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## *Now that no one remembers Gaza*



Sources: New Tribune

If we judge Palestinian-Israeli relations only by what has happened since 1948 – the year the State of Israel was founded – we could come to the wrong conclusion that both communities have always been at war. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the middle of the seventh century, Muhammad's disciples collected in the Qur'an the sacred words that, according to them, God had revealed to the prophet. They were mostly precepts, norms and legends drawn from much earlier cultures, including the Jewish. Muslims and Jews **have since shared habits** such as not eating pork, extreme hygienic

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measures, circumcising their children and not having images in their temples. Not only did they live together, mixed, but their rapport was such that when a Jewish and a Muslim child was born on the same street, the parents contracted family ties and the children were considered brothers.

Between the eighth century – creation of the independent Emirate of Cordoba – and the beginning of the twentieth – the end of the Ottoman Empire and the beginning of the British occupation – Jews and Muslims **acted in unison** both in the happy moments of Al-Andalus or Sefarad and to defend themselves from the attacks they were subjected to by the Christian crusaders or the Turkish invaders. **Haim Zafrani**, Jewish professor at the Sorbonne, goes so far as to affirm in a magnificent study on the relations between these two peoples, that the **call for help of the Jews** who lived in Spain since the Roman occupation was decisive for the Muslims to decide to cross the Strait of Gibraltar. Victims of persecution and outrages by the Visigoth monarchs, the Spanish Jews sent emissaries to their Muslim friends, who in the eighth century decided **to enter Spain to expel the "barbarians"**.

Obviously the main reason that led to the Muslim presence in Spain was the expansion of its empire and its culture, but one cannot disdain what Haim Zafrani and other Arabists of world prestige such as Harris, Elquimst, Montáñez, Marín Niño or Cutler affirm.

During the period of maximum splendor of the Caliphate of Cordoba, Abderramán III had as prime minister, doctor and person of his maximum confidence the Hebrew Hasday Ibn Shaprut, **the synagogues enjoyed the same protection as the mosques**, in the universities they studied and taught students and professors of the two communities without the slightest problem and many of the high officials of the caliphate were Jews.

It was in caliphal Cordoba where the Jews ceased to be farmers and ranchers to devote themselves to what we now call "liberal professions", philosophy, philology, science, law or finance. However, this fruitful alliance of cultures **did not sit well with the illiterate European Christians** on the other side of the Pyrenees who, powerless in the face of the strength and progress of Al-Andalus, decided in 1096 to **initiate the systematic massacres of Jews** in the cities of Worms, Mainz and Cologne, massacres that reached their climax with the first crusade, when the Pope's brave warriors took Jerusalem and

killed **more than sixty thousand Arabs and Jews** held in their mosques and synagogues, within one of the most shameful chapters of blood and pillage in European history.

Then, coinciding with periods of crisis, Europe would be the scene of **numerous programs**, which consisted of killing Jews for no rational reason. The expulsion of the Jews from Spain coincided with the defeat of the Muslims, both communities taking refuge in the lands from which they came, where **they continued their alliance to defend themselves against Turkish abuses**.

With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, **Palestine fell into the hands of the British**, who with the generosity and altruism that always characterized them, approved in 1917 the Balfour Declaration by which they committed themselves to create a Jewish State in those lands, managing to **destroy a peaceful coexistence of centuries**. From that date on, Jews and Muslims became embroiled in conflicts that grew in intensity since the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

Thanks to the intervention of Great Britain, two communities that had helped each other, that had exchanged knowledge and customs, that had lived in harmony became **irreconcilable enemies**: Following british – and American – plans, millions of Jews settled in a land that was not theirs, **creating an artificial and exclusive state** where before everyone lived without borders.

The State of Israel is thus born as a war machine, for **only by force can one population be replaced by another**. Today, according to recent polls, 65% of Jews are in favor of the creation of a Palestinian state, the same percentage who say that violence will only cease by negotiating. However, the Jewish authorities, who seem to have forgotten the Nazi horror, although they practice it very well, **have turned Gaza into a prison** in which hospitals have no electricity for most of the day, where the supply of drinking water has been cut off, where, due to the blockade, 60% of the population is unemployed, where schools have ceased to function and hunger, infectious diseases, torture and murder are the hallmarks of a territory abandoned by all: Gaza has 360 square kilometers and one and a half million inhabitants, it is the region with the highest population density in the world, but the West considers that they **have no right to life**.

Source: <https://www.nuevatribuna.es/articulo/global/ahora-nadie-acuerda-gaza-palestina-genocidio/20221005121636203536.html>

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