Comparison between Christians under Ottoman Empire and Muslim under Hispanic Monarch

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When Ottomans Enters Constantinople

Background: An important turning point in history was the Byzantine Empire's demise and the establishment of Ottoman supremacy in southeast Europe with the Ottoman Empire's conquest of Constantinople in 1453.

Sultan Mehmed II, also know as **Mehmed the Conqueror**, got ready to besiege Constantinople at the beginning of 1453. He put together a sizable army of soldiers, estimated at about 80,000, which included elite Janissaries and a sizable artillery contingent with enormous guns made especially for breaching the city's defenses.

The Siege Starts: April 6, 1453, marked the start of the siege. The Ottomans took over the neighboring regions and cut off the city's supply. There were roughly 7,000 Byzantine defenders under the command of Emperor

Constantine XI Palaiologos, (last Byzantine king) comprising both foreign and locals

The fall of Constantinople impact the Byzantine Empire

End of Byzantine Empire's;

The Byzantine Empire, a powerful political and cultural force in Eastern Europe for more than a millennium, was completely destroyed as the fall's most immediate effect. Emperor Constantine I established Constantinople in 324 CE 13, and with the conquest of its capital, Constantinople, the empire ceased to exist as a political entity, ending a period

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Change in the Dynamics of Power;

Power dynamics in Europe change as a result of the conquest. With control of important commercial routes between Europe and Asia, including those that the
Byzantines had previously controlled, the Ottoman Empire rose to prominence. Italian city-states like Venice and Genoa, which had depended on these channels for trade with the East 12, saw their economic might erode as a result of this change. By controlling these routes, the Ottomans were able to expand into Europe and drastically change the geopolitical landscape.

Impact on Religious Dynamic:

There were significant religious effects to the fall as well. Tensions between the
Christian and Muslim communities grew after the Byzantine Empire, a stronghold of
Orthodox Christianity, fell to Muslim control. This incident widened the gap between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity and fueled a string of wars known as the Crusades. 12. A major cultural transition in the region was highlighted by the conversion of important churches, like Hagia Sophia, into mosques, which signified this religious transformation.

Cultural Impact

The fall of byzantine also impacted a cultural migration in addition to politics and religion. The Renaissance was greatly aided by the old manuscripts and wisdom that many Greek professors brought with them as they fled to Western Europe, especially Italy. This migration marked a turning point in Western European cultural history by reviving interest in classical education and art.

Christians under the Ottoman Empire

1.status:

As long as they paid taxes (Jizya) and acknowledged their position as dhimmi
(protected people), Christians were granted some autonomy under the millet system
This system acknowledged them as a component of the Rūm millet, which had their
own religious heads and offered some internal administration.

2. Religious freedom:

In compare to modern Christian states, the Ottoman Empire was renowned for its religious tolerance. Many Christians continued to practice their religion even when conversion to Islam was promoted,

especially in places like Greece and Serbia. The Although there were not allowed to missionary work and public expressions of faith, empire permitted the survival of Christian practices.

3. Social Integration:

Christians were frequently hired by the Ottomans for positions in the military and Administration through initiatives like **Devşirme,** which involved removing, educating, and converting Christian boys to join the military or the government The empire remained stable as a result of this merger.

4. Persecution and Violence:

Although there were times of tolerance, there were other times when there was harsh persecution, particularly when the empire was at war or its influence was waning.

during the 19th century, notable occurrences include forced conversions and massacres.

The "divide and conquer" strategy of the Ottoman Empire had an impact on Christian communities:

The "divide and conquer" strategy of the Ottoman Empire had a big impact on the local Christian populations. The major goal of this tactic was to keep a heterogeneous population under control by encouraging divides among different groups, which in

turn had an impact on Christian communities' social, political, and economic

dynamics.

Ottoman Empire's Support for Protestant Churches

The Ottoman Empire backed Protestant churches for the following reasons:

1.Strategic Alliances:

Especially at the height of the Reformation, the Ottomans frequently saw Protestant kingdoms as possible allies against Catholic forces. They understood that

Catholic power in Europe may be weakened if Protestant groups are supported. In areas like Hungary and Transylvania, where Protestantism spread because of the Ottoman threat against Catholic Habsburgs, this strategic purpose resulted in a certain amount of tolerance and even assistance for Protestant churches within their borders.

2.Cultural Exchange:

Protestant groups benefited from the cultural contacts made possible by the Ottoman

Empire. For example, in order to challenge Catholic domination, Protestant leaders in Europe occasionally looked to form alliances with

the Ottomans, which resulted in diplomatic and even military collaboration against shared adversaries

The fall of Islam and Rise of Roman Catholicism in Spain

According to 892 A.H., in 1492 A.D., the Muslim power in Spain ended forever and their last state, Granada, also fell under the control of the Christians. This event is remembered as the fall of Granada.

Impact of Reconquista on Islam

1.The end of Muslim Rule

The final Muslim bastion in Spain, Granada, fell in 1492, marking the end of the Reconquista. This essentially ended whatever political influence Muslims may have had in the Iberian Peninsula and signaled the end of nearly 800 years of Islamic presence there.

2.Cultural impact

Islamic customs were severely suppressed culturally as a result of the Reconquista. Islamic writings were either buried or destroyed, and mosques were turned into churches. Islam was forced into covert practice, which led to the loss of cultural heritage and

3.Ancient Narratives and Myths

Nationalist parties in modern-day Spain have stolen the Reconquista myth, which is frequently presented as a valiant fight against Islam. The rich history of cohabitation (known as Convivencia) during Muslim rule and the contributions of Islamic culture to Spanish civilization are often overlooked in this frame.

Important events: The merger of the Spanish kingdoms marked the beginning of a slow decline that ultimately resulted in a number of important occurrences that reduced its strength and sway over Europe. Here is a quick synopsis of this time frame.

1. **Unification of Spain (1469):** Isabella I of Castile and Ferdinand II of Aragon united their kingdoms to form a single Spain.
2. **The rise of the Spanish Empire (1492-1650):** Spain became a major global force by extending its lands in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
3. **Decline of the Spanish Empire (1650-1808):** Spain had to deal with a number of issues, such as: - Economic problems (debt, inflation) - Military overstretching (wars with England, France, and the Netherlands) The Habsburg dynasty's (royal German family) decline and the rise of other European powers, such as France, England, and the Netherlands

Spanish Monarchy's Stance on Religious Minorities

1. **Catholicism as the State Religion:** The monarch of Spain made Catholicism the official state religion and supported it.

2. **Persecution of Muslims and Jews:** In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic Monarchs, enacted the Alhambra Decree, which expelled Jews who refused to convert
to Christianity. Following Granada's conquest in 1492, Muslims there experienced
comparable persecution.
3. **Inquisition: Founded in 1478,** the Spanish Inquisition persecuted Protestants and other alleged heretics in addition to converts from Islam and Judaism.
4. **Weak International Relation** unlike the ottomans which used to keep good relation with their minority they continued to have a negative attitude toward Muslims and Jews, in contrast to the Ottomans, who used diplomacy with Protestant governments for strategic purposes. The It wasn't until 1767 that Spain and a Muslim country signed their first peace treaty for creating peace in Spain.

Muslims under the Hispanic Monarchy

Muslims Social Status: Following the Reconquista, Muslims who stayed in Spain were regarded as second-class citizens with little rights. Compared to their Christian colleagues, they experienced social exclusion, high taxes, and limitations on property ownership.
Forced Conversions: Muslims were frequently threatened with violence or expelled if they did not convert to Christianity.
Taxation and Tribute: Muslims who refused to convert had to pay taxes and tribute to their Christian overlords.
Religious intolerance: The Hispanic Monarchy showed little regard for faiths other than Christianity. Targeting Muslims (and Jews), Through violence and pressure, the converting into Christianity. The expulsion of Moriscos (forcefully converted to Christianity) in 1609, which was an attempt to create religious conformity, is a glaring example of this intolerance.
3. Social Segregation: Muslims and Christian communities were frequently kept apart on a social and legal level. They were marginalized because they were unable to actively engage in society or hold public office living on Spanish territory.

FORCE CONVERSTION OF MUSLIMS:

A major and tragic period in Spanish history, the forced conversion of Muslims in Spain during the 15th and early 16th centuries was characterized by a number of decrees and acts by the Spain Monarchy to eliminate Islam from its lands.

First Conversions: After the Reconquista in 1502, Muslims in Castile faced a difficult decision: convert to Christianity or be banished. Many made the decision to convert but kept up their covert Islamic practice. Similar edicts were issued in 1526 in places like Valencia and Aragon, continuing this trend.

The role of the Inquisition: Established in 1478, the Spanish Inquisition targeted converted Muslims, or Moriscos, who were thought to be secretly practicing Islam. The Inquisition used a variety of tactics, like as brutality and public humiliation, to compel conversions

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Cultural Suppression: The Moriscos' cultural customs were severely restricted after their conversion. They were prohibited from utilizing their language, traditions, and traditional attire by edicts issued by Philip II. The goal of these actions was to eradicate Islamic cultural identity in Spain.

Key Events and Policies

1. **Initial Forced Conversions (1499-1502):**

In 1499, Cardinal Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros began a campaign to convert
Muslims in Granada through coercive measures, including imprisonment and torture.
His aggressive tactics led to widespread resentment and rebellion among the Muslim
population. By early 1500, the Spanish Crown issued edicts that effectively forced
Muslims to convert or face expulsion from Castile by April 1502.

2. **Edicts of Conversion:**

The Crown of Castile enacted laws that outlawed Islam, compelling Muslims to convert to Christianity. An edict issued in July 1501 declared that allowing Muslims to remain after the successful conversion of Granada would be scandalous, despite acknowledging their peaceful nature. This led to mass conversions, with reports suggesting that up to 60,000 Muslims converted under duress in Granada alone.

3. **Continued Repression:**

The forced conversions extended beyond Granada into other regions, including Navarre (1515-1516) and Aragon (1523-1526). In these areas, similar decrees mandated conversion or expulsion, with authorities preferring conversion as a solution. Those who resisted faced severe penalties, including enslavement.

4. **Social Consequences:**

The forced conversions resulted in significant social upheaval. Many converts
(Moriscos) continued to practice Islam in secret due to lingering suspicion from "old" Christians regarding their sincerity. This suspicion led to ongoing discrimination and persecution, as the Inquisition targeted Moriscos for practicing their original far.

5. **Cultural Impact**

The repression of Islamic practices included the destruction of mosques and the

desecration of Qurans. Many former mosques were converted into churches,

fundamentally altering the cultural landscape of Spain.

Conclusion*:*

The status of Christians inside the Ottoman Empire underwent a dramatic change in 1453 with the conquest of Constantinople. Christians were given certain autonomy and protection as *dhimmi* under the millet system, enabling them to follow their religion while supporting the administration and economy of the empire. In contrast to the harsh realities Muslims endured under the Spanish Monarchy, Christians enjoyed relative stability despite limitations and certain levies.
On the other hand, the forceful practices of forced conversion, expulsion, and persecution were hallmarks of the Spanish Monarchy's treatment of Muslims, especially after the Reconquista. Early in the 17th century, Muslims (Moriscos) were expelled, and the Fear and repression were fostered by the Inquisition's enforcement of Catholic orthodoxy. In addition to destroying Muslim communities, this caused Spain to suffer severe cultural and financial losses.

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