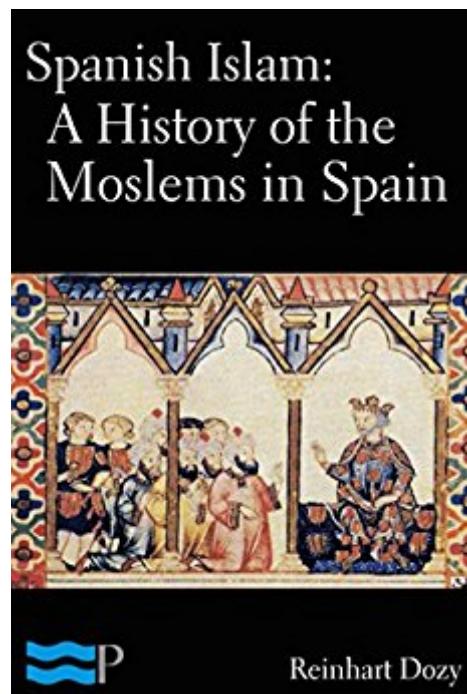


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Spanish Islam: A History Of The Moslems In Spain



Synopsis

Pyrrhus Press specializes in bringing books long out of date back to life, allowing today's readers access to yesterday's treasures. This is a comprehensive history of the Moors, who controlled parts of modern-day Spain for centuries until it was unified under Ferdinand & Isabella in the late 15th century.

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Customer Reviews

Dozy's four volume masterpiece remains even today, after a century and a half, one of the most important histories ever written about Islamic Spain, and perhaps, the best ever. Dozy was a linguistic genius and even native Arabic writers usually agree that his knowledge of Arabic was flawless, so much so, that he was able to expose Conde's many errors. The work takes us up to about the year eleven hundred, so it covers the history through the most important period. It unfortunately leaves out the last few centuries, but they are mostly important in regards to the Almohads, which were just another austere Berber tribe among many, and the later stages of the Reconquista. In the book, Dozy focuses heavily on two of history's greatest figures, Abd-er-Rahman

III, and Almanzor, the latter of whom was a cross between Metternich, Bismarck, and Machiavelli. (This work was written in an era when historians were not under the restrictions of political correctness, which make some newer works published today practically worthless.) There are three things to be aware of. The author has a very strong bias against Catholicism, which at times skews his presentation, but this is to be expected, as Dozy is descended from Protestant French Huguenots. Second, the translation from the original French seems to be from the same era as the original. The book is chock full of English words you have never seen, and won't ever again see. Third, the scanning was sloppily done, so patience is an absolute prerequisite. (And at only \$0.99 hardly worth complaining about.) Still, even with the above mentioned flaws, I still give it five stars for its importance to this subject cannot be overestimated. It is a must-read for anyone interested in delving deeply into Islamic Spain. **WARNING:** This book is definitely not for neophytes, those with only a passing interest, or those with a short attention span.

Reinart Dozy was a brilliant scholar focusing on the Middle East, Islam and terms in those days an "orientalist" of the first order. This excellent work in the history of Islam in Spain is the most thoroughly researched and insightful book you will read in the topic. Its insights will shatter some long held assumptions and bring to life the culture and history of Iberia. Read this book.

Very useful. Most important I suddenly understood the difference between the Shiites and the Sunnis, because something like the same rift happened in Spain. I give it only 3 stars because the typos are very many and very serious.

Interesting but the many typos and disjunctive sentences make it at times difficult to read. The amount of time spent explaining and listing the early tribulations of Islam is, in my opinion, better addressed in a separate book. I would think that anyone buying a book about Spanish Islam should already have knowledge of the beginnings of Islam. Also the book ends near the end of the 13th Century whereas the Spanish Moslem state(s) survived until the late 15th Century.

A "heavy" book. And difficult. Not in meanings, but because of countless dates and places and names. However is worth reading it, because is history.

The author remained focused on other aspects of Islamic cultural evolution rather than concentrating on the subject. His viewpoints largely scattered and unwanted.

Very confusing, overly complex, extremely detailed... But if you read it you'll know Everything. Al-Andalus still needs its great historian.

very fast action, one has to take notes to keep all the names and events straight. Muslims will definitely benefit from this treatment of the beginnings of their religion. Muhammad wanted a state religion, while Jesus wanted Faith to exist parallel to the state. So some "christians" thought this to mean a 'state of mind', held in addition to political allegiances. Jehovah's Witnesses got it right by espousing strict political neutrality to the state, and allegiance only to as yet to be realized state governed directly by Jesus. So if Muslims are seeking a faith unmarred by the polytheism of the Trinity, the obscenity of Hell, and the worship of images, they should seek to study with Jehovah's Witnesses. Islam already has it right that Jesus is not God, and they shun idolatry, they just need a few additional pieces of the puzzle.

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