**Moors**

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A self-depiction by the Muslims in Iberia. Taken from the [*Tale of Bayad and Riyad*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tale_of_Bayad_and_Riyad)

The **Moors** were the [medieval](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Ages) [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) inhabitants of [Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco), western [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria), [Western Sahara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara), [Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania), the [Iberian Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), [Septimania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Septimania), [Sicily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicily) and [Malta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malta). The Moors called their Iberian territory [Al-Andalus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus), an area comprising [Gibraltar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gibraltar), much of what is now [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain) and [Portugal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal), and part of [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France). There was also a Moorish presence in present-day southern [Italy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) after they occupied [Mazara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mazara_del_Vallo) in 827 until their last [settlement of Lucera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_settlement_of_Lucera) was destroyed in 1300. The religious difference of the Moorish Muslims led to a centuries-long conflict with the [Christian kingdoms of Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christendom) called the [Reconquista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista). The [Fall of Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fall_of_Granada) in 1492 saw the end of the Muslim rule in Iberia.

The term "Moors" has also been used in Europe in a broader sense to refer to anyone of [Arab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_people) or [African](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_people) descent, whether living in Spain or North Africa. Moors are not a distinct or self-defined people. Medieval and early modern Europeans applied the name to the [Berbers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berbers), North African [Arabs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab), [Muslim Iberians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muladi) and West [Africans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_African) from [Mali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mali) and [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger) who had been absorbed into the [Almoravid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almoravid_dynasty). Mainstream scholars observed in 1911 that "The term 'Moors' has no real [ethnological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnological) value."

The Andalusian Moors of the [late Medieval](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Middle_Ages) era inhabited the Iberian Peninsula after the [Umayyad conquest of Hispania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) in the early 8th century. The Moors' rule stretched at times as far as modern-day [Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania), [West African](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_African) countries, and the [Senegal River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senegal_River).

Earlier, the [Classical Romans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) interacted with (and later conquered) parts of [Mauretania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauretania), a state that covered northern portions of modern Morocco and much of north western and central [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria) during the classical period. The people of the region were noted in [Classical literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_literature) as the [*Mauri*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauri_(people)). Today such groups inhabit [Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania) and parts of [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria), [Western Sahara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara), [Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco), [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger) and [Mali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mali). In the [languages of Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Europe), a number of associated ethnic groups have been historically designated as "Moors". In modern Iberia, the term is applied to people of [Moroccan ethnicity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Morocco). "Moor" is sometimes colloquially applied to any person from North Africa, but some people consider this usage of the term [pejorative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pejorative), especially its Spanish version "Moro".

**Name**

**Etymology**

*Further information:* [*Mauri people*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauri_people) *and* [*Mauretania*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauretania)

In [Latin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_language), the word *Maurus* (plural *Mauri*) is in origin an ethnonym, the name of the [Mauri people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauri_people) who were also eponymous of the [Mauretania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauretania) province of the Roman empire on the northwestern fringe of Africa. The Latin form of the name is adapted from [Greek ethnography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_ethnography), where the people was known *Mauroi* (Μαῦροι). The Greek name has been speculatively connected to the adjective ἀμαυρός, meaning "dark; faint, dim".

**Modern meanings**



Moorish man, [Trarza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirate_of_Trarza) region of the [Senegal River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senegal_River) valley.

In the Medieval [Romance languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romance_language) (such as Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian, Romanian), the Latin word took such forms as *mouro*, *moro*, *moir*, *mor* and *maur*. From denoting a specific Berber people in western [Libya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Libya), the name acquired more general meaning in the Romance languages during the medieval period, partly developing a general meaning of "dark-skinned", partly (much like "[Saracens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saracens)") taking a religious meaning of "infidels" in the context of the [Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades) and the [Reconquista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista).

Beside its usage in historical context, **Moor** and **Moorish** ([Italian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_language) and Spanish: *moro*, [French](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_language): *maure*, [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language): *mouro*, [Romanian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanian_language): *maur*) is used to designate an ethnic group speaking the [*Hassaniya*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hassaniya) Arabic dialect. They inhabit [Mauritania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania) and parts of [Algeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algeria), [Western Sahara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Sahara), [Tunisia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia), [Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco), [Niger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niger) and [Mali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mali). In Niger and Mali, these peoples are also known as the *Azawagh Arabs*, after the [Azawagh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azawagh) region of the Sahara.

In Spain, modern colloquial Spanish use of the term "Moro" is derogatory for [Moroccans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moroccans) in particular and [North Africans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_African) in general. Similarly, in modern, colloquial [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language), the term "Mouro" was primarily used as a designation for North Africans and secondarily as a derogatory and ironic term by northern [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_People) to refer to the inhabitants of the southern parts of the country ([Lisbon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbon), [Alentejo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alentejo) and [Algarve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algarve)). However, this designation has gained more acceptance in the South.

In the [Philippines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines), a former [Spanish colony](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Empire), many residents call the local Muslim population in the Southern islands *Moros*. They also self-identify that way (see [Muslim Filipino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Filipino)). The term was introduced by the Spanish colonizers. Within the context of [Portuguese colonization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Empire), in [Sri Lanka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lanka) ([Portuguese Ceylon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_Ceylon)), Muslims of Arab origin are called *Moors* (see [Sri Lankan Moors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Moors)).



Scene from performance of [Moros y cristianos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moros_y_cristianos) (Moors and Christians) in Mexico.

[*Moreno*](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/moreno) can mean *dark-skinned* in Spain and Portugal, as well as in Brazil. Also in Spanish, *morapio* is a humorous name for "wine", especially that which has not been "baptized" or mixed with water, i.e., pure unadulterated wine. Among Spanish speakers, *moro* ("Moor") came to have a broader meaning, applied to both [Moros](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moro_(ethnic_group)) of [Mindanao](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mindanao) in the [Philippines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines), and the [moriscos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morisco) of [Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granada). *Moro* is refers to all things dark, as in "Moor", *moreno*, etc. It was used as a nickname; for instance, the [Milanese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milan) Duke [Ludovico Sforza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludovico_Sforza) was called *Il Moro* because of his dark complexion.

In Portugal and Spain, *mouro* (feminine, *moura*) may also refer to supernatural beings known as [enchanted *moura*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enchanted_Moura), where "moor" implies 'alien' and 'non-Christian'; These beings were siren-like fairies with golden or reddish hair and a fair face. They were believed to have magical properties. From this root, the name moor is also applied to unbaptized children, meaning not [Christian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian). In [Basque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basque_language), [*mairu*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mairu) means moor and also refers to a mythical people.

Moors is also a term used to identify [Muslims in Sri Lanka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Sri_Lanka). [Sri Lankan Moors](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Moors) are 12% of the population.. The Moors in Sri Lanka are descendants of Arab traders who settled in Sri Lanka in the mid-6th century. When the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century, they labelled the Muslims in the island as Moors as they saw them resembling the Moors in North Africa. The Sri Lankan government to this day identifies the Muslims in Sri Lanka as "Ceylon Moors"

The [Goan Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goan_Muslims) - a minority community who follow [Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) in the western [Indian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) coastal state of [Goa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goa) are commonly referred as *Moir* ([Konkani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konkani_language): मैर) by [Goan Catholics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goan_Catholics) and [Hindus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu).. They *Moir* is derived from the [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language) word *mour* (**Moors**).

**Moors of Iberia**

*Further information:* [*Umayyad conquest of Hispania*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) *and* [*Al-Andalus*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus)



Progress of the [Reconquista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista) (790–1300).

In 711 [CE](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Era), the now Islamic Moors conquered [Visigothic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visigoths) [Christian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) [Hispania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispania). Their [general](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General), [Tariq ibn-Ziyad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariq_ibn-Ziyad), brought most of Iberia under Islamic rule in an eight-year campaign. They moved northeast across the [Pyrenees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrenees) Mountains, but were defeated by the [Frank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franks) [Charles Martel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Martel) at the [Battle of Poitiers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tours) in 732.

The Moorish state fell into [civil conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_war) in the 750s. The Moors ruled in North Africa and in most of the [Iberian peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_peninsula) for several decades. They were resisted in areas in the northwest (such as [Asturias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asturias), where they were defeated at the battle of [Covadonga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covadonga)) and the largely [Basque regions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basque_Country_(historical_territory)) in the Pyrenees. Though the number of Moor colonists was small, many [native Iberian inhabitants converted to Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muladi). According to Ronald Segal, by 1000, some 5 million of Iberia's 7 million inhabitants, nearly all native inhabitants, were Muslim.

In a process of decline, the Al Andalus had broken up into a number of Islamic-ruled [fiefdoms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiefdoms), or [*taifas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taifas), which were partly consolidated under the [Caliphate of Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate_of_C%C3%B3rdoba).



Coat of arms of [Alcanadre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcanadre). [La Rioja](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Rioja_(Spain)), Spain. Depicting severed heads of the Moors

The [Asturias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Asturias), a small northwestern Christian Iberian kingdom, initiated the Reconquista (the "reconquest") soon after the Islamic conquest in the 8th century. Christian states based in the north and west slowly extended their power over the rest of Iberia. [Navarre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Navarre), [Galicia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia), [León](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Le%C3%B3n), Portugal, [Aragón](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Aragon), [*Marca Hispanica*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marca_Hispanica), and [Castile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crown_of_Castile) began a process of expansion and internal consolidation during the next several centuries under the flag of [Reconquista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista).



Reconstruction of costumes of Moorish [nobility](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobility) from a German book published in 1880

In 1212, a coalition of Christian kings under the leadership of [Alfonso VIII of Castile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfonso_VIII_of_Castile) drove the Muslims from Central Iberia. The Portuguese side of the *Reconquista* ended in 1249 with the conquest of the [Algarve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algarve) ([Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language) الغرب — [*Al-Gharb*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al%27Garb_Al%27Andalus)) under [Afonso III](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afonso_III_of_Portugal). He was the first Portuguese monarch to claim the title "[King of Portugal and the Algarve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Portuguese_monarchs)".

The Moorish [Kingdom of Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Granada) continued for three more centuries in southern Iberia. On January 2, 1492, the leader of the last Muslim stronghold in [Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granada) surrendered to armies of a recently united Christian Spain (after the marriage of [Ferdinand II of Aragon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_II_of_Aragon) and [Isabella I of Castile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella_I_of_Castile), the [Catholic Monarchs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catholic_Monarchs)). They forced the remaining Muslims and Jews to leave Spain, convert to Roman Catholic Christianity or be killed for not doing so. To exert social and religious control, in 1480, Isabella and Ferdinand agreed to allow the [Inquisition in Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Inquisition).

The Inquisition was aimed mostly at Jews and Muslims who had overtly converted to Christianity but were thought to be practicing their faiths secretly. They were respectively called [*marranos*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marrano) and [*moriscos*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morisco). The Inquisition also attacked heretics who rejected Roman Catholic orthodoxy, including [*alumbras*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alumbras&action=edit&redlink=1), who practiced a personal mysticism or spiritualism. The latter represented a significant portion of the peasants in some territories, such as [Aragon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aragon), [Valencia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valencia_(autonomous_community)) or [Andalusia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andalusia). In the years from 1609 to 1614, the government expelled such subjects. The historian Henri Lapeyre estimated that this affected 300,000 out of an estimated total of 8 million inhabitants.



Christian and Moor playing chess, from *The* [*Book of Games*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Games) of [Alfonso X](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfonso_X), c. 1285

Many Muslims converted to Christianity and remained permanently in Iberia. This is indicated by a "high mean proportion of ancestry from North African (10.6%)" that "attests to a high level of religious conversion (whether voluntary or enforced), driven by historical episodes of social and religious intolerance, that ultimately led to the integration of descendants.".

In the meantime, the tide of Islam had rolled not just to Iberia, but also eastward, through India, the [Malayan peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malayan_peninsula), and [Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia) up to the [Philippines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines). This was one of the major islands of an [archipelago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archipelago) which the Spaniards had reached during their voyages westward from the [New World](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_World). By 1521, the ships of [Magellan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_Magellan)and other Spanish explorers had reached that island archipelago, which they named [*Las Islas de Filipinas*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines), after [Philip II of Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_II_of_Spain). In Mindanao, the Spaniards named the [kris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kris)-bearing people as [Moros](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moro_people) or 'Moors'. Today in the Philippines, this ethnic group of people in Mindanao, who are generally [Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipino_Muslim), are called 'Moros'. This identification of Islamic people as *Moros* persists in the modern [Spanish language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language) spoken in Spain, and as *Mouros* in the modern [Portuguese language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language). See [Reconquista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista), and [Maure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maure).

According to historian [Richard A. Fletcher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_A._Fletcher), 'the number of [Arabs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab) who settled in Iberia was very small. "Moorish" Iberia does at least have the merit of reminding us that the bulk of the invaders and settlers were Moors, i.e. [Berbers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berber_people) from Algeria and Morocco.'

The initial rule of the Moors in the Iberian peninsula under this [Caliphate of Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate_of_C%C3%B3rdoba) is regarded as tolerant in its acceptance of Christians, Muslims and [Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew) living in the same territories. The Caliphate of Córdoba collapsed in 1031 and the Islamic territory in Iberia fell under the rule of the [Almoravid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almoravid_dynasty). This second stage inaugurated an era of Moorish rulers guided by a version of Islam that left behind the tolerant practices of the past.



Reconquista



The Moors request permission from [James I of Aragon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_I_of_Aragon)



Christian and Moor playing [lute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lute), 13th century



[Muhammad XII of Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_XII_of_Granada), last Moorish sultan in Spain



[Leo Africanus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Africanus), born in Granada

**Moors of Sicily**

See also: [History of Islam in southern Italy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam_in_southern_Italy) and [Arab-Norman culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab-Norman_culture)



Muslim musicians at the court of the Norman King [Roger II of Sicily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_II_of_Sicily).

The first Muslim conquest of Sicily and parts of southern Italy lasted 75 years (827–902). By 827, Sicily was almost entirely in control of the [Aghlabids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aghlabids) with the exception of some minor strongholds in the rugged interior until 909 when it was then replaced by Shiite Fatimids. Four years later, the Fatimid governor was ousted from Palermo when the island declared its independence under Emir Ahmed ibn-Kohrob.

In 1038, a Byzantine army under George Maniaces crossed the strait of Messina. This included a corps of Normans which saved the situation in the first clash against the Muslims from Messina. After another decisive victory in the summer of 1040, Maniaces halted his march to lay siege to [Syracuse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily). Despite his conquest of the latter, Maniaces was removed from his position, and the subsequent Muslim counter-offensive reconquered all the cities captured by the Byzantines.

The Norman [Robert Guiscard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Guiscard), son of Tancred, invaded Sicily in 1060. The island was split between three Arab emirs, and the Christian population in many parts of the island rose up against the ruling Muslims. One year later, Messina fell, and in 1072, Palermo was taken by the Normans. The loss of the cities, each with a splendid harbor, dealt a severe blow to Muslim power on the island. Eventually all of Sicily was taken. In 1091, Noto in the southern tip of Sicily and the island of Malta, the last Arab strongholds, fell to the Christians.

Islamic authors would marvel at the tolerance of the [Norman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normans) kings of Sicily. [Ibn al-Athir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Athir) wrote: "They [the Muslims] were treated kindly, and they were protected, even against the Franks. Because of that, they had great love for king Roger."

Many repressive measures were introduced by [Frederick II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) to please the popes who were intolerant of Islam in the heart of Christendom. This resulted in a rebellion by Sicilian Muslims, which in turn triggered organized resistance and systematic reprisals and marked the final chapter of Islam in Sicily. The Muslim problem characterized Hohenstaufen rule in Sicily under Henry VI and his son Frederick II. The complete eviction of Muslims and the annihilation of Islam in Sicily was completed by the late 1240s when the final deportations to [Lucera](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucera) took place.

**Architecture**

Main article: [Moorish architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moorish_architecture)



Interior of the [Mezquita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezquita), [Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%B3rdoba,_Spain)

Moorish architecture is the [articulated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Articulation_(architecture)) [Islamic architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_architecture) of North Africa and parts of Spain and Portugal where the Moors were dominant between 711 and 1492. The best surviving examples are La [Mezquita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezquita) in [Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%B3rdoba,_Spain) and the [Alhambra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhambra) palace (mainly 1338–1390), and also the [Giralda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giralda) in 1184. Other notable examples include the ruined palace city of [Medina Azahara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medina_Azahara) (936–1010), the church (former mosque) San Cristo de la Luz in [Toledo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toledo,_Spain), the [Aljafería](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aljafer%C3%ADa) in [Saragossa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saragossa) and baths at for example [Ronda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronda) and [Alhama de Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhama_de_Granada).

**Heraldry**



Arms of the great Bristol merchant and shipper [William II Canynges](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_II_Canynges)(d.1474), as depicted on his canopied tomb in [St Mary Redcliffe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mary_Redcliffe) Church, showing the *couped* heads of three Moors wreathed at the temples

Moors—or more frequently their heads, often crowned—appear with some frequency in medieval European [heraldry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heraldry). The term ascribed to them in [Anglo-Norman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Norman_language) [*blazon*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blazon) (the language of English heraldry) is *maure*, though they are also sometimes called *moore*, *blackmoor*, *blackamoor*, *negro* or occasionally *savage*. [Maures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maure) appear in European heraldry from at least as early as the 13th century, and some have been attested as early as the 11th century in [Italy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy), where they have persisted in the local heraldry and [vexillology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vexillology) well into modern times in [Corsica](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corsica) and [Sardinia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sardinia).

Armigers bearing moors or moors' heads may have adopted them for any of several reasons, to include symbolizing military victories in the [Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades), as a pun on the bearer's name in the [canting arms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canting_arms) of Morese, Negri, Saraceni, etc., or in the case of [Frederick II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), possibly to demonstrate the reach of his empire. The [arms of Pope Benedict XVI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI#Arms) feature a moor's head, crowned and collared red, in reference to the arms of [Freising, Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freising_(district)). In the case of Corsica and Sardinia, the blindfolded moors' heads in the four quarters have long been said to represent the four Moorish emirs who were defeated by [Peter I of Aragon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_I_of_Aragon) in the 11th century, the four moors' heads around a cross having been adopted to the arms of Aragon around 1281-1387, and Corsica and Sardinia having come under the dominion of the king of Aragon in 1297. In Corsica, the blindfolds were lifted to the brow in the 18th century as a way of expressing the island's newfound independence

The use of moors (and particularly their heads) as a heraldic symbol has been deprecated in modern North America, where racial stereotypes have been influenced by a history of [Trans-Atlantic slave trade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-Atlantic_slave_trade) and racial segregation, and applicants to the College of Arms of the [Society for Creative Anachronism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_for_Creative_Anachronism) are urged to use them delicately to avoid creating offensive images.

**Population genetics**

See also: [Berbers#Genetic evidence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berbers#Genetic_evidence)

[Shomarka Keita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shomarka_Keita), a biological anthropologist from [Howard University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_University), has claimed that populations in Carthage circa 200 BC and northern Algeria 1500 BC were very diverse. As a group, they plotted closest to the populations of Northern Egypt and intermediate to Northern Europeans and tropical Africans. Keita claimed that "the data supported the comments from ancient authors observed by classicists: everything from fair-skinned blonds to peoples who were dark-skinned 'Ethiopian' or part Ethiopian in appearance." Modern evidence showed a similar diversity among present North Africans. Moreover, this "diversity" of phenotypes and peoples was probably due to [*in situ*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_situ) differentiation, not foreign influxes. Of course foreign influxes certainly had an impact but they did not replace the indigenous Berber population.

The [Y chromosome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Y_chromosome) p49a,f TaqI Haplotype V, which corresponds to Y haplogroup [E1b1b1b](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b_(Y-DNA)) (M81) —formerly E3b1b, E3b2 and colloquially referred to as the "Berber marker"— has been found among 68.9% of modern Berbers in North Africa and as high as 80% in one group. It is believed to be about 5,600 years old, and to have arrived with the [Neolithic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic) expansion from the [Near East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_East). M81 is not found in Sub-Saharan Africa. This haplotype has also been observed in as high as 40% of one small group of Andalusians tested. Generally it appears at much lower frequencies among Iberian populations, and lower as distance from North Africa increases.

Y DNA haplogroup [E1b1b](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_E1b1b_(Y-DNA)) (formerly E3b) predominates among North African populations; its E1b1b1b subgroup (M81) is identified especially with Berbers.

**Notable Moors**



[Averroes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroes), a Moorish polymath, was the founder of the [Averroism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroism) school of philosophy, and influential in the rise of [secular thought](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secularism) in [Western Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Europe).

See also: [List of Berbers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Berbers) and [List of Arab scientists and scholars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Arab_scientists_and_scholars)

* [Tariq ibn Ziyad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariq_ibn_Ziyad), Moorish general who defeated the [Visigoths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visigoths) and [conquered Hispania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) in 711.
* [Abd ar-Rahman I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abd_ar-Rahman_I), founder of the [Umayyad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umayyad) Emirate of [Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%B3rdoba,_Spain) in 756; along with its succeeding [Caliphate of Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate_of_C%C3%B3rdoba), the dynasty ruled [Islamic Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus) for three centuries.
* [Ibn al-Qūṭiyya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Q%C5%AB%E1%B9%ADiyya), Andalusian historian and [grammarian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics).
* [Yahya al-Laithi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yahya_al-Laithi), Andalusian scholar who introduced the [Maliki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maliki) school of jurisprudence in Al-Andalus.
* [Abbas Ibn Firnas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbas_Ibn_Firnas), 810–887, [Berber inventor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inventions_in_medieval_Islam) and [aviator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics_in_medieval_Islam) who invented an early [parachute](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parachute) and made the first attempt at controlled [flight](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flight) with a [hang glider](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hang_gliding).
* [Maslamah Ibn Ahmad al-Majriti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslamah_Ibn_Ahmad_al-Majriti), died 1007, Andalusian writer believed to have been the author of the [*Encyclopedia of the Brethren of Purity*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopedia_of_the_Brethren_of_Purity) and the [*Picatrix*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picatrix).
* [Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_al-Qasim_al-Zahrawi) (Abulcasis), [Andalusian physician](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_in_medieval_Islam) and surgeon who established the discipline of [surgery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surgery) as a profession with his [*Al-Tasrif*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Tasrif) in 1000.
* [Said Al-Andalusi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Said_Al-Andalusi), 1029–1070, Andalusian [Qadi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qadi), historian, philosopher, mathematician and astronomer.
* [Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm al-Zarqālī](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ab%C5%AB_Ish%C4%81q_Ibr%C4%81h%C4%ABm_al-Zarq%C4%81l%C4%AB) (Arzachel), 1029–1087, [Andalusian astronomer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astronomy_in_medieval_Islam) and engineer who developed the [equatorium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatorium) and universal (latitude-independent) [astrolabe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrolabe) and compiled a [*Zij*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zij) later used as a basis for the [*Tables of Toledo*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tables_of_Toledo).
* [Artephius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artephius), *circa* 1126, Andalusian scientist known as the author of numerous works of [Alchemical](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchemy) texts, now extant only in Latin.
* [Ibn Bajjah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Bajjah) (Avempace), died 1138, [Andalusian physicist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics_in_medieval_Islam) and [polymath](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polymath) whose theory of motion, including the concept of a [reaction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reaction_(physics)) force, influenced the development of [classical mechanics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_mechanics).
* [Ibn Zuhr](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Zuhr) (Avenzoar), 1091–1161, Andalusian physician and polymath who discovered the existence of [parasites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parasite) and pioneered [experimental](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experiment) surgery.
* [Muhammad al-Idrisi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_al-Idrisi), circa 1100–1166, [Moorish geographer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_in_medieval_Islam) and polymath who drew the [*Tabula Rogeriana*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabula_Rogeriana), the most accurate world map in pre-modern times.
* [Ibn Tufail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Tufail), circa 1105–1185, [Arabic writer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_literature) and polymath who wrote [*Hayy ibn Yaqdhan*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayy_ibn_Yaqdhan), the first [philosophical novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophical_novel).
* [Averroes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroes) (Ibn Rushd), 1126–1198, [classical Islamic philosopher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_Islamic_philosophy) and polymath who wrote [*The Incoherence of the Incoherence*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Incoherence_of_the_Incoherence) and the most extensive [Aristotelian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotelianism) commentaries, and established the school of [Averroism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroism).
* [Ibn al-Baitar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Baitar), died 1248, [Andalusian botanist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Agricultural_Revolution) and pharmacist who compiled the most extensive [pharmacopoeia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharmacopoeia) and botanical compilation in pre-modern times.
* [Ibn Khaldun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Khaldun), a pioneer of the [social sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_sciences) and forerunner of [sociology, historiography](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sociology_in_medieval_Islam&action=edit&redlink=1) and [economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_economics_in_the_world), who wrote the [*Muqaddimah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muqaddimah) in 1377.
* [Abū al-Hasan ibn Alī al-Qalasādī](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ab%C5%AB_al-Hasan_ibn_Al%C4%AB_al-Qalas%C4%81d%C4%AB), 1412–1486, [Moorish mathematician](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics_in_medieval_Islam) who took the first steps toward the introduction of [algebraic symbolism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematical_notation).
* [Leo Africanus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Africanus), 1494–1554, Andalusian geographer, author and diplomat, who was captured by Spanish [pirates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privateer) and sold as a slave, but later baptized and freed.
* [Estevanico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estevanico), also referred to as "Stephen the Moor", was an explorer in the service of Spain of what is now the southwest of the United States.

**See also**

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| * [Adarga](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adarga) * [Al-Andalus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus) * [Caliphate of Córdoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliphate_of_C%C3%B3rdoba) * [Almohad dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almohad_dynasty) * [Almoravid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almoravid_dynasty) * [Marinid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marinid_dynasty) * [Averroes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroes) |  | * [Böszörmény](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B%C3%B6sz%C3%B6rm%C3%A9ny) * [Nasrid dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasrid_dynasty) * [Barbary pirate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbary_pirate) * [Berber people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berber_people) * [Tariq ibn Ziyad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariq_ibn_Ziyad) * [North Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa) * [Orientalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orientalism) |  | * [Othello](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Othello) * [Moorish architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moorish_architecture) * [Alhambra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhambra) * [Emirate of Granada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emirate_of_Granada) * [History of North Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_North_Africa) * [History of Portugal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Portugal) * [History of Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Spain) |  | * [Islam in Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam_in_Spain) * [Moorish Revival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moorish_Revival) * [Morisco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morisco) * [Ricote (Don Quixote)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ricote_(Don_Quixote)) * [Taifa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taifa) * [Timeline of the Muslim presence in the Iberian peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Muslim_presence_in_the_Iberian_peninsula) |  |

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