Christian Spain, Expulsions, and New Horizons

December 7, 2004

- Christian Spain: *convivencia* and *reconquista*
- Crisis and Expulsion 1391–1498
- New Horizons for Jews in the 16th Century

Christian Spain

- **Sepharad**: A biblical term referred to as a place of exile; appropriated by Iberian Jews for themselves
- **Convivencia**: The coexistence of Jews, Muslims, and Christians in Spain
- **Reconquista**: "Reconquest" of Spain by Christian armies between
  - 11th–15th centuries, all but southern area
  - 1492, after 2 cent. gap, conquest of Granada by Ferdinand (Aragon) and Isabella (Castille)

Jews in Spain
Crisis and Expulsion 1391–1498

- Crisis of 1391 and following
  - Mob violence (March to August) against Jews, stoked by zealous preaching. Many Jews convert
  - 1413–1414: disputation at Tortosa on Talmudic messianic ideas and hostility to Christianity, now based on acquired Christian knowledge of Jewish sources (Papal rep. Geronimo de Santa Fe was the former Joshua ha-Lorki)
- Conversos as a social and religious problem
- Spanish inquisition 1478: Directed at conversos (or: New Christians)
- Expulsions: Spain (1492), Portugal (1497), Navarre (1498)
Expulsions from Iberian Peninsula; relocations

New Horizons for Jews in the 16th Century

- Eastern Europe: Flourishing of emerging concentration of Jewish settlement
- Italy
- Amsterdam
- Ottoman Empire
  - Fall of Byzantium 1453
  - New/reestablished communities in various Ottoman territories, including Greece, Turkey, Palestine.
- Americas
  - Incipient modernization (printing press and typography, 1440s; celestial navigation, colonization of the Americas