



From Tolerance to Tyranny by Erna Paris

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A thousand years ago, a civilization existed in Spain that was famed throughout Europe. To the horror of the Christian rulers to the north, Jews, Christians, and Moors lived together in harmony – and in doing so they created one of the most extraordinary societies the world has ever known.

In the span a few hundred years, however, Spain would transform itself from a pluralistic, multicultural society to the least tolerant nation in Europe. By the end of the fifteenth century, the Spanish Inquisition had established a reign of terror, and the Jews were expelled from the land they had inhabited for 1,500 years.

Eventually the Moors, or Arabs, were banned as well. The tragic configuration of events that turned a culture of tolerance into an autocratic police state was effectively repeated centuries later in Nazi Germany, in Occupied France, and even in places closer to home.

From Tolerance to Tyranny is a gripping tale of a long-ago era whose familiar echoes continue to resound today. Paris tackles the subject of majority-minority relations in mixed societies, focusing on the humanity of the players even as she exposes the pitfalls of their ideals.

Reviews

“One of the greatest and most thought-provoking histories I have ever read. It ought to be read by every student of modern politics and by everyone who has an interest in the strength and weaknesses of multiculturalism.” – R. John Pritchard, Director, Robert M.W. Kempner Collegium, Programmes and Publications on the History and Jurisprudence of International Criminal Law, London

“... That themes of this magnitude for our time arise from a retelling of events from 15th century Spain is a testimony to the powerful and fluent sweep of [From Tolerance to Tyranny].”
– Myrna Kostash, *The Edmonton Journal*

The Author

Erna Paris was the author of seven acclaimed works of literary non-fiction and the winner of twelve national and international writing awards for her books, feature writing, and radio documentaries. Her works have been published in fourteen countries and translated into eight languages. *Long Shadows: Truth, Lies, and History* was chosen as one of The Hundred Most Important Books Ever Written in Canada by the *Literary Review of Canada*. Her most recent work, *The Sun Climbs Slow: The International Criminal Court and the Struggle for Justice* was first on *The Globe and Mail's* Best Book of the Year list and shortlisted for the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing.



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