

# AL-ANDALUS REDISCOVERED

## Iberia's New Muslims

MARVINE HOWE

**“Howe is a skilled and remorseless reporter, who has clearly brought all her years of experience to bear in her research. The result is an authoritative, illuminating and indispensable guide to anyone concerned with Iberia, immigration in Europe and contemporary European-Muslim relations.”**

—Matthew Carr, author of *Blood and Faith: The Purging of Muslim Spain*

**“*Al-Andalus Rediscovered* is an important addition to contemporary studies of Portugal and Spain. The noted *New York Times* correspondent writes evocatively on an oddly neglected but increasingly vital, topic: roles of Muslims in Iberia in history and today, following recent migrations. The range of her sources is impressive: personal interviews with leaders, the media, diverse publications and the author's travels and observations of fifty years. This is the new ‘culture history’ at its best.”**

—Douglas L. Wheeler, Emeritus Professor of History, University of New Hampshire, and author of *Republican Portugal and Historical Dictionary of Portugal*

**“Marvine Howe, within the context of her deep love for the land where Christians, Muslims and Jews once lived together in harmony, gives us a surprising look at today's Spain and Portugal, and their struggles to rebuild on historical foundations a multicultural society that fits the modern world. Her work is not nostalgia but “rediscovery,” combining her own experiences with sound scholarship to address economic and social problems that are central to our age.”**

—Milton Viorst, author of *Storm from the East: the Struggle Between the Arab World and the Christian West*

**“Unlike most European countries, Spain and Portugal are enriched by architectural wonders built many centuries ago by an advanced Islamic civilisation, and an influx of Muslim immigrants has prompted a revival of interest, sometimes conflicted, in that distant past. Marvine Howe, a writer rooted in both Iberian and North African cultures, explores the connections, looking at Muslim integration and Islam's place in Europe from an entirely new perspective in this very timely book.”**

—Barbara Crossette, former *New York Times* foreign correspondent and author of *So Close to Heaven: The Vanishing Buddhist Kingdoms of the Himalayas*

Iberia is a place of historic and symbolic significance to all three of the world's major religions. Myths concerning Islam's origins collide with the story of the Christian reconquista, the subsequent Spanish Inquisition, and the massive expulsion of Muslims and Jews some five hundred years ago. Yet Muslims have made a comeback in the region, which is becoming one of Europe's fastest growing Muslim communities. This volume recounts the “retaking” of Al-Andalus by Iberia's new Muslims, which include groups as diverse as students, boat workers, female professionals, and clerics, and their successful integration within a strongly Roman Catholic culture. Marvine Howe shares not only the experiences of Iberia's Muslims but also the actions of Spanish and Portuguese officials, academics, NGOs, and ordinary citizens who have sought better ways to incorporate Muslims and other immigrants into Iberian society—despite domestic and European pressure to do otherwise. Howe revisits the events of March 11, 2004, when Muslim extremists launched a devastating attack on Madrid's transportation system, and relates these events to Al-Qaeda's stated intent to reclaim Al-Andalus for Islam. Howe pursues several basic threads, such as whether Iberia's humane immigration policies can be exported to other European contexts and whether the Andalusian spirit of tolerance and diversity will prevail over a troubling economy and heightened radicalism—in both the Islamic World and the West.

**Marvine Howe** is a former correspondent for the *New York Times* in Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. Her latest books are *Turkey: A Nation Divided Over Islam's Revival* and *Morocco: The Islamist Awakening and Other Challenges* (OUP).

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