

2014 CBFNC General Assembly

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NC

SCOTT CULCLASURE, Workshop Presenter

"Collision of Cultures: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in Medieval Europe"

March 28, 2014

Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in Medieval Europe

Collision of Cultures

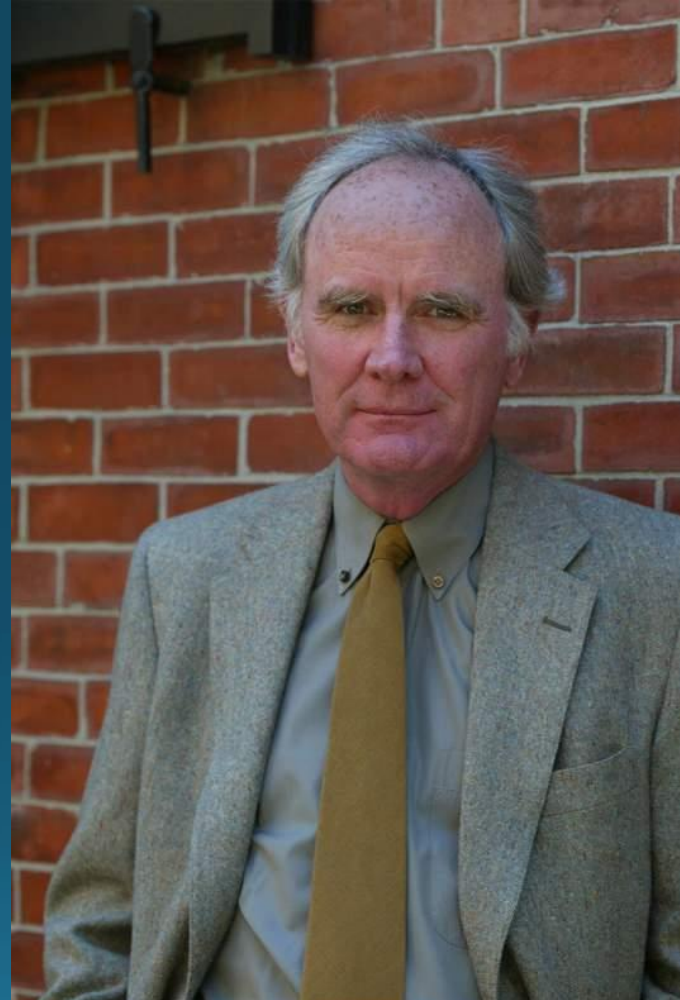
Focusing the topic: Spain as an example?

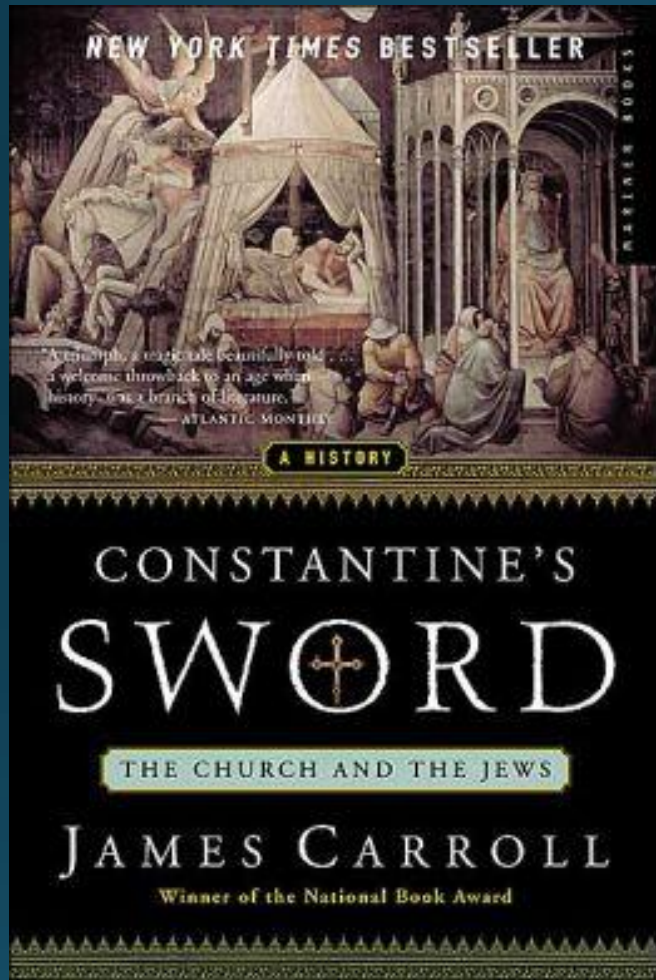
The sometimes peaceful but often violent contact and collision between these medieval cultures help describe the sources of diversity and division we know in our culture.

La convivencia

["The Coexistence"]

"A common culture resulted from the balance of these various regions [of the Iberian Peninsula], and it even included an anomalous mixing of religious influences."





“Yet *convivencia*, that it existed at all, establishes that there is nothing monolithic about the history of Jewish-Christian relations, and nothing fated to lead inexorably to disaster. That Jews and Christians, together with Muslims, can live in amity, respecting differences while honoring commonalities—that this is no pipe dream—is proven by the fact that, for centuries, they did just that.”



PLAN DE CONVIVENCIA

(APRENDIENDO A CONVIVIR)

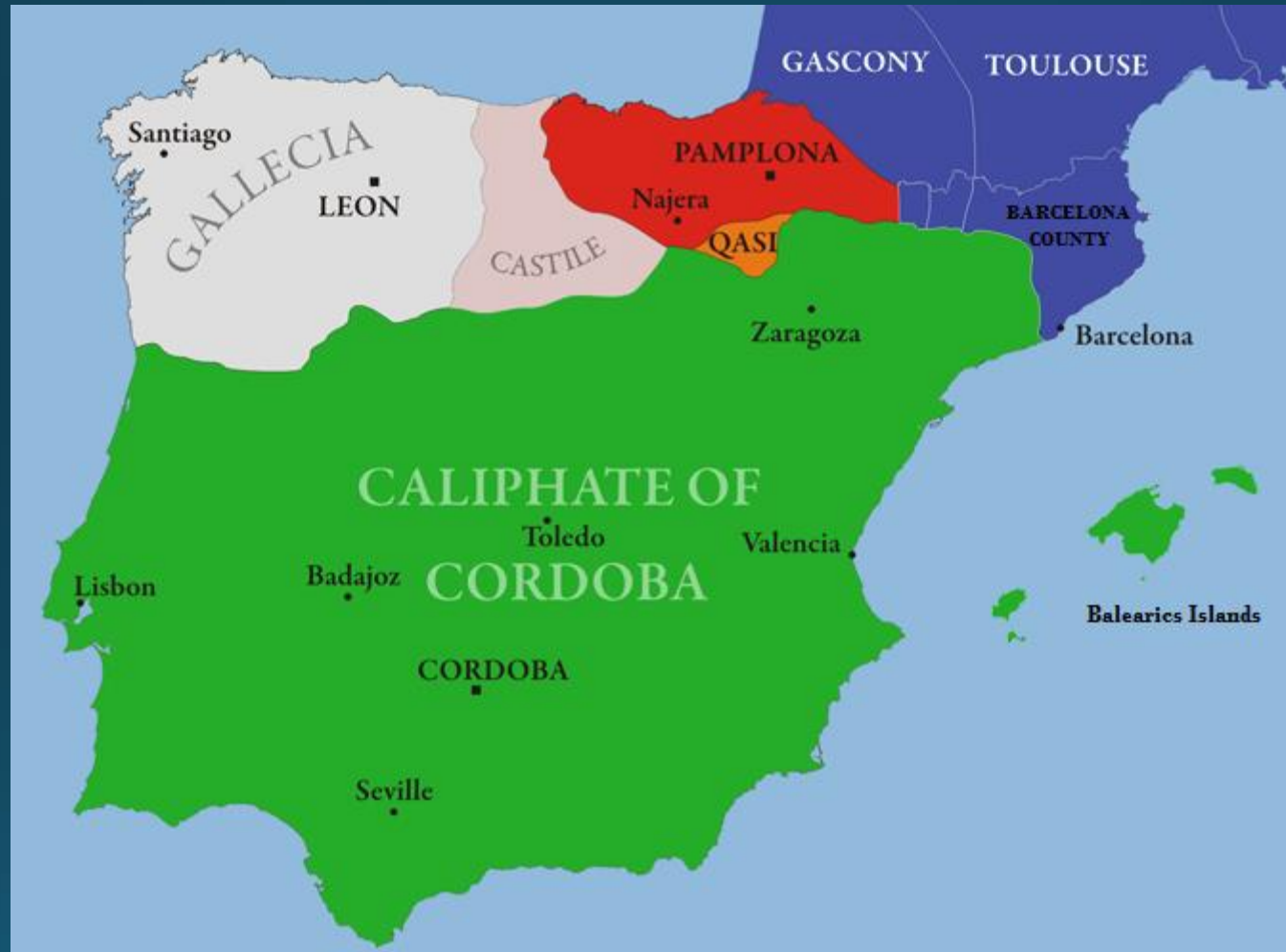


EDUCAR en VALORES para la convivencia y la **ciudadanía**



La Convivencia

The period of Spanish history from the Muslim Umayyad conquest of the Visigothic kingdom of Hispania in the early eighth century to the completion of the Christian Reconquista in the late fifteenth century



[Source: Wikipedia](#)

Visigothic Spain

- Only the Sabbath could be observed; Passover and other Jewish festivals were banned
- Circumcision was forbidden
- Meat and milk could not be separated
- A Jew could not testify against a Christian
- No Christian could be the slave of a Jew
- Jews must convert or be expelled
- Jews may not work on Sunday

Umayyad dynasty of Córdoba

- Abd al-Rahman III assumed title of caliph in 929
- Pacification of Al-Andalus
- Centralization of government and establishment as seapower
- Introduction of rice, sugarcane, oranges, lemons, grapefruits, eggplants, carrots, and cotton, along with field irrigation and crop rotation



Dhimmis

("protected people")

- Jews and Christians were allowed to practice their faith as "People of the Book" but faced many restrictions
- Required to pay a heavy tribute tax
- Forbidden to bear arms or ride horses or camels
- Height of synagogues and churches had to be lower than mosques
- Could not challenge Muslim beliefs
- Occasionally required to wear distinctive clothing (including a yellow star for Jews)



Hasdai ibn Shaprut (915–970)

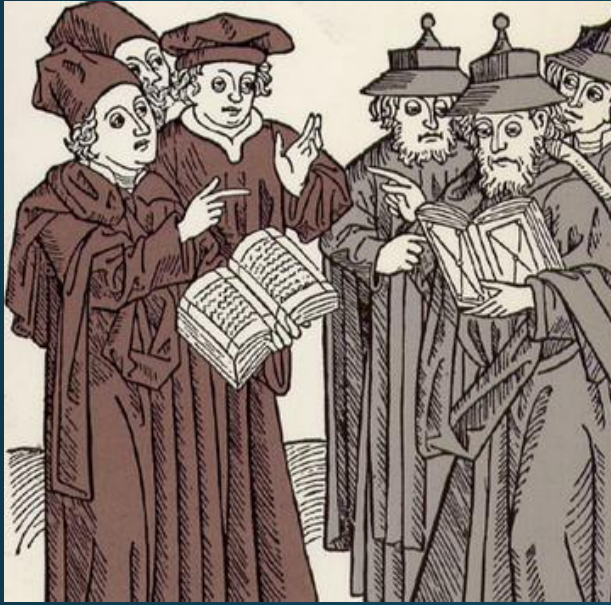
COURT PHYSICIAN TO CALIPH ADB AL-RAHMAN III

LINGUIST, DIPLOMAT

DOCUMENT 1: LETTER TO JOSEPH, KING OF THE KHAZARS (CA. 960)

Reconquista

- Christian “reconquest” of the Iberian Peninsula
- Took 781 years to accomplish!
- Began after Islamic conquest early in the eighth century and continued until fall of Granada in 1492
- Helped set the stage for exploration of the New World and the creation of the Portuguese and Spanish empires



Nahmanides and the Disputation of Barcelona (1263)

HELD IN THE ROYAL PALACE OF JAMES I OF ARAGON, JULY 20–24, 1263

DEFENSE BY NAHMANIDES, NOTED JEWISH SCHOLAR, WHO SECURED KING'S PROTECTION TO SPEAK FREELY

DOCUMENT 2: NAHMANIDES'S REPORT OF THE DISPUTATION OF BARCELONA (1263)





Michael Scot (1175–c.1232)

POLYGLOT, MATHEMATICIAN, PHILOSOPHER, COURT ASTROLOGER TO HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR FREDERICK II

ONE-TIME RESIDENT OF TOLEDO; TRANSLATIONS OF ARABIC WRITINGS SIGNIFICANT TO WESTERN THOUGHT

DOCUMENT: *INTRODUCTORIUM MAIUS IN ASTRONOMIAM* (14TH CENTURY, FLORENCE) & *AL-QANUM FI AL-TIBB* (17TH CENTURY, YALE UNIVERSITY)

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb (The Canon of Medicine) by Ibn Sina (Avicenna)



THE STORY OF THE JEWS

WITH SIMON SCHAMA

TUESDAYS, MARCH 25 & APRIL 1, 2014
8 - 10 PM ET // CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS

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Episode One: The Beginning

Simon Schama embarks on his journey through Jewish history.

1 2 3

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THE STORY OF THE JEWS

FINDING THE WORDS
1000 BC - 1492 AD



SIMON
SCHAMA





Kennicott Bible (1476)

MOST LAVISHLY ILLUMINATED HEBREW BIBLE TO SURVIVE FROM MEDIEVAL SPAIN

NAMED AFTER ENGLISH HEBRAIST BENJAMIN KENNICOTT (1718–83), LIBRARIAN OF THE RADCLIFFE LIBRARY, OXFORD

DOCUMENT 3: SELECTED PAGES

The takeaway?

- ❖ Golden ages probably do not exist!
- ❖ If they do, tensions likely remain.
- ❖ Identity is as important for others as it is for you.
- ❖ You can't prove you're right by trying to show how someone else is wrong.
- ❖ We can learn from others if we want to.
- ❖ The sum can be greater than the total!





WORLD BRIEFING | EUROPE

Spain: Bishop Rejects Muslim Prayers in Cathedral

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Published: December 29, 2006

The Roman Catholic bishop of the southern city of Córdoba, Juan José Asenjo, turned down a request from Muslims to be allowed to pray in its cathedral, a former mosque, news reports said. He was quoted as saying that joint use would not help relations and that in any case the church was there first, as the eighth-century Córdoba Mosque from the Moorish rule of Spain had been built on the ruins of a church erected by the Visigoths. It became a Catholic cathedral in 1236, with the expulsion of the Moors. The influential leader of the Islamic Commission of Spain, Mansur Escudero, responded to the rejection by praying outside the cathedral, to “soften the heart of the bishop.”

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