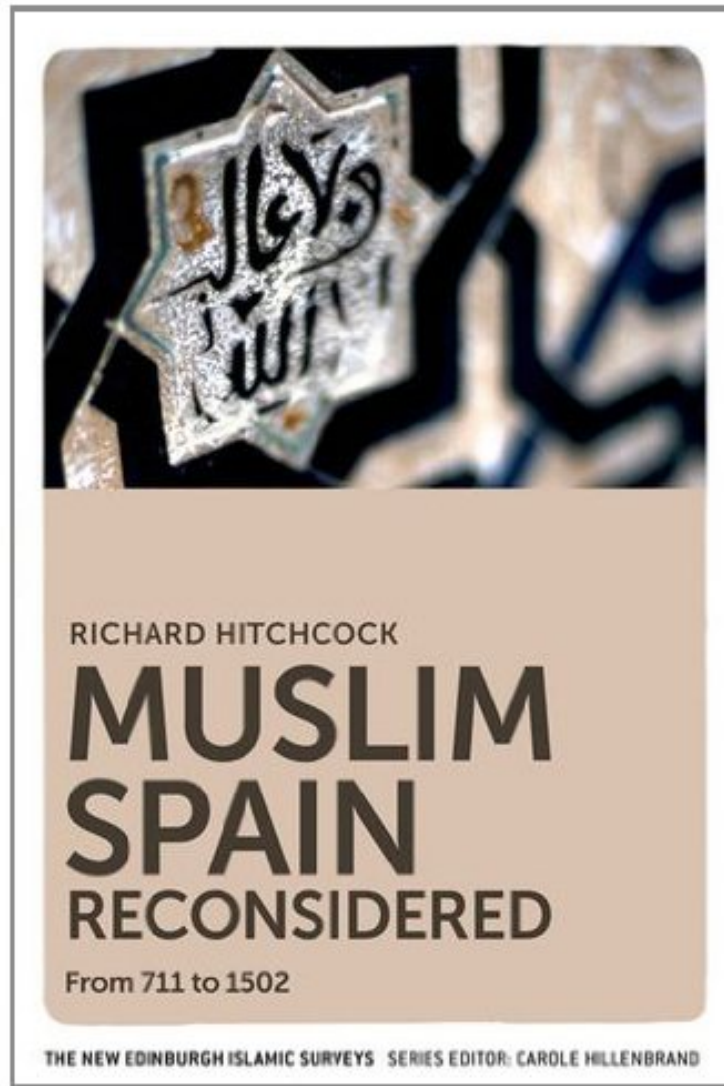


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## Muslim Spain Reconsidered (The New Edinburgh Islamic Surveys EUP)

*Richard Hitchcock*

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DisappointingBy Old schoolThere are mistakes, and it seems based on old work. Still, a serviceable summary.

What made Muslim Spain a unique and successful society? Richard Hitchcock explores the background to its powerful legacy in the formation of modern Spain, using a chronological framework while constantly keeping in view the shifting social patterns caused by the changing balance between town and country, major and minor dynasties, foreign groupings and repeated invasions from North Africa. You'll learn about the main historical developments in depth, such as the self-defeating independence of the Taifas, the so-called 'Party Kings', and the prolonged colonisation of the Muslim subject population under the increasingly severe dominance of the Kingdoms of Aragon and Castile. You'll also find wide-ranging discussion of important topics such as inter-faith relations, multi-ethnic competing groups and how intellectual life was enriched by pluralism and influences from abroad.

'Both students and scholars of Andalus history will find this work refreshing, instructive, and valuable in several respects. Hitchcock directs the reader to tensions between city and village and between center and frontier as central themes in the early history of al-Andalus; he assesses the impact of natural disasters such as droughts and earthquakes on socioeconomic and political history and inclines toward understanding people's movement and behaviors through the lens of political and economic motivation as opposed to religious considerations.' - Ross Brann, *Speculum* 89/4 (October 2014) "a helpful and very much needed resource for students studying the history of medieval Spain. This is especially true at a time when medieval Spain is looked at in order to find paradigms for interreligious relations. Hitchcock offers a helpful corrective where such aspirations could be overstated and helpful analysis of contexts where such possibilities may indeed be found. With this in mind, *Uslims Spain Reconsidered* should be among the small number of texts read by those wanting to learn more about medieval Spain." -- Charles L. Tieszen, Fuller Theological Seminary, Sacramento, *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*

About the Author Richard Hitchcock is an emeritus professor at the University of Exeter. He is author or editor of several books including *The Kharjas* (Boydell Brewer), *Studies on the Muwassah and the Kharja* (Ithaca Press), *Mozarebs in Medieval and Early Modern Spain* (Ashgate) and *The Arab Influence in Medieval Europe* (Ithaca Press).