WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA
A comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world
SECOND EDITION

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The world by countries:
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SPANISH NORTH AFRICA

SECULAR DATA, AD 2000

STATE
Flag: That of Spain.
Area: 33 sq. km. (13 sq. mi.).
Government: Overseas areas with special relationship to Spain, governed as parts of 2 provinces (1415 Portuguese possession, then Spain; 1496 Melilla, 1580 Ceuta).
Legislature: Spanish Provincial government.
Official language: Spanish.
Monetary unit: 1 peseta (Pta) = 100 céntimos.
Government: Overseas areas with special relationship to Spain, governed as parts of 2 provinces (1415 Portuguese possession, then Spain; 1496 Melilla, 1580 Ceuta).
Official name: Spanish North Africa.
Short name: Africa del Norte Español (Spanish North Africa).
Official name: Spain.
Short name: Spain.

DEMOGRAPHY
Population: 130,000.
Population density: 3,999.3/sq. km. (10,000.0/sq. mi.).

HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY
Access to health services: 91%. Access to safe water: 57%.
Healthcare: 3 (40 beds per 10,000). Doctors: 100.

LITERATURE
New book titles p.a.: 90 (700 p.a. per million).
Periodicals: 0.
Newspapers: 0 daily.
COMMUNICATION

HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY (optimum condition=100.0%)

HD1: 91.0. HD2: 70.0. EFL: 30.0.

ECONOMY
GDP: US$8,000; per family: US$2,400.

EDUCATION
Adult literacy: 90% (male 94%, female 90%). Schools: 20.
Universities: 1. School enrolment: female/male: 80%/80%.


Country status. Spanish North Africa consists of 2 enclaves in Morocco, Ceuta and Melilla, both on the Mediterranean Sea. Fishing and exporting iron ore are 2 important economic activities.

HUMAN NEED AND DEVELOPMENT

Human need and development. Leaving behind the scars of several wars, Spanish North Africa has reached economic development on par with most of Europe, as in the case with Spain. Standards of life are similar to those in Western Europe. The Socialist government has employed a national housing program and provided full access to health insurance and social security benefits to all citizens.

Human rights and freedoms. As enclaves of Spain, Spanish North Africa enjoys the same basic rights and freedoms as its mother country. Basques, illegal aliens, and minorities reportedly experience some mistreatment, though officially no type of discrimination is tolerated. The Plan for Equality of Opportunity for Women sponsored by the official Women’s Institute provides a wide range of services for women.

Hum com environment. Naturally poor soil combined with inefficient farming practices have resulted in land depleted of nutrients. Air and water pollution are not severe in Spanish North Africa, but are somewhat of a problem.

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

Islam is the religion of 15% of the population of the 2 cities of Ceuta and Melilla, who are Arabs. Mosques are independent on the Habous of Tetouan. Muslim schools are staffed by Moroccan teachers from Rabat who also provide religious instruction. There are 2 officially registered bodies: the Muslim Association of Melilla (Asociacion Musulmana de Melilla), and the Zanía Musulmana de Mohamad Mahoma, in Ceuta.

CHRISTIANITY

CATHOLIC CHURCH. Arab Muslims gained control of North Africa at the end of the 7th century, and with the aid of Berbers they succeeded in conquering the Iberian peninsula itself soon afterwards. However by the end of the 15th century all Muslims had been driven out of Spain. The expansive Spanish and Portuguese Catholic regimes continued their conquest of ports along the coast of North Africa, with the sparsely-populated interior remaining in the hands of the nomadic Muslim Berbers. Ceuta was taken by the Portuguese in 1415 but passed to Spain in 1580, Melilla having already been conquered by Spain in 1496. In 1704, Our Lady of Africa church was built at Ceuta on the site of a former mosque. Although Arabic orthography was made independent from France and Spain in 1956, Ceuta and Melilla have continued as possessions of Spain. Almost all the Spanish residents of the 2 cities are Catholics.
Ceuta is part of the Catholic diocese of Cadiz in Spain, and Melilla is in the diocese of Malaga, also in Spain. Between 1970 and 1995, Catholics declined by 12,000 members (nearly 0.5% per annum).

PROTESTANT CHURCHES. Seventh-day Adventists include Ceuta and Melilla in the sphere of influence of their Spanish Church, but there are no organized Adventist churches in either city. The Church of God has one congregation in Ceuta, whereas Spanish Baptists and the Church of Christ have concentrated their attention in Melilla. All Protestant groups are small.

Indigenous missions. Though Christians have predominated since the 15th century, there have been very few missionaries sent out from Spanish North Africa.

FUTURE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS
Except for the continued growth of Muslims and the nonreligious, few changes are expected in the religious situation in Spanish North Africa before AD 2025.

As long as Ceuta and Melilla are ruled by Spain, the Roman Catholic presence will likely predominate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY