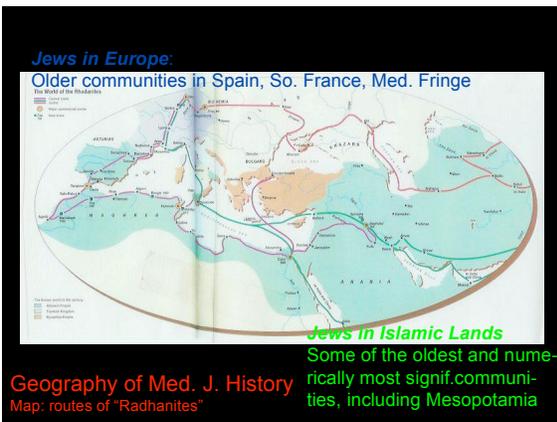


“Under Crescent and Cross”

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”



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 Muḥammad (570–632), as the completion and restoration of true revelation
- Geography: Origins in **Mecca**, first community (*ummah*, “a people”) in **Medinah** (after *hijra*, 622)
- Authoritative canon includes both **Qur’an** and **Ḥadith** (“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**
- 8th–12th Century: Period of flourishing Jewish cultural life. (Cohen: “myth of interfaith utopia”)
- 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”
