



# Caliphs and Kings: Spain, 796-1031

*By Roger Collins*

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Roger Collins, a leading historian, investigates a time in Spanish history known for its multi-religious society - when Christians, Jews and Muslims lived in apparent harmony - revealing a fuller, more complex picture of this fascinating period.

- Presents new ideas and interpretations of a fascinating yet much misunderstood period of Spanish and Islamic history
- A broad and complex treatment of the tenure of the Umayyad dynasty in Spain
- Debunks myths and investigates the historiography of existing scholarship of the period

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## Editorial Review

### Review

“A blessing for faculty, but also a very useful introduction for students.” (*H-Soz-u-Kult*, March 2014)

“Caliphs and Kings: Spain, 796–1031 is a book for readers who seek interesting stories culled from Christian historical sources from the period from 796–1031, rather than for those who seek a book on the caliphal aspects of the same period.” (*Project Muse*, 1 June 2014)

“Supported by useful royal genealogies and a vast bibliography. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.” (*Choice*, 1 November 2012)

### Review

‘Dr Collins has provided a commendably clear, insightful and scholarly guide to the Umayyad period in Iberia. This latest volume maintains the high standard of Wiley-Blackwell's distinguished History of Spain series.’ —Simon Barton, *University of Exeter*

### From the Back Cover

The last twenty-five years have seen a renaissance of research and writing on Spanish history. *Caliphs and Kings* offers a formidable synthesis of existing knowledge as well as an investigation into new historical thinking, perspectives, and methods.

The nearly three-hundred-year rule of the Umayyad dynasty in Spain (756–1031) has been hailed by many as an era of unprecedented harmony and mutual tolerance between the three great religious faiths in the Iberian Peninsula – Christianity, Judaism, and Islam – the like of which has never been seen since. And yet, as this book demonstrates, historical reality defies the myth. Though the middle of the tenth century saw a flowering of artistic culture and sophistication in the Umayyad court and in the city of Córdoba, this period was all too short-lived and localized. Eventually, twenty years of civil war caused the implosion of the Umayyad regime. It is through the forces that divided – not united – the disparate elements in Spanish society that we may best glean its nature and its lessons. *Caliphs and Kings* is devoted to better understanding those circumstances, as historian Roger Collins takes a fresh look at certainties, both old and new, to strip ninth- and tenth-century Spain of its mythic narrative, revealing the more complex truth beneath.

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