[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About)

[thumb|right|Castillian ambassadors attempting to convince Moorish Almohad king](/wiki/File:Castillia.jpg) [Abu Hafs Umar al-Murtada](/wiki/Abu_Hafs_Umar_al-Murtada) to join their alliance (contemporary depiction from *The Cantigas de Santa María*)

The term **Moors** refers to the [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) inhabitants of the [Maghreb](/wiki/Maghreb), [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa) and the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), [Sicily](/wiki/Sicily), and [Malta](/wiki/Malta) during the [Middle Ages](/wiki/Middle_Ages), who initially were of [Berber](/wiki/Berber_people) and [Arab](/wiki/Arab) peoples of [North African](/wiki/North_African) descent.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) Moors are not a distinct or [self-defined](/wiki/Ethnonym) people,[[3]](#cite_note-3) and mainstream scholars observed in 1911 that "The term 'Moors' has no real ethnological value."[[4]](#cite_note-4) [Medieval](/wiki/Medieval) and early modern [Europeans](/wiki/Europeans) variously applied the name to Arabs, Horn of Africans, Berber North Africans and Muslim Europeans.[[5]](#cite_note-5)The term has also been used in Europe in a broader, somewhat derogatory sense to refer to Muslims in general,[[6]](#cite_note-6) especially those of Arab or Berber descent, whether living in Spain or North Africa.[[7]](#cite_note-7) During the colonial era, the [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people) introduced the names "[Ceylon](/wiki/Ceylon) Moors" and "Indian Moors" in [Sri Lanka](/wiki/Sri_Lanka), and the [Bengali Muslims](/wiki/Bengali_Muslims) were also called Moors.[[8]](#cite_note-8) In 711 the Moors [invaded](/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) the Iberian Peninsula from [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa) and called the territory [Al-Andalus](/wiki/Al-Andalus), which at its peak included most of modern-day [Spain](/wiki/Spain), [Portugal](/wiki/Portugal), and [Septimania](/wiki/Septimania). The Moors occupied [Mazara](/wiki/Mazara_del_Vallo) on Sicily in 827, developing it as a port,[[9]](#cite_note-9) and they eventually [consolidated](/wiki/History_of_Islam_in_southern_Italy) the rest of the island and some of southern Italy. Differences in religion and culture led to a centuries-long conflict with the [Christian kingdoms of Europe](/wiki/Christendom), which tried to reclaim control of Muslim areas; this conflict was referred to as the [Reconquista](/wiki/Reconquista). In 1224 the Muslims were expelled from Sicily to the [settlement of Lucera](/wiki/Muslim_settlement_of_Lucera), which was destroyed by European Christians in 1300. The [fall of Granada](/wiki/Fall_of_Granada) in 1492 marked the end of Muslim rule in Iberia, although [a Muslim minority](/wiki/Moriscos) persisted until [their expulsion](/wiki/Expulsion_of_the_Moriscos) in 1609.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

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## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

### Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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During the classical period, the [Romans](/wiki/Roman_Empire) interacted with, and later conquered, parts of [Mauretania](/wiki/Mauretania), a state that covered modern northern [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco), western [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria), and the Spanish cities [Ceuta](/wiki/Ceuta) and [Melilla](/wiki/Melilla).[[10]](#cite_note-10) The [Berber](/wiki/Berbers) people of the region were noted in [Classical literature](/wiki/Classical_literature) as [*Mauri*](/wiki/Mauri_(people)), which was subsequently rendered as "Moors" in English and in related variations in other European languages.[[11]](#cite_note-11) According to the 7th century writing of [Isidore of Seville](/wiki/Isidore_of_Seville), the [Latin](/wiki/Latin) word *Maurus* was derived from the [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) word for black, *mauron* (μαύρον), and at the time "Moors" were black by definition.[[12]](#cite_note-12)In the 21st century, many people use the term of "Moor" or "Moors" for North Africans, especially Moroccans, although some find this derogatory.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Modern meanings[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

In medieval [Romance languages](/wiki/Romance_languages), variations of the [Latin](/wiki/Latin) word for the Moors (for instance, [Italian](/wiki/Italian_language) and [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language): *moro*, [French](/wiki/French_language): *maure*, [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language): *mouro*, [Romanian](/wiki/Romanian_language): *maur*) developed different applications and connotations. The term initially denoted a specific Berber people in western [Libya](/wiki/Ancient_Libya), but the name acquired more general meaning during the medieval period, associated with "[Muslim](/wiki/Muslim)", similar to associations with "[Saracens](/wiki/Saracen)". During the context of the [Crusades](/wiki/Crusades) and the [Reconquista](/wiki/Reconquista), the term Moors included the derogatory suggestion of "infidels."

Apart from these historic associations and context, *Moor* and *Moorish* designate a specific ethnic group speaking [Hassaniya Arabic](/wiki/Hassaniya_Arabic). They inhabit [Mauritania](/wiki/Mauritania) and parts of [Algeria](/wiki/Algeria), [Western Sahara](/wiki/Western_Sahara), [Tunisia](/wiki/Tunisia), [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco), [Niger](/wiki/Niger), and [Mali](/wiki/Mali). In Niger and Mali, these peoples are also known as the *Azawagh Arabs*, after the [Azawagh](/wiki/Azawagh) region of the Sahara.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In Spain, modern colloquial Spanish use of the term *Moro* is derogatory for [Moroccans](/wiki/Moroccans) in particular[[14]](#cite_note-14)[[15]](#cite_note-15)[[16]](#cite_note-16)[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) and [Muslims](/wiki/Muslim) in general. Similarly, in modern, colloquial Portuguese, the term *Mouro* was primarily used as a designation for North Africans and secondarily as a derogatory and ironic term by northern [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_people) to refer to the inhabitants of the southern parts of the country ([Lisbon](/wiki/Lisbon), [Alentejo](/wiki/Alentejo), and [Algarve](/wiki/Algarve)). However, this designation has gained more acceptance in the south.

In the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines), a [former Spanish colony](/wiki/Spanish_East_Indies), many modern [Filipinos](/wiki/Filipinos) call the large, [local Muslim minority](/wiki/Islam_in_the_Philippines) concentrated in [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao) and other southern islands [*Moros*](/wiki/Moro_people). The word is a catch-all term, as *Moro* may come from several distinct [ethno-linguistic groups](/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_the_Philippines) such as the [Maranao people](/wiki/Maranao_people). The term was introduced by Spanish colonisers, and has since been appropriated by Filipino Muslims as an [endonym](/wiki/Endonym), with many self-identifying as members of the *Bangsamoro* "Moro Nation".

[thumb|left|A performance of](/wiki/File:Moritos.jpg) [*Moros y cristianos*](/wiki/Moros_y_cristianos) (Moors and Christians) in Mexico

[*Moreno*](/wiki/Wikt:moreno) can mean *dark-skinned* in Spain, Portugal, Brazil, and the Philippines. 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* came to have a broader meaning, applied to both Filipino Moros from Mindanao, and the [moriscos](/wiki/Morisco) of [Granada](/wiki/Granada). *Moro* refers to all things dark, as in "Moor", *moreno*, etc. It was also used as a nickname; for instance, the [Milanese](/wiki/Milan) Duke [Ludovico Sforza](/wiki/Ludovico_Sforza) was called *Il Moro* because of his dark complexion.[[19]](#cite_note-19) In Portugal, *mouro* (feminine, *moura*) may refer to supernatural beings known as [enchanted *moura*](/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.[[20]](#cite_note-20) From this root, the name moor is applied to unbaptized children, meaning not [Christian](/wiki/Christian).[[21]](#cite_note-21)[[22]](#cite_note-22) In [Basque](/wiki/Basque_language), [*mairu*](/wiki/Mairu) means moor and also refers to a mythical people.[[23]](#cite_note-23) Within the context of [Portuguese colonization](/wiki/Portuguese_Empire), in [Sri Lanka](/wiki/Sri_Lanka) ([Portuguese Ceylon](/wiki/Portuguese_Ceylon)), Muslims of Arab origin are called *Ceylon Moors*, not to be confused with "Indian Moors" of Sri Lanka (see [Sri Lankan Moors](/wiki/Sri_Lankan_Moors)). Sri Lankan Moors (a combination of "Ceylon Moors" and "Indian Moors") make up 12% of the population. The Ceylon Moors (unlike the Indian Moors) are descendants of Arab traders who settled there in the mid-6th century. When the Portuguese arrived in the early 16th century, they labelled all the Muslims in the island as Moors as they saw some of them resembling the Moors in North Africa. The Sri Lankan government continues to identify the Muslims in Sri Lanka as "Sri Lankan Moors", sub-categorised into "Ceylon Moors" and "Indian Moors".[[24]](#cite_note-24) The [Goan Muslims](/wiki/Goan_Muslims) — a minority community who follow [Islam](/wiki/Islam) in the western [Indian](/wiki/India) coastal state of [Goa](/wiki/Goa) — are commonly referred as *Moir* ([Template:Lang-knn](/wiki/Template:Lang-knn)) by [Goan Catholics](/wiki/Goan_Catholics) and [Hindus](/wiki/Hindu).[Template:Ref label](/wiki/Template:Ref_label) *Moir* is derived from the [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_language) word *mouro* (Moor).

## Moors of the Maghreb[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Great_Mosque_of_Kairouan_Panorama_-_Grande_Mosquée_de_Kairouan_Panorama.jpg) [Great Mosque of Kairouan](/wiki/Mosque_of_Uqba) was founded by the Arab general [Uqba ibn Nafi](/wiki/Uqba_ibn_Nafi) in 670 during the Islamic conquest, to provide a place of worship for recently converted or immigrating Muslims.

During the late 7th and early 8th centuries, the [Muslim caliphate](/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate), established after the death of Muhammad, underwent a period of rapid expansion. In 647, 40,000 Arabs forced the [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine) governor of North Africa to submit and pay tribute, but failed to permanently occupy the region.[[25]](#cite_note-25) After an interlude, during which the Muslims fought a civil war, the invasions resumed in 665, seizing Byzantine North Africa up to [Bugia](/wiki/Béjaïa) over the course of a series of campaigns, lasting until 689. A Byzantine counterattack largely expelled the Arabs but left the region vulnerable. Intermittent war over the inland provinces of North Africa continued for the next two decades. Further civil war delayed the continuation of further conquest, but an Arab assault took [Carthage](/wiki/Carthage) and held it against a Byzantine counterattack.

Although a Christian and [pagan](/wiki/Berber_mythology) Berber rebellion pushed out the Arabs temporarily, the Romanized urban population preferred the Arabs to the Berbers and welcomed a renewed and final conquest that left North Africa in Muslim hands by 698. Over the next decades, the Berber and urban populations of North Africa gradually converted to Islam, although for separate reasons.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The Arab language was also adopted. Initially, the Arabs required only the subordination of these peoples rather than their assimilation, a process which took a considerable time.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The groups that inhabited the Maghreb following this process became known collectively as Moors. Although the Berbers would [later expel](/wiki/Great_Berber_Revolt) their Arab overlords from the Maghreb and form temporarily independent states, that effort failed to dislodge the usage of the collective term.

## Moors of Iberia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|Depiction of the Moors in Iberia, from](/wiki/File:MoorsinIberia.jpg) [The Cantigas de Santa Maria](/wiki/Cantigas_de_Santa_Maria)

In 711 the Islamic Moors of [Arab](/wiki/Arabs) and [Berber](/wiki/Berbers) descent in North Africa crossed the [Strait of Gibraltar](/wiki/Strait_of_Gibraltar) onto the [Iberian Peninsula](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula), and in a series of raids they conquered [Visigothic](/wiki/Visigoths) Christian [Hispania](/wiki/Hispania).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Their general, [Tariq ibn Ziyad](/wiki/Tariq_ibn_Ziyad), brought most of Iberia under Islamic rule in an eight-year campaign. They continued northeast across the [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees) Mountains but were defeated by the [Franks](/wiki/Franks) under [Charles Martel](/wiki/Charles_Martel) at the [Battle of Tours](/wiki/Battle_of_Tours) in 732.

The Moorish state fell into a [civil war](/wiki/Civil_war) in 739 that lasted until 743 known as the [Berber Revolt](/wiki/Berber_Revolt). The Berbers revolted against the Arab aristocracy due to oppression by the Arab ruling class. The Moors ruled in North Africa and in most of the Iberian Peninsula for several centuries, and the [Umayyad](/wiki/Umayyad_Caliphate) Arab aristocracy ruled all the way from [Damascus](/wiki/Damascus) to Spain.[[28]](#cite_note-28) [Ibn Hazm](/wiki/Ibn_Hazm), the polymath, mentions that many of the Caliphs in the Umayyad Caliphate and the [Caliphate of Córdoba](/wiki/Caliphate_of_Córdoba) were [blond](/wiki/Blond) and had [light eyes](/wiki/Eye_color).[[29]](#cite_note-29) Ibn Hazm mentions that he preferred blondes, and notes that there was much interest in blondes in [al-Andalus](/wiki/Al-Andalus) amongst the rulers and regular Muslims: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

[thumb|Moorish army (right) of](/wiki/File:Cantigas_battle.jpg) [Almanzor](/wiki/Almanzor) during the Reconquista [Battle of San Esteban de Gormaz](/wiki/Battle_of_San_Esteban_de_Gormaz_(917)), from *Cantigas de Alfonso X el Sabio*

The language spoken in the parts of the Iberian Peninsula under Muslim rule was [Andalusian Arabic](/wiki/Andalusian_Arabic); it became extinct after the [expulsion of the Moriscos](/wiki/Expulsion_of_the_Moriscos), but [Arabic language influence on the Spanish language](/wiki/Arabic_language_influence_on_the_Spanish_language) can still be found today. The Muslims were resisted in parts of the Iberian Peninsula in areas of the northwest (such as [Asturias](/wiki/Asturias), where they were defeated at the battle of [Covadonga](/wiki/Covadonga)) and the largely [Basque Country](/wiki/Basque_Country_(greater_region)) in the [Pyrenees](/wiki/Pyrenees). Though the number of Moorish colonists was small, many [native Iberian inhabitants converted to Islam](/wiki/Muladi). By 1000, according to Ronald Segal, some 5,000,000 of Iberia's 7,000,000 inhabitants, most of them descended from indigenous Iberian converts, were Muslim. There were also [Sub-Saharan Africans](/wiki/Black_people) who had been absorbed into al-Andalus to be used as soldiers and [slaves](/wiki/Arab_slave_trade). The Berber and Sub-Saharan African soldiers were known as "tangerines" because they were imported through [Tangier](/wiki/Tangier).[[30]](#cite_note-30)[[31]](#cite_note-31) The Caliphate of Córdoba collapsed in 1031 and the Islamic territory in Iberia fell under the rule of the [Almohad Caliphate](/wiki/Almohad_Caliphate) in 1153. This second stage was guided by a version of Islam that left behind the more tolerant practices of the past.[[32]](#cite_note-32) Al-Andalus broke up into a number of [taifas](/wiki/Taifa) (fiefs), which were partly consolidated under the Caliphate of Córdoba.

[thumb|left|240px|](/wiki/File:Mohammed_I_ibn_Nasr.jpg)[Mohammed I ibn Nasr](/wiki/Mohammed_I_ibn_Nasr), the [Nasrid](/wiki/Nasrid_dynasty) Moorish ruler of the [Emirate of Granada](/wiki/Emirate_of_Granada) embracing his Castilian ally, taken from *The Cantigas de Santa María*

The [Kingdom of Asturias](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Asturias), a small northwestern Christian Iberian kingdom, initiated the [*Reconquista*](/wiki/Reconquista) ("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. The [Kingdom of Navarre](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Navarre), the [Kingdom of Galicia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia), the [Kingdom of León](/wiki/Kingdom_of_León), the [Kingdom of Portugal](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Portugal), the [Kingdom of Aragon](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Aragon), the [*Marca Hispánica*](/wiki/Marca_Hispánica), and the [Crown of Castile](/wiki/Crown_of_Castile) began a process of expansion and internal consolidation during the next several centuries under the flag of Reconquista. In 1212, a coalition of Christian kings under the leadership of [Alfonso VIII of Castile](/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](/wiki/Algarve) ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) – [*al-Gharb*](/wiki/Gharb_Al-Andalus)) under [Afonso III](/wiki/Afonso_III_of_Portugal). He was the first Portuguese monarch to claim the title "[King of Portugal and the Algarve](/wiki/List_of_Portuguese_monarchs)".

The Moorish [Kingdom of Granada](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Granada) continued for three more centuries in southern Iberia. On 2 January 1492, the leader of the last Muslim stronghold in [Granada](/wiki/Granada) surrendered to the armies of a recently united Christian Spain (after the marriage of [Ferdinand II of Aragón](/wiki/Ferdinand_II_of_Aragón) and [Isabella I of Castile](/wiki/Isabella_I_of_Castile), the "[Catholic Monarchs](/wiki/Catholic_Monarchs)"). The Moorish inhabitants received no military aid or rescue from other Muslim nations. [[33]](#cite_note-33) The remaining Jews were also forced to leave Spain, convert to Roman Catholic Christianity, or be killed for refusing to do so. In 1480, to exert social and religious control, Isabella and Ferdinand agreed to allow the [Inquisition in Spain](/wiki/Spanish_Inquisition). The Muslim population of Granada [rebelled in 1499](/wiki/Morisco_rebellions_in_Granada). The revolt lasted until early 1501, giving the Castilian authorities an excuse to void the terms of the [Treaty of Granada](/wiki/Treaty_of_Granada_(1491)) (1491). In 1501, Castilian authorities delivered an ultimatum to the Muslims of Granada: they could either convert to Christianity or be expelled.

[thumb|180px|Coat of arms of the](/wiki/File:Coat_of_Arms_of_the_Emirate_of_Granada_(1013-1492).svg) [Nasrid dynasty](/wiki/Nasrid_dynasty), the last Muslim dynasty of [al-Andalus](/wiki/Al-Andalus)

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*](/wiki/Marrano) and [*moriscos*](/wiki/Morisco). However, in 1567 King [Philip II](/wiki/Philip_II_of_Spain) directed Moriscos to give up their Arabic names and traditional dress, and prohibited the use of [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic). In reaction, there was a [Morisco uprising](/wiki/Morisco_rebellions_in_Granada) in the [Alpujarras](/wiki/Alpujarras) from 1568 to 1571. In the years from 1609 to 1614, the government expelled Moriscos. The historian Henri Lapeyre estimated that this affected 300,000 out of an estimated total of 8 million inhabitants.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Some 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."[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) According to historian [Richard A. Fletcher](/wiki/Richard_A._Fletcher),[[37]](#cite_note-37) "the number of Arabs 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 from Algeria and Morocco."

In the meantime, Spanish and Portuguese [expeditions](/wiki/Age_of_Discovery) westward from the [New World](/wiki/New_World) spread Christianity to India, the [Malay peninsula](/wiki/Malay_peninsula), [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia), and the [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines). By 1521, the ships of [Magellan](/wiki/Ferdinand_Magellan) had reached that island archipelago, which they named *Las Islas Filipinas*, after [Philip II of Spain](/wiki/Philip_II_of_Spain). In [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao), the Spaniards named the [kris](/wiki/Kris)-bearing people as [Moros](/wiki/Moro_people) or 'Moors'. Today this ethnic group in Mindanao, who are generally [Filipino Muslim](/wiki/Islam_in_the_Philippines), are called "Moros".

## Moors of Sicily[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Muslim musicians at the court of the Norman King](/wiki/File:MuslimMusiciansAtTheCourtOfRoger.JPG) [Roger II of Sicily](/wiki/Roger_II_of_Sicily)

The first Muslim conquest of Sicily began in 827, though it was not until 902 that almost the entire island was in the control of the [Aghlabids](/wiki/Aghlabids), with the exception of some minor strongholds in the rugged interior. During that period some parts of southern Italy fell under Muslim control, most notably the port city of [Bari](/wiki/Bari), which formed the [Emirate of Bari](/wiki/Emirate_of_Bari) from 847-871. In 909 the Aghlabid dynasty was replaced by [Shiite](/wiki/Shiite) [Fatimids](/wiki/Fatimids).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Four years later, the Fatimid governor was ousted from Palermo when the island declared its independence under Emir Ahmed ibn-Kohrob. The language spoken in Sicily under Muslim rule was [Siculo-Arabic](/wiki/Siculo-Arabic).

In 1038, a Byzantine army under [George Maniaces](/wiki/George_Maniakes) crossed the strait of Messina. This army included a corps of [Normans](/wiki/Normans) that 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](/wiki/Syracuse,_Sicily). Despite his success, Maniaces was removed from his position, and the subsequent Muslim counter-offensive reconquered all the cities captured by the Byzantines.

The Norman [Robert Guiscard](/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 noted the tolerance of the Norman kings of Sicily. [Ibn al-Athir](/wiki/Ibn_al-Athir) wrote: "They [the Muslims] were treated kindly, and they were protected, even against the [Franks](/wiki/Franks). Because of that, they had great love for King Roger."[[38]](#cite_note-38) The Muslim problem characterized Hohenstaufen rule in Sicily under Holy Roman Emperors [Henry VI](/wiki/Henry_VI,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) and his son [Frederick II](/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor). Many repressive measures were introduced by Frederick II 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 complete eviction of Muslims and the annihilation of Islam in Sicily was completed by the late 1240s when the final deportations to [Lucera](/wiki/Lucera) took place.

## Architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|Interior of the](/wiki/File:Spain_Andalusia_Cordoba_BW_2015-10-27_13-54-14.jpg) [Mezquita](/wiki/Mezquita), [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba,_Spain)

Moorish architecture is the [articulated](/wiki/Articulation_(architecture)) [Islamic architecture](/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](/wiki/Mezquita) in [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba,_Spain) and the [Alhambra](/wiki/Alhambra) palace in Granada (mainly 1338–1390),[[39]](#cite_note-39) and also the [Giralda](/wiki/Giralda) in Seville (1184).[[40]](#cite_note-40) Other notable examples include the ruined palace city of [Medina Azahara](/wiki/Medina_Azahara) (936–1010), the church (former mosque) San [Cristo de la Luz](/wiki/Cristo_de_la_Luz) in [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Spain), the [Aljafería](/wiki/Aljafería) in [Saragossa](/wiki/Saragossa) and baths at for example [Ronda](/wiki/Ronda) and [Alhama de Granada](/wiki/Alhama_de_Granada).

## Moors in heraldry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Moors—or more frequently their heads, often crowned—appear with some frequency in medieval European [heraldry](/wiki/Heraldry), though less so since the Middle Ages. The term ascribed to them in [Anglo-Norman](/wiki/Anglo-Norman_language) [*blazon*](/wiki/Blazon) (the language of English heraldry) is *maure*, though they are also sometimes called *moore*, *blackmoor*, *blackamoor* or *negro*.[[41]](#cite_note-41) [Maures](/wiki/Maure) appear in European heraldry from at least as early as the 13th century,<ref name=VAM>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and some have been attested as early as the 11th century in [Italy](/wiki/Italy),[[42]](#cite_note-42) where they have persisted in the local heraldry and [vexillology](/wiki/Vexillology) well into modern times in [Corsica](/wiki/Corsica) and [Sardinia](/wiki/Sardinia).

[thumb|Arms of the great Bristol merchant and shipper](/wiki/File:Canynges_arms_on_the_tomb_of_William_II_Canynges_and_Joan_Burton,_St_Mary_Redcliffe,_Bristol,_UK_-_20101015.jpg) [William II Canynges](/wiki/William_II_Canynges) (d.1474), as depicted on his canopied tomb in [St Mary Redcliffe](/wiki/St_Mary_Redcliffe) Church, showing the *couped* heads of three Moors wreathed at the temples

Armigers bearing moors or moors' heads may have adopted them for any of several reasons, to include symbolizing military victories in the [Crusades](/wiki/Crusades), as a pun on the bearer's name in the [canting arms](/wiki/Canting_arms) of Morese, Negri, Saraceni, etc., or in the case of [Frederick II](/wiki/Frederick_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), possibly to demonstrate the reach of his empire.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The [arms of Pope Benedict XVI](/wiki/Pope_Benedict_XVI#Arms) feature a moor's head, crowned and collared red, in reference to the arms of [Freising, Germany](/wiki/Freising_(district)).[[43]](#cite_note-43) 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](/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.[[44]](#cite_note-44) In Corsica, the blindfolds were lifted to the brow in the 18th century as a way of expressing the island's newfound independence.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The use of Moors (and particularly their heads) as a heraldic symbol has been deprecated in modern [North America](/wiki/North_America).[[46]](#cite_note-46) For example, the College of Arms of the [Society for Creative Anachronism](/wiki/Society_for_Creative_Anachronism) urges applicants to use them delicately to avoid causing offence.[[47]](#cite_note-47)

## Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|Moors on the North African coast, as depicted in Britain in 1739](/wiki/File:Moorishbarbarians.jpg)

Populations in Carthage circa 200 BC and northern Algeria 1500 BC were diverse.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) As a group, they plotted closest to the populations of Northern Egypt and intermediate to Northern Europeans and tropical Africans: "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."[[48]](#cite_note-48) Modern evidence shows a similar diversity among present North Africans. Moreover, this diversity of phenotypes and peoples was probably due to [*in situ*](/wiki/In_situ) differentiation, not foreign influxes.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Foreign influxes are thought to have had an impact on population make-up, but did not replace the indigenous Berber population.[[49]](#cite_note-49)

## Moors in popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

* The title character in William Shakespeare's play [*Othello*](/wiki/Othello), and the derived title character in Verdi's opera "[Otello](/wiki/Otello)", is a Moor. The character has been played by various thespians in different forms of entertainment. A less well-known Moorish character, Aaron, appears in Shakespeare’s earlier tragedy "[Titus Andronicus](/wiki/Titus_Andronicus)."
* The 2009 documentary film, [*Journey to Mecca*](/wiki/Journey_to_Mecca), follows the travels of the Moorish explorer [Ibn Battuta](/wiki/Ibn_Battuta) from his native country of [Morocco](/wiki/Morocco) to [Mecca](/wiki/Mecca) for the [Hajj](/wiki/Hajj) in 1325.

## Notable Moors[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/Image:AverroesColor.jpg)[Averroes](/wiki/Averroes), a Moorish polymath, was the founder of the [Averroism](/wiki/Averroism) school of philosophy, and influential in the rise of [secular thought](/wiki/Secularism) in [Western Europe](/wiki/Western_Europe)

* [Tariq ibn Ziyad](/wiki/Tariq_ibn_Ziyad), Moorish general who defeated the [Visigoths](/wiki/Visigoths) and [conquered Hispania](/wiki/Umayyad_conquest_of_Hispania) in 711.
* [Abd ar-Rahman I](/wiki/Abd_ar-Rahman_I), founder of the [Umayyad](/wiki/Umayyad) Emirate of [Córdoba](/wiki/Córdoba,_Spain) in 756; along with its succeeding [Caliphate of Córdoba](/wiki/Caliphate_of_Córdoba), the dynasty ruled [Islamic Iberia](/wiki/Al-Andalus) for three centuries.
* [Ibn al-Qūṭiyya](/wiki/Ibn_al-Qūṭiyya), Andalusian historian and [grammarian](/wiki/Linguistics).
* [Yahya al-Laithi](/wiki/Yahya_al-Laithi), Andalusian scholar who introduced the [Maliki](/wiki/Maliki) school of jurisprudence in Al-Andalus.
* [Abbas Ibn Firnas](/wiki/Abbas_Ibn_Firnas), 810–887, [Berber inventor](/wiki/Inventions_in_medieval_Islam) and [aviator](/wiki/Physics_in_medieval_Islam) who invented an early [parachute](/wiki/Parachute) and made the first attempt at controlled [flight](/wiki/Flight) with a [hang glider](/wiki/Hang_gliding).
* [Maslamah Ibn Ahmad al-Majriti](/wiki/Maslamah_Ibn_Ahmad_al-Majriti), died 1007, Andalusian writer believed to have been the author of the [*Encyclopedia of the Brethren of Purity*](/wiki/Encyclopedia_of_the_Brethren_of_Purity) and the [*Picatrix*](/wiki/Picatrix).
* [Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi](/wiki/Abu_al-Qasim_al-Zahrawi) (Abulcasis), [Andalusian physician](/wiki/Medicine_in_medieval_Islam) and surgeon who established the discipline of [surgery](/wiki/Surgery) as a profession with his [*Al-Tasrif*](/wiki/Al-Tasrif) in 1000.
* [Said Al-Andalusi](/wiki/Said_Al-Andalusi), 1029–1070, Andalusian [Qadi](/wiki/Qadi), historian, philosopher, mathematician and astronomer.
* [Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm al-Zarqālī](/wiki/Abū_Ishāq_Ibrāhīm_al-Zarqālī) (Arzachel), 1029–1087, [Andalusian astronomer](/wiki/Astronomy_in_medieval_Islam) and engineer who developed the [equatorium](/wiki/Equatorium) and universal (latitude-independent) [astrolabe](/wiki/Astrolabe) and compiled a [*Zij*](/wiki/Zij) later used as a basis for the [*Tables of Toledo*](/wiki/Tables_of_Toledo).
* [Artephius](/wiki/Artephius), *circa* 1126, Andalusian scientist known as the author of numerous works of [Alchemical](/wiki/Alchemy) texts, now extant only in Latin.
* [Ibn Bajjah](/wiki/Ibn_Bajjah) (Avempace), died 1138, [Andalusian physicist](/wiki/Physics_in_medieval_Islam) and [polymath](/wiki/Polymath) whose theory of motion, including the concept of a [reaction](/wiki/Reaction_(physics)) force, influenced the development of [classical mechanics](/wiki/Classical_mechanics).
* [Ibn Zuhr](/wiki/Ibn_Zuhr) (Avenzoar), 1091–1161, Andalusian physician and polymath who discovered the existence of [parasites](/wiki/Parasite) and pioneered [experimental](/wiki/Experiment) surgery.
* [Muhammad al-Idrisi](/wiki/Muhammad_al-Idrisi), circa 1100–1166, [Moorish geographer](/wiki/Geography_in_medieval_Islam) and polymath who drew the [*Tabula Rogeriana*](/wiki/Tabula_Rogeriana), the most accurate world map in pre-modern times.
* [Ibn Tufail](/wiki/Ibn_Tufail), circa 1105–1185, [Arabic writer](/wiki/Arabic_literature) and polymath who wrote [*Hayy ibn Yaqdhan*](/wiki/Hayy_ibn_Yaqdhan), the first [philosophical novel](/wiki/Philosophical_novel).
* [Averroes](/wiki/Averroes) (Ibn Rushd), 1126–1198, [classical Islamic philosopher](/wiki/Early_Islamic_philosophy) and polymath who wrote [*The Incoherence of the Incoherence*](/wiki/The_Incoherence_of_the_Incoherence) and the most extensive [Aristotelian](/wiki/Aristotelianism) commentaries, and established the school of [Averroism](/wiki/Averroism).
* [Ibn al-Baitar](/wiki/Ibn_al-Baitar), died 1248, [Andalusian botanist](/wiki/Muslim_Agricultural_Revolution) and pharmacist who compiled the most extensive [pharmacopoeia](/wiki/Pharmacopoeia) and botanical compilation in pre-modern times.
* [Musa I of Mali](/wiki/Musa_I_of_Mali) (c. 1280 – c. 1337) was a devout Muslim, and his pilgrimage to Mecca (a duty ordained by Allah, according to Islam) made him well-known across northern Africa and the Middle East.
* [Ibn Khaldun](/wiki/Ibn_Khaldun), a pioneer of the [social sciences](/wiki/Social_sciences) and forerunner of [sociology, historiography](/wiki/Sociology_in_medieval_Islam) and [economics](/wiki/Islamic_economics_in_the_world), who wrote the [*Muqaddimah*](/wiki/Muqaddimah) in 1377.
* [Abu Bakr II](/wiki/Abu_Bakr_II) (fl. 14th century), abdicated his throne in order to explore "the limits of the ocean".
* [Abū al-Hasan ibn Alī al-Qalasādī](/wiki/Abū_al-Hasan_ibn_Alī_al-Qalasādī), 1412–1486, [Moorish mathematician](/wiki/Mathematics_in_medieval_Islam) who took the first steps toward the introduction of [algebraic symbolism](/wiki/Mathematical_notation).
* [Leo Africanus](/wiki/Leo_Africanus), 1494–1554, Andalusian geographer, author and diplomat, who was captured by Spanish [pirates](/wiki/Privateer) and sold as a slave, but later baptized and freed.
* [Estevanico](/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.
* [Ibn Battuta](/wiki/Ibn_Battuta), an Islamic scholar and Moorish explorer who is generally considered one of the greatest travellers of all time.
* [Ibn Hazm](/wiki/Ibn_Hazm), a Moorish polymath who was considered one of the leading thinkers of the [Muslim World](/wiki/Muslim_World) and is widely acknowledged as the father of [Comparative religion](/wiki/Comparative_religion) studies.
* [Ibn Idhari](/wiki/Ibn_Idhari), a Moorish historian who was the author of ([Al-Bayan al-Mughrib](/wiki/Al-Bayan_al-Mughrib)) an important medieval text on the history of the [Maghreb](/wiki/Maghreb) and [Iberia](/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula).

## Gallery[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

<gallery> |A turbanned Moor File:Othellopainting.jpg|*Othello and Desdemona in* [*Venice*](/wiki/Republic_of_Venice), depicting [Othello](/wiki/Othello_(character)) and his [wife](/wiki/Desdemona) from [William Shakespeare's](/wiki/William_Shakespeare) play [*Othello*](/wiki/Othello) File:Batalla del Puig por Marzal de Sas (1410-20).jpg|"[Batalla del Puig](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Puig)" (c. 1410-1420), depicting a battle from the Reconquista File:Tariq-ibn-Ziyad---w.jpg|[Tariq ibn-Ziyad](/wiki/Tariq_ibn-Ziyad) was the Moorish general who led the conquest of [Visigothic Spain](/wiki/Visigothic_Kingdom) in the early 8th century File:Moors\_from\_Andalusia\_playing\_chess.jpg|Moors in Spain playing chess, from the [*Book of Games*](/wiki/Libro_de_los_juegos) File:Jaume I, Cantigas de Santa Maria, s.XIII.jpg|The Moors request permission from [James I of Aragón](/wiki/James_I_of_Aragón) File:Wild Men and Moors (Detail 11 of 12).jpg|"Wild Men and Moors" tapestry, c. 1400 File:Reconquista4.jpg|Moorish and Christian army readying for battle, taken from *The Cantigas de Santa María* File:MoorandChristianBattle.png|Moorish and Christian Reconquista battle, taken from *The Cantigas de Santa María* File:Christian and Muslim playing ouds Catinas de Santa Maria by king Alfonso X.jpg|Christian and Moor playing [lutes](/wiki/Lute), 13th century File:Maler der Geschichte von Bayâd und Riyâd 003.jpg|Riyad the Moor receiving a letter from Shanul in [Hadith Bayad wa Riyad](/wiki/Hadith_Bayad_wa_Riyad) File:DepictionofMoors.jpg|Depiction of Moorish cavalry troops, taken from *The Cantigas de Santa María* File:MoorsSpoils.jpg|Moors dividing the spoils, taken from *The Cantigas de Santa María* File:El rey chico de Granada.jpg|[Muhammad XII of Granada](/wiki/Muhammad_XII_of_Granada), last Muslim sultan in Spain File:Sebastiano\_del\_Piombo\_Portrait\_of\_a\_Humanist.jpg|[Leo Africanus](/wiki/Leo_Africanus), born in Granada File:ChristianAndMuslimPlayingChess.JPG|Christian and Muslim playing chess, from *The* [*Book of Games*](/wiki/Book_of_Games) of [Alfonso X](/wiki/Alfonso_X), c. 1285 File:Alhambra14.jpg|Depiction of three Moorish knights found on [Alhambra's](/wiki/Alhambra) Ladies Tower </gallery>

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

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## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Note label](/wiki/Template:Note_label)...*Hindu Kristao* ***Moir*** *sogle bhau*- Hindus,Christians and Muslims are all brothers...<ref name=moir>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>

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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Wiktionary](/wiki/Template:Wiktionary) [Template:Wikiquote](/wiki/Template:Wikiquote) [Template:Commons category](/wiki/Template:Commons_category)

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