

PROMISE

Expulsion of the Jews

CHRONOLOGY: 1492



CAUSES:

- *Pressure of anti Jewish popular opinion*
- *Popular hate*
- *Accumulation of riches and top posts by the Jews*
- *Religious differences*

DESCRIPTION:

On the 31st of March 1492 the Catholic Monarchs signed in Granada the expulsion of the Jews from the Kingdom of Castile. The General Inquisitor Fray Tomás de Torquemada had been behind it. The edit determined the conditions of the expulsion, ordering all the Jews without any exception to leave for ever. They were expelled not only from the kingdoms on the peninsula, but from all the territories under the authority of the Monarchs. The dead-line for their departure was four months, until the 31st of July, although a later edict from the inquisitor Torquemada postponed it ten days to compensate for the time that had elapsed from between when it was enacted and it was known. Departure was imposed within that period under the death penalty and the confiscation of their properties. The

Monarchs gave their royal assurance that, during those four months the Jews could negotiate their fortune and could take it with them as bills of exchange because the law prohibited taking gold, silver, coins, weapons and horses from the kingdom. Although the decree did not mention the possibility of a conversion to Christianity, it was implicit and many people from Hebrew elite adopted Christianity to avoid expulsion.

Most of the expelled people set out on a journey by sea to other places in the Mediterranean. They mainly went to Italy, and later to the Ottoman East, which would become the preferred place of the expelled Spanish Jews. Some other people emigrated to the North of Africa, Portugal and other places in Europe.



The consequence of this obligatory emigration was, more than the demographic loss, which was not very important, the loss of some minorities qualified in activities characteristic of the tertiary sector and which could have led its modernization. In addition, these expelled Jews have preserved traditional Spanish culture. They are called Sephardic jews, who have preserved their

Spanish manner of speech from the XVth century (Sephardi) and their own cultural elements such as folklore, cooking, etc. Nowadays the Sephardic culture is in recession, among other reasons, due to the consequences of the Second World War, because many of the settlements in the Balkans were affected.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

125,000 approx.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- CARO BAROJA, J.:
Los judíos en la España moderna y Contemporánea.
- CONTRERAS, J., LADERO, M. y ROMANO, D.:
La expulsión de los Judíos.

WEB PAGES:

- <http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/lobby/2679/expulsiondoc1.htm>
- <http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/lobby/2679/decretotxt.htm>
- <http://sefarad.rediris.es/portada.htm#docs>

דרכי ספרד

