

From: Benjamin Rubin brubin@mindlaw.com  
Subject: Are We the People at the End of America's "Andalusian" Golden Age?  
Date: January 18, 2022 at 11:44 AM  
To: brubin@mindlaw.com



**“End of America's "Andalusian" Golden Age?”  
on Sunday, January 23, 2022, 3:10-4:00 pm EST  
@ Limmud Boston eFestival.**



*Plum Street Temple, Cincinnati.  
Flagship of Reform Judaism in USA.  
Built in 1867 by German Jewish*

## End of America's "Andalusian" Golden Age?

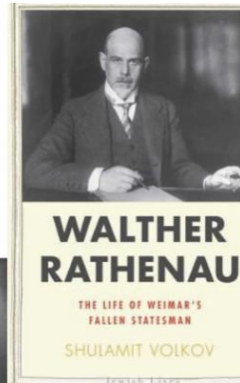
Most of us are aware that the Jewish presence in Christian Spain ended in 1492 with the Edict of Expulsion, and the subsequent inquisition of those Jews who converted to Christianity. Less well known is how the far more golden age of Jews in Muslim Spain ended in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, with the invasion of puritanical Islamic reformers from North Africa, who brought to Andalusia, and its Muslim-Christian-Jewish *convivencia*, a purist fundamentalist credo that spelled

*built in 1865 by German Jewish immigrant Rabbi Isaac Mair Wise, its Byzantine-Moorish synagogue architectural style, that emerged in Germany during the 19th century, harkens to the Golden Age of Spain in Jewish history, and reflects Rabbi Wise's optimism that the developing American Jewish experience would be the next Golden Age.*

...an end to the special conditions under which Arabic-speaking Jews had thrived. While "history never repeats itself, it rhymes". What parallels to Andalusia are there in America today that threaten the golden age of North American Jewry?



## German Jews: 1920s Jewish Golden Age



Communists, Capitalists, Rootless Cosmopolitans



## Or perhaps the Golden Age of Weimar Jews is a more familiar model?

The ideal of secular German Jewish identity was a complete identification with German elite cultural norms, from writing your doctoral thesis on Goethe, as did Walter Benjamin, or playing Beethoven piano sonatas, even if one arm was amputated in the Great War, as did Wittgenstein's younger brother. With German Judaism reconstituted as "ethical monotheism", secular Jews called themselves "Germans of the Mosaic persuasion". Are secular American Jews "Americans of the *tikkun olam* persuasion"? And is their being part of Jewish peoplehood once again becoming "problematic"?

Zionist colonial settlers, racists, Wall Street capitalists



*A century ago, German Jews were also enemies, though for different reasons*

I find these questions fascinating, and I have assembled interesting visuals to illustrate my presentation. Experience it live @ Limmud Boston eFestival, Sunday January 23, 2022, at 3:10 pm EST.



[About eBenBrandeis - ebenbrandeis.com](http://ebenbrandeis.com)

Limmud Boston eFestival will take place online on Sunday January 23 from 12 noon EST to 5:00 pm EST. Enjoy educators, thought-leaders and change-makers teaching about the most interesting Jewish ideas today. Connect with Jewish community, cultivate your curiosity and expand your horizons, all virtually. For information, sessions agenda and registration, go here: [Boston Limmud eFestival 22-01-23](#)

Benjamin Rubin, Mindlaw Inc. | 161 Frederick St. Ste. 201, Toronto, ON M5A 4P3 Canada

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