The Ornament of the World

An illuminating and even inspiring work. . . By showing us what was lost, Menocal reminds us of what might be.” —Los Angeles Times

Foreword by SHAOLD BLOOM

How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain

MARÍA ROSA MENOCAL
The Taifa States
1031-1091
The Rise and Fall of the Party-Kings
Politics and Society in Islamic Spain, 1002-1086
David Wasserstein
The Taifa States in 1031
The Taifa States in 1080
Northern Spain was divided upon the death of Ferdinand I, “The Great”, in 1065 in 3 parts.

- Garcia II
- Alfonso VI “El Bravo”
- Sancho II “El Fuerte”
El Cid

Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, born 1043 near Burgos in Castile

1063 – Serves Ferdinand I against Ramiro I of Aragon
1063 – Sancho II against Alfonso VI
1072 – Alfonso VI against Garcia II
1079 – Al-Mutamid of Seville against Abd-Allah of Granada & Count Garcis Ordoñez of Najera
1080 – Exiled by Alfonso VI takes service with Zaragoza
1081 – Al-Mutamin of Zaragoza against Sancho Rameriz of Navarre
1086 – Almoravids against Alfonso VI at battle of Sagrajas
1087 – Returns to service with Alfonso VI
1090 – Alfonso VI against Berenguer Ramon II of Barcelona
1094 – Captures Valencia from Yahya al-Qadir (client of Alfonso VI), Rules independently in Alfonso’s name.
1099 – Dies during Almoravid siege of Valencia. His wife Ximena rules city until 1102 when it falls to Almoravids
Christian Conquests of the Late 11th Century

1061 – Messina
1064 – Barbastro
1071 – Palermo
1085 – Toledo
1085 – Syracuse
1091 – Noto, Sicily (Conquest of Sicily complete)
1098 – Antioch (First Crusade)
1099 – Jerusalem (First Crusade)
Toledo
1085
Greco-Arabic Science and Philosophy Translated into Latin

1. Aristotelian and Platonic philosophy
2. Mathematics
3. Medicine
4. Astronomy
5. Physics
6. Chemistry
Earliest use of Arabic numerals in a Latin manuscript, circa 980AD
Codex Vigilianus, from the monastery of San Martin de Albelda, Rioja
The 12th century in Europe was in many respects an age of fresh and vigorous life. The epoch of the Crusades, of the rise of towns, and of the earliest bureaucratic states of the West, it saw the culmination of Romanesque art and the beginnings of Gothic; the emergence of the vernacular literatures; the revival of the Latin classics and of Latin poetry and Roman law; the recovery of Greek science, with its Arabic additions, and of much of Greek philosophy; and the origin of the first European universities. The 12th century left its signature on higher education, on the scholastic, on European systems of law, on architecture and sculpture, on the liturgical drama, on Latin and vernacular poetry.

~Charles Homer Haskins
The Almoravids
1085
The Almohads
1121-1269
Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa
July, 1212
The Kings and Queens of Castile

Fernando I. "el Grande" (1029-1065)
Sancho II "el Fuerte" (1065-1072)
Alfonso VI "el Valiente" or "el Bravo" (1072-1109)
Urraca Alfónsez (1109-1126)
Alfonso VII Ramírez (1126-1157).
Sancho III Alfónsez "el Deseado" (1157-1158)
Alfonso VIII Sánchez "el de las Navas" or "el Noble" (1158-1214)
Enrique (Henry) I Alfónsez (1214-1217)
St. Fernando III Alfónsez (1217-1252)
Alfonso X "el Sabio" (1252-1284)