

Foundations of Sephardic Spirituality - The Inner Life of Jews
of the Ottoman Empire by Rabbi Marc D Angel, PhD.
Jewish Lights Publishing 2006.

The Ottoman Empire flourished between the 15th CHECK!!!!!!!
and 20th centuries, and in the aftermath of their expulsion
from Andalusia by Ferdinand and Isabella many Spanish Jews
made their home there and enriched the life of the cities in
which they dwelled and the empire as a whole.

Rabbi Marc D Angel, rabbi of the Spanish and Portugese
congregation in New York, Shearith Yisrael, sets out to tell
this story with particular attention to the development of the
Sephardi spirituality that he clearly believes to be distinct
from its Ashkenazi counterpart.

The book is divided into 10 chapters, the first part of the book
being largely concerned with history and its practical and
religious implications for the Sephardim and the second being
largely focussed on the religious and spiritual developments of
Ottoman Sephardi Jewry, though there are regular cross-
overs between the two.

This is an excellent introduction to Sephardi Jewry and all its
riches for those who are ignorant of it, as well as being a
worthy analysis of distinctive aspects of Sephardi Judaism. I
would single out for special mention the chapter on Ladino
Folklore which contains, among other entertaining things some
Ladino songs and prayers and an array of sayings some of which
demand memorisation!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh