altogether. In 1066 there was a pogrom in Granada in which its Jewish community was slaughtered. Thousands of Christians were deported into slavery in Morocco in 1126. Thoroughly dismissive attitudes to Christians and Jews may be found in the Arabic literature of al-Andalus. It is a myth of the modern liberal imagination that medieval Islamic Spain was, in any sense that we should recognise today, a tolerant society.”<sup>1</sup> In the years between 1315 and 1326 Jews in Granada were forced to wear a yellow badge as an identity symbol.<sup>2</sup> This also happened during the Holocaust.

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Richard Fletcher in Raymond Carr (ed.) *Spain: A History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 84

<sup>2</sup><http://members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/facts.htm>

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**Qur'anic Principle 6: Muslims should admit their wrongdoings.**

The prophet Muhammad was told: *“Seek forgiveness for your sin.” (The Qur’an 4:106; 40:55; 47:19; 48:2)*

**... BUT MUSLIMS HAVE NEVER APOLOGISED FOR INVADING, ENSLAVING AND OPPRESSING SPAIN**

Rather than celebrating this sad era of Islamic domination and exploitation, Muslims should express sorrow and regret at the widespread abuses of human rights that occurred during this period.

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**For further information, see**

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/the-cordoba-house-and-the-myth-of-cordoban-ecumenism/>

**See also:** [reformislam.org](http://reformislam.org)

**Muslims against Sharia:**

Acknowledging mistakes

Accepting responsibility

Moving Forward

# Al-Andalus

## rises :

# The History of Islamic Spain

**Some additional information on this topic**

*“Are those who know equal to those who do not know? It is only men of understanding who will remember.” (The Qur’an 39:9)*

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا

يَعْلَمُونَ ۗ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

Note: this brochure contains words from the Qur’an, the holy book of Muslims. Please treat it with respect – Do not put it in the rubbish bin.

Many aspects of this period of Spanish history are found to be contrary to six clear principles recorded in the Qur'an

**Qur'anic Principle 1: Muslims should fight only in self-defence:** "Permission to fight is given to those *who are fought against because they have been wronged*" (The Qur'an 22:39)

**...BUT THE ISLAMIC CONQUEST OF SPAIN WAS THE UNJUSTIFIED INVASION OF PEACEFUL LANDS**

The Muslim annexation of Spain in 711 A.D. was an unwarranted act of aggression. No Spanish forces had attacked any Muslim country, nor were Muslims under threat from Spain. It was an unprovoked assault, and in no way an act of self-defence.

**Qur'anic Principle 2: Slaves should be set free under Islam.** "Righteousness (*al-Birr*) is ... to set slaves free." (Qur'an 2:177)

**... BUT SLAVERY WAS WIDELY PRACTISED IN ISLAMIC SPAIN**

"Muslim Spain was not only a strong domestic market for this trade but also a collection and transit site to other Muslim countries in the Mediterranean basin notably for white slaves and eunuchs. On the latter, about which al-Muqaddasi described in detail the way in which they were castrated..." The castrated eunuchs were required to oversee

the large numbers of non-Muslim women enslaved in Muslim Spain's harems. "Their number soon became very large. According to [the Muslim historian] al-Makkari [d. 1632], in the reign of Abd al-Rahman III [ending in 961], successive censuses of them in the capital [Cordoba] gave the figures 3750, 6087, and 13,750."<sup>3</sup>

**Qur'anic Principle 3: Religious freedom is allowed under Islam.** "There is no compulsion in religion." (The Qur'an 2:256)

**... BUT NON-MALIKI MUSLIMS WERE PERSECUTED & EVEN KILLED**

The Muslim geographer Al-Muqaddasi (d.1000 A.D.) reported that "The Muslims here declare: We know nothing but the Book of God and the Muwatta [a book of legal maxims taken from the Traditions] of Malik. Should they detect a Hanafite or a Shafiite [two other major schools of Sunni Islamic law] they expel him; but if they light upon a Mutazilite [Rationalist Muslim] or a Shia or anyone heterodox such as these, they may kill him."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Evariste Levi-Provencal. *Histoire de l'Espagne Musulmane*. Paris and Leiden, 1950-1952/1967 (translation by Nidra Poller) Vol. 3, pp. 208-213

<sup>4</sup> Al-Muqaddasi, *The Best Divisions for Knowledge of the Regions*, trans. Basil Collins, Reading, UK, 2001 p. 195

**Qur'anic Principle 4: Acquisition of knowledge is encouraged under Islam.**

"Allah will exalt in degree ... those who have been granted knowledge." (The Qur'an 58:11)

**... BUT THERE WAS A LACK OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**

The well-known atheist Christopher Hitchens called Andalusian Cordoba "the site of an astonishing cultural synthesis, best associated with the names of Averroes ibn-Rushd and Moses Maimonides ...".<sup>5</sup> But what happened to these two famous men? Ibn Rushd was a polymath, who wrote on philosophy, theology, law, music, politics, medicine, astronomy, geography, mathematics, and physics. However due to his unorthodox religious views, he was **banished for several years** by the Almohad ruler Abu Yusuf Yaqub al-Mansur.<sup>6</sup> Maimonides was one of the greatest Jewish scholars of all time. But he fled Cordoba in 1160 when ordered to choose between forced conversion to Islam, or death, or exile.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> "Mau-Mauing the Mosque", *Slate.com*, August 9, 2010 (<http://www.slate.com/id/2263334/>)

<sup>6</sup> Roger Arnaldez. "Ibn Rushd, Abu 'l-Walid Muhammad b. Ahmad b. Muhammad b. Rushd, al-Hafid." *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, Second Edition.. Brill, 2011

<sup>7</sup> *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/maimonides/>