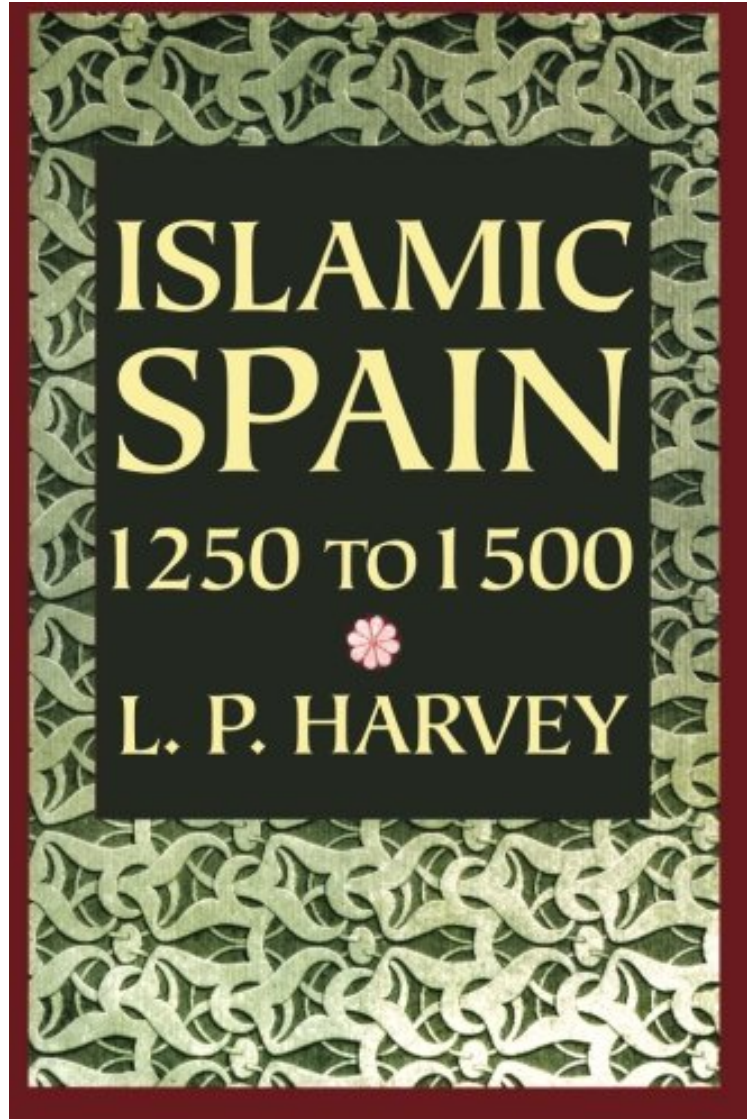


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#1124615 in Books L P Harvey 1992-11-01 1992-11-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, 1.15 #File Name: 0226319628386 pagesIslamic Spain 1250 to 1500 | File size: 20.Mb

L. P. Harvey : Islamic Spain, 1250 to 1500 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islamic Spain, 1250 to 1500:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. He saves the best for last ...By James V. SylvesterFirst, the review from Dulles, VA is spot-on correct.Second, note that this book does not present a complete history of "Islamic Spain" from 711 to 1492 but rather just the last 250 years from 1250 to 1500. If you're looking for material on Cordoba and the zenith of Al-Andalus in the 10th Century, this is not the right volume.With the exception of the intriguing situation

in Navarre, the initial chapters that survey the role of Muslims who continued to live within Christian kingdoms during the period covered by the book can be a bit trying. However, I was intrigued by the discussions of the efforts that were made to accommodate Islamic law within Christian kingdoms. Once Harvey gets all that out of the way and gets to the story of Granada, the book takes wing. The story of the shifting alliances between and among the various Iberian kingdoms, the influence of North Africa from across Gibraltar, court intrigues, the development of military technology (especially artillery), the Christians gradual destruction of Granadan agriculture, and other factors combine to provide ample material for a rich story covering the 250 years of Granada and its seemingly inevitable downfall. The account of the siege of Malaga alone makes the book worthwhile. Having recently travelled in modern Andalucia, I have a good sense of where the critical events transpired. I join in the criticism that the book's maps are disappointing. For example, several Nasrid rulers abdicated to "Guadix" but it wasn't until I pulled out my Michelin road map of Andalucia that I was able to locate it at all. Apart from that, I recommend the book.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Multiracial Arabesque By Gio Despite Franco, despite television, Spain in 2009 is far from a homogenous nation state. The most irreducible difference is language, with Castilian, Galician, and Catalan speakers all conducting daily life and teaching public schools in their separate languages, not to mention the many nearly separate dialects throughout the southern provinces, and the unassimilated non-Indoeuropean Basque! Oddly, however, aside from the Basques, there are not the visible differences in 'racial' types between north and south that most tourists expect. The reason is simple; everyone is everything. Spanish identity is a conglomerate of pre-Roman Iberian, Carthaginian, Greek, Italic, Visigothic, Jew, and Berber, amounting to genes for every color of hair and eyes, every complexion, and every shape of nose in every cranny of the country. Spanish history is a similar mosaic, a twining and vining of elements over time and space that looks much like the filagree on the ceiling of a mosque... or of a monastic chapel in upper Castile, built by mudejar artisans with Gothic blue eyes. "Mudejar" is a term used to identify Muslims living under Christian rule, but don't rush to suppose that it implies a Moorish ethnicity. You'll have to make subtler distinctions and adjust to the complexities of multi-cultural, religiously pluralistic societies - both Christian and Muslim in governance - if you want to follow L. P. Harvey's dense and detailed history of the Islamic communities in Spain from 1250 to 1500. Those communities were never restricted to Andalucia; there were Muslim populations throughout Christian Spain, and some, even as far north as Pyrenean Navarre, remained semi-autonomous and privileged by law until the final expulsion. Likewise, of course, Mozarabes (Christians under Muslim rule), both Catholic and Arian, lived fairly securely if not quite equally under 'morisco' governance. And of course, there were Jews in all regions and at all economic levels. I can't say this is an easy book to digest. The scholarship is immense, and much of it is painstakingly specific. For my taste, there's too much about dynastic rivalries and confrontations of leadership... military stuff that I find paradoxically bloodless. But the chapters that describe the legal constraints and protections surrounding the lives of religious minorities, Christian and Muslim, are both fascinating and pertinent to our modern dilemma of absolutist antagonism between the two religious camps. As much as European and American Christians have romanticized and/or forgotten the Islamic history of Spain, assuming that the Reconquest is a final episode, Muslim extremists remember it as an invasion and pillaging of their finest realm. Reading this book carefully, you'll chiefly find that nothing was ever so simple, that neither modern camp has more than a sketchy cartoon in mind. This is the best book I know on the subject. I'd be delighted to get suggestions, via comments, about more recent studies, or about challenges to Harvey's interpretations.

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Excellent. 1st class study of Islamic Spain By Gogol An excellent book, Harvey uses prime sources such as wansharisi and ibn al-Khatib and goes into great detail of not only the battles and decline of Islamic Spain but also the daily lives of the people who must have been living in unbearable circumstances watching their kingdom slowly decline. What makes this book especially special is Harvey's study of what caused the decline of Islam in Spain (only Chejne has gone into such detail) I especially liked the translation of a speech made by a father to his children concerning the decline of Islam and Islamic culture in Spain. Yes there were expulsions, yes Muslims were driven from their home, yes day by day it was becoming more and more difficult for them to practice their religion but another important factor was their slow immersion into the Spanish Christian world. An excellent book, highly recommended I will be buying the second part of this study.

This is a richly detailed account of Muslim life throughout the kingdoms of Spain, from the fall of Seville, which signaled the beginning of the retreat of Islam, to the Christian reconquest. "Harvey not only examines the politics of the Nasrids, but also the Islamic communities in the Christian kingdoms of the peninsula. This innovative approach breaks new ground, enables the reader to appreciate the situation of all Spanish Muslims and is fully vindicated. . . . An absorbing and thoroughly informed narrative." Richard Hitchcock, Times Higher Education Supplement "L. P. Harvey has produced a beautifully written account of an enthralling subject." Peter Linehan, The Observer

From Library Journal Former chair of the Spanish Department at King's College, University of London, Harvey synthesizes 35 years of research in this clearly written, comprehensive, and illuminating study detailing the final three centuries of the Islamic presence in the Iberian Peninsula. He focuses on the two distinct Spanish Islamic communities

of the late Middle Ages: the scattered Muslim settlements living under Christian rule in Castile, Aragon, and Navarre; and the independent kingdom of Granada. He gives a superbly integrated account of these two societies, their courageous defense of Islam and eventual destruction by the forces of Christian Spain. Recommended for informed laypersons and specialists.- Roger B. Beck, Eastern Illinois Univ., CharlestonCopyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorL. P. Harvey was, until his retirement, head of the Department of Spanish and Spanish American Studies, King's College, University of London.