Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon and the Royal Response, 1391–1392

The most devastating attacks against the Jews of medieval Christian Europe took place during the riots that erupted, in 1391 and 1392, in the lands of Castile and Aragon. For ten horrific months, hundreds if not thousands of Jews were killed, numerous Jewish institutions destroyed, and many Jews forcibly converted to Christianity. Benjamin R. Gampel explores why the famed convivencia of medieval Iberian society – in which Christians, Muslims, and Jews seemingly lived together in relative harmony – was conspicuously absent.

Using extensive archival evidence, this critical volume examines the social, religious, political, and economic tensions at play in each affected region. The relationships, biographies, and personal dispositions of the Aragonese royal family are explored to understand why monarchical authority failed to protect the Jews during these violent months. Gampel’s extensive study is essential for scholars and graduate students of medieval Iberian and Jewish history.

“Letter of King Joan I to the royal falconer, Francesch Bertrandi, on July 26, 1391.” See page 218. Source: Arxiu de la Corona d’Aragó, Cancilleria Reial, Registre 1961, folio 53r.
Anti-Jewish Riots in the Crown of Aragon
and the Royal Response, 1391–1392

BENJAMIN R. GAMPEL
To Hannah and Abe
with love and admiration
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