



# PROMISE

## Expulsion of the “Moriscos”

CHRONOLOGY: 1609-1614



### CAUSES:

- Religious differences
- “Moriscos” uprisings
- Inquisitorial pressure
- Turkish threat

خا شقار اذانا شقار شقار شقار  
 رَبِيهِ وَ تَقَعِ النَّفْسُ قَبْلَ  
 شِقَاكَ تُوَاضِعُ النَّفْسُ  
 بِالْمَوْتِ بِلَى الْجَنَّةِ يَوْمَ  
 شِقَاكَ تُوَاضِعُ النَّفْسُ  
 الْمَأْوَى لَا يَسْتَلُونَكَ  
 بِرَبِّهِمْ وَالْحَيَاتِ وَالْحَيَاتِ  
 وَالْحَيَاتِ وَالْحَيَاتِ  
 عَيْنِ السَّاعَةِ آيَاتٍ مُرْسَلَةٍ  
 إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِسْحَاقَ إِسْحَاقَ  
 جِيمَ أَنْتَ مِنْ ذِكْرِنَا  
 وَالْحَيَاتِ وَالْحَيَاتِ وَالْحَيَاتِ

### DESCRIPTION:

After the conquest of the kingdom of Granada in 1492, there was a five-fold increase in the number of Muslim people living in the Christian kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula. This population of Muslim origin was called “Mudejar” and it was irregularly distributed throughout the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon (25,000 in Castile, 5,000 in Catalonia, 25,000 in Aragon and 60,000 in Valencia, approximately). During the 16th century these “Mudejar” people kept their properties, religion and culture, but gradually they were under great pressure to convert to Christianity. All this caused continuous revolts and uprisings (the ones in 1499-1501 and in 1568 were

important) and the “mudejaría” statute in the kingdom of Castile was suppressed in 1525, so the “Mudejar” people became converts or “Moriscos”. In theory these “Moriscos” people were already Christians but they had always kept their religion more or less in secret.

The “Morisco” minority was normally a marginalized sector of society without many resources. Most of the time they worked as manual labour on the lands of the nobility. But at the beginning of the 17th century there were several circumstances that lead to their expulsion:

- A fall in the profitability of crops
- Indebtedness of the landowning aristocracy



- Fear of alliance between the “Moriscos” and the Turks and North Africans
- Existence of a rural “Morisco” banditry
- Ecclesiastical insistence on the real conversion of the “Moriscos” in face of the failure of evangelization

For these reasons Felipe III enacted an expulsion decree in 1609, starting in the kingdom of Valencia (where the “Moriscos” were almost 1/3 of the population) and finishing in the rest of the Peninsula in 1614. This expulsion was supported by military measures to avoid disturbances and a large fleet to carry the expelled people to the North of Africa.

The consequences of this expulsion are diverse but we should point out:

- Demographic: more than 300,000

people were expelled.

- Economic: loss of manpower, consumers and specialized artisans.
- Moral: an indigenous population that had been living for centuries in Spain is expelled.

To sum up, the expulsion of the “Moriscos” was a failure in all its initial objectives, because the landowning aristocracy could neither stop its

indebtedness nor the rural protests; the Spanish monarchy received new critics because of its religious intransigence; and finally the expelled “Moriscos” increased the military threat along the Spanish coasts with appearance of the corsair republic of Salé in the coasts of the kingdom of Morocco.



#### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

300,000 approx.

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