“Under Crescent and Cross”
November 22, 2006

- Geography of Jewish History in Middle Ages
- Chronology of Jews in Medieval Europe
- Islam: some brief introductory remarks
- Chronology of Jews under Medieval Islam
- Discussion: “Under Crescent and Cross”

Jews in Europe:
Older communities in Spain, So. France, Med. Fringe

Geography of Med. J. History
Map: routes of “Radhanites”

Jews in Islamic Lands
Some of the oldest and numerically most significant communities, including Mesopotamia

Chronology of Jews in Medieval Europe, 600-1500

- In older communities under “Barbarian” rule (esp. Visigothic Spain, until conquered by Muslims, 711), hostile rule, attempts at prohibiting Judaism
- 10th–12th C: Expansion of Jewish settlement in W. & C. Europe. Mostly miniscule communities of traders
- Importance of trade, and later moneylending
- Erosion of status, expulsions in stronger states
  - England, 1290
  - France: 1306, 1322
- Growth of eastern European J. Communities Following a different Chronology
  - 12th–15th C: Reconquista in Spain
  - Expulsions
    - Spain (Castile and Aragon) (1492)
    - Portugal (1498)
Islam: some brief introductory remarks

- A religion rooted in a common literary and religious tradition with that of Judaism and Christianity
- Centered on revelation to prophet Muhammad (570–632), as the completion and restoration of true revelation
- Geography: Origins in Mecca, first community (ummah, “a people”) in Medina (after hijra, 622)
- Authoritative canon includes both Qur’an and Hadith (“reports”), generally reporting sayings or deeds of the prophet
- Like Med. Judaism, less like Med. Xianity: more rigorously monotheistic; a developed literature of legal scholarship as high cultural attainment.

Chronology of Jews under Medieval Islam

- During the life of Muhammad: Clashes with Jewish tribes in Hijaz
- ’Umar (Caliph 634–44): Pact of ’Umar, dhimmi
- Reconquista: extended process of expulsion of muslim rulers from Spain
- With 12th C., a series of restrictions, persecutions in some regions (e.g., Almohades, Spain and No. Africa)
- In late Middle Ages, Early Modern, slow decline in status, wealth; new opportunities in Ottoman Empire

Discussion: “Under Crescent and Cross”