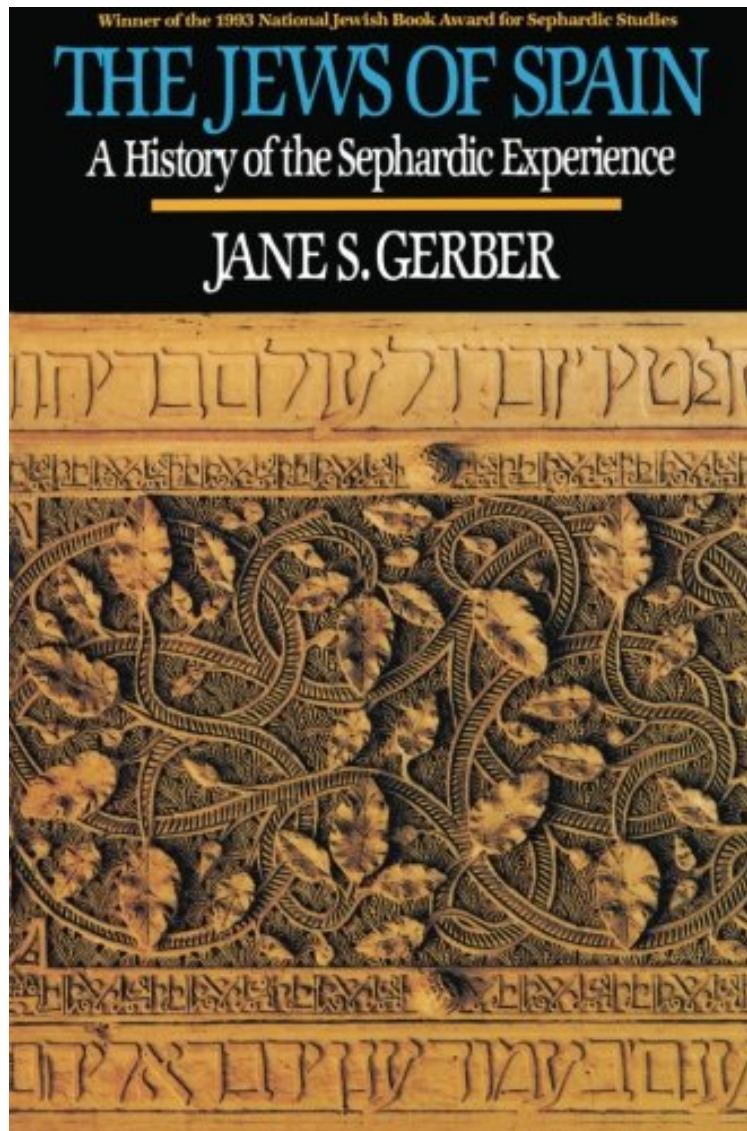


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The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience

Jane S. Gerber

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Jane S. Gerber : The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews of Spain: A History of the Sephardic Experience:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Exposition of Obscure HistoryBy CustomerThis is a wonderful history of the Sephardim. I was particularly interested in the history of the epoch in Spain; but the book

follows the history of the Sephardim after the expulsion and relates the story of the resettlements in Holland, Italy, and among the Ottomans. Sephardic history has become obscure. This volume deals in a lively manner with the principal personalities in Islamic Spain, the re-conquest, and eventually the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. This history is a good addition to the accounts of the Sephardic experience provided by Ben-Zion Netanyahu's "The Origins of the Inquisition in 15th Century Spain". and Mark Angel's account of the Sephardic experience among the Ottomans.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great history of the Jews.By C. L. BucklesThe Jews Of Spain was very interesting history of the Jews. I gave it ac4 star because it was difficult to read because of the large intellectual words the author used and the length of the book. Took me awhile to read it due to my busy time and those big words. The content of history was goo, though.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heavy on Detail,By justine a.I downloaded the Kindle edition of this book since I recently discovered we have Sephardic Jews in the family, but honestly I barely knew what that meant. It was so long ago, it's not like I could ask any living relatives. This book was probably too much for a beginner like me - every page was exploding with facts. Like, lots and lots of very interesting factoids. Lots of meat there. So I definitely got my money's worth in terms of learning - I didn't actually know that the first Jews to America were * you guessed it* Spanish jews.Side note: Abrabanel is the name of a famous mental hospital in Israel, and therefore is also kind of a slang way to call someone bonkers in Hebrew. This book allowed me to drop some knowledge on hubby about who Abrabanel really was. One-upping a spouse? Priceless.

The history of the Jews of Spain is a remarkable story that begins in the remote past and continues today. For more than a thousand years, Sepharad (the Hebrew word for Spain) was home to a large Jewish community noted for its richness and virtuosity. Summarily expelled in 1492 and forced into exile, their tragedy of expulsion marked the end of one critical phase of their history and the beginning of another. Indeed, in defiance of all logic and expectation, the expulsion of the Jews from Spain became an occasion for renewed creativity. Nor have five hundred years of wandering extinguished the identity of the Sephardic Jews, or diminished the proud memory of the dazzling civilization which they created on Spanish soil.This book is intended to serve as an introduction and scholarly guide to that history.

From Publishers WeeklyBefore the brutal expulsion of 300,000 Jews from Spain in 1492, Sephardic Jews thrived on the Iberian peninsula for more than a millennium, as Gerber relates in this stirring and riveting saga, a remarkable story of creative adaptation, minority achievement and survival. During the Golden Age of Spanish Jewry, Sephardim excelled in medicine, science, philosophy, music and literature. Columbus, evasive about his origins, kept close company with Jews, and several Jewish converts sailed with him. Gerber, director of the City University of New York's Graduate Center's Institute for Sephardic Studies, charts the haunted lives of "New Christians," secret Jews who were persecuted by the Inquisition, from Mexico to Peru, and surveys Sephardic communities that flourished openly from Romania, Syria and Turkey to the U.S. and Barbados. She examines the tensions between impoverished Ashkenazim (Jews of middle and northern Europe) and aristocratic Sephardim throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Betrayals and horrors of WW II and the Holocaust reinforced Sephardic Jews' resolve to leave the Muslim world, and Gerber incisively looks at today's Sephardic communities in Israel, France, the U.S. and Spain. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn 1492, the Jews were expelled from Spain, ending a centuries-long relationship with their Islamic and then Christian masters. During a part of this time, a veritable medieval golden age of poets and philosophers had flourished. Judah Halevi and Moses Maimonides are just two of the age's legendary figures whose works are still avidly read today. However, as Gerber reminds us, the Spanish or Sephardic Jewish experience did not end in 1492. Sephardic colonies sprouted all along the Mediterranean and in the sea-faring countries of Europe. Jews looked toward the New World too. Gerber tells their continuing story in a lively, readable, yet learned manner. This book is recommended for most libraries. Larger libraries should also consider the 1992 reissues of two classic works from the Jewish Publication Society: Yitzhak Baer's A History of the Jews in Christian Spain and Eliyahu Ashtor's The Jews of Moslem Spain .- Paul Kaplan, Dakota Cty. Lib., Eagan, Minn.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.From the Back CoverThe history of the Jews of Spain is a remarkable story that begins in the remote past and continues today. For more than a thousand years, Sepharad (the Hebrew word for Spain) was home to a large Jewish community noted for its richness and virtuosity. Summarily expelled in 1492 and forced into exile, their tragedy of expulsion marked the end of one critical phase of their history and the beginning of another. Indeed, in defiance of all logic and expectation, the expulsion of the Jews from Spain became an occasion for renewed creativity. Nor have five hundred years of wandering extinguished the identity of the Sephardic Jews, or diminished the proud memory of the dazzling civilization which they created on Spanish soil.This book is intended to serve as an introduction and scholarly guide to that history.