

## 9<sup>th</sup> Century Spain

### Asturias

When the Moors arrived at the center of the Visigothic kingdom in 719 it had been ravaged by a terrible plague and the ruling houses had already fled to Asturias in the north. Even though the Moorish army was small there was very little resistance. The conquest eventually reached north-central Spain which, a Visigothic leader named Don Pelayo (Pelagious) refused to pay tribute. In 722 (some accounts say 739) he drove the Moors from the area in the decisive Battle of Covadonga. In that battle Pelayo carried a wooden cross made of oak, the “Cruz de la Victoria.” Because of the victory an independent kingdom was established, the Regnum Asturorum, which became the cradle of the Reconquista. Ironically, it was Pelayo and his family who invited the Moors to come to Spain in the first place. They even revealed the coastal weak points to them. They did this because of a succession dispute. In 908 Asturian King Alfonso II the Great had the cross overlaid in gold and jewels, which still exists today. Because of Asturias’ geographic location it became a refuge for fleeing Christian nobles. The mountains and scorched earth beyond them were its chief defenses.

Asturias was situated on the northern shore of Spain, facing the Cantabrian Sea. The capital city was Oviedo, a port city. It is said that two monks named Maximo and Fromestanus founded the city in 761, however the area had been occupied since the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Cantabria, to the east, was a separate Duchy until 739 when Alfonso I, son of Duke Pedro de Cantabria, became the prince (king) of Asturias. King Alfonso the Chaste made Oviedo the capital during his reign which lasted from the late 700s to 842. Oviedo’s importance grew when the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela (The Way of Saint James) was created (see Galicia). After the rebellion, Asturias remained independent throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Sometimes it was referred to as the Kingdom of Galicia depending on which house gained kingship but it was actually the same kingdom. In the early 10<sup>th</sup> century it became part of the newer Kingdom of Leon.<sup>1</sup>

At the start of the 9th century Visigothic armies were mostly composed of infantry. They had not yet adopted the Moorish jinete style of fighting. Their cavalry was a small cadre of knights. After the reconquest had moved into the plains south of the Douro River they would begin to have town militias, mostly spearmen and archers, but also including mounted sections of caballeros villanos. It was the caballeros villanos who fought in the Jinete style of the Moors. Asturias continued to have a cadre of armored knights. Mercenaries had to be employed since the Spanish were hampered by a lack of manpower, further weakened by political rivalry.<sup>2</sup>

### Galicia

During the 9<sup>th</sup> century Galicia was a county of the Kingdom of Asturias. Its capital city was Santiago, which hailed from Suebic origins dating from the early 400s. In 584 Galicia was incorporated into the Visigoth kingdom. From 711 to 739 it was occupied by the Moors and was recaptured by the Asturians in 754, after which it remained a county of Asturias. Santiago became the home of the shrine of Santiago de Compostela, the resting place of the bones of the apostle, St. James. These relics were found by a Bishop named Theodomir in 814. Charlemagne and the Pope accepted the remains as the genuine relics of St. James, whose body, according to legend, traveled there by ship. Without disputing the origins of the relics, the importance of this is that Saint James became the focal point of Christian religious fervor during the reconquista

---

<sup>1</sup> Various online sources (search Asturias, Oviedo).

<sup>2</sup> Armies of the Crusades, Osprey Publishing 15-16.

beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and “Santiago” was the central battle cry. The Order of Knights of Santiago was created in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>3</sup>

### **Leon**

Leon was founded in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC by the Roman 6<sup>th</sup> Legion. Its modern name is derived from the Roman name Legio which somehow became corrupted into Leon (lion). After the Romans left it became a flourishing Celto-Romano city and resisted the attacks of the Visigoths until 586. After the Moorish invasion it served as a Muslim outpost. In 846 a group of Mozarabs (Christians who lived under the Moors) tried to take the city as their own but the Moors resisted. In 856 the Christian King Ordoño I of Asturias successfully began reoccupation of the city. Leon became an independent kingdom in 910 when the court of Alfonso III was moved there from Oviedo.<sup>4</sup>

### **Castile**

According to the chronicles of Alfonso III of Asturias, the first reference to the name “Castile” (Castilla) can be found in a document written in 800AD. Alfonso III, King of Leon, reconquered Burgos, the main city of Castile in the middle of the ninth century. In 850 Diego Rodriguez “Porcelos”, became Count of the territory with orders to promote the increase of the Christian population. By 860 he had gathered the inhabitants of the surrounding country, Cantabri, Astur, and Vascon, into one fortified village, whose Visigothic name meant fortified place (Gothic *bauros*). The city began to be called Caput Castellae (“Cabeza de Castilla” or “Head of Castile”), but its common name in Spanish was Burgos. Subject to the King of Leon, the region continued to be governed by counts and gradually extended its borders. In 884, Diego Rodriguez, son of Count Rodriguez, died and Castilla devolved into many smaller counties. Count Fernan Gonzalez established Castile as an independent kingdom in 931.<sup>5</sup>

### **Catalonia**

Catalonia was originally settled by Greeks and Carthaginians. It was occupied by the Moors in the initial wave of conquest in the early 700s. The Franks took the outlying regions from the Cordoba Amirate in 795 but did not conquer Barcelona. Charlemagne then created the Marca Hispanica (The Spanish Marches), as a buffer zone between the Moors and his kingdom. At what should have been a critical stage of defense, the Amirate governor (*Wali*) of Barcelona, Sa'dun al Ruayni, rebelled in 797 but the Amir retook the city in 799. Then Charlemagne's son, Louis, captured the city from the Amirate in 801. He made it the seat of the Spanish Marches. It was ruled by a Count who was appointed by the Frankish kings. Catalonian nobles were vassals of the Count of Barcelona throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The Spanish Marches eventually included the northern parts of Navarra, Aragon, and Catalonia. The regions of the Marches were subjects of the Duke of Toulouse.<sup>6</sup>

### **Pallars and Ribagorza**

Pallars, in western Catalonia, was often ruled as one county along with its neighbor Ribagorza (#11 above). The region had a turbulent history in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. These territories

---

<sup>3</sup> Various online sources.

<sup>4</sup> Various online sources (search Leon).

<sup>5</sup> Various online sources (search Castile, Burgos).

<sup>6</sup> Various online sources (search Barcelona, Catalonia, Reconquista).

were taken from the Moors by the Franks in 781. They became part of the Marca Hispanica and formed part of the province of Toulouse. In 817 the region was bestowed to Pepin (second son of Louis the Pious) as part of the Kingdom of Aquitaine. In 833 the two counties were usurped by Aznar Galindez, Count of Urgel and Cerdagne. He lost his original counties but held Pallars and Ribagorza until 838 when Sunifred I, Count of Barcelona, expelled him. In 872 Toulouse was thrown into turmoil by an assassination and the men of the counties took the opportunity to gain their independence. At this time a man named Raymond (a Basque) became count of the territories. This was the first step in tearing the Spanish Marches away from the Franks. Raymond I tried to maintain peace with the Moors, but failed, so he constructed defensive fortifications in both counties. He established an alliance with the new Jimenez dynasty in Navarra. In 907 Raymond lost most of Ribagorza to Huesca. He died in 920 and his sons inherited Pallars. The rest of the 10<sup>th</sup> century is somewhat obscure.<sup>7</sup>

## Navarra

During Roman times the area was inhabited by the Vascones (Basques), a pre-Roman tribe who populated the southern slopes of the Pyrenees. The capital city of the province was Pamplona, which was built on the site of a Roman Camp built by Pompey. It was the chief town of the Vascones, who remained independent from the Visigoths. In 777 Charlemagne's troops destroyed Pamplona's defensive walls. In 778 the Basques defeated the retreating Franks in the battle of Roncevaux Pass (*Orreaga* in Basque). It was actually more of a raid than a battle; the Franks lost because they could not counter the Basque style of fighting. They fought ferociously, attacking the horse not the man (see more details below). At nightfall the Basques melted into the night, taking with them all the loot from the baggage train. In this battle, Roland, the famous Prefect of the March of Brittany was killed.

Some of the Basques, especially the Almogavars, kept this style of fighting at least up into the late 1200s. In the late 700s the Muslims reconquered defenseless Pamplona which did not regain its independence until 802. In 806 the French were back and conquered the city, lost it again, and returned to retake it in 812. In that year there was a second battle of Roncevaux in the same pass. It ended in a stalemate because the Franks were more prepared this time. But the Franks could not hold the city and soon withdrew. In 824 there was a third battle of Roncevaux. Iñigo Arista, the commander of the troops of Pamplona, assisted by the troops of Banu Qasi (heirs of Cassius), routed the French. Iñigo's half-brother, Musa ibn Musa, was the leader of Banu Qasi, a small Muslim Basque province to the south of Pamplona. As a consequence Arista was crowned King of Pamplona and the kingdom began to strengthen its independence from both, the Frankish Empire and the Emirate of Cordoba. Eventually, Pamplona became the kingdom of Navarre (Navarra). However, during the 9<sup>th</sup> century Pamplona was more of a fortress than a city and the region was often unstable due to internal Basque conflicts.<sup>8</sup>

## Aragon

Throughout the 9<sup>th</sup> century Aragon's (present day) northern kingdoms were fiefs of the Count of Barcelona and were often part of the Spanish Marches. The capital city of the remaining territory was Zaragoza which was controlled by the Amirate of Cordoba. Charlemagne tried to capture the city in 777 and 778 but had to withdraw due to Basque harassment in his rear and by the stiff Amirate defense of the city. Zaragoza was a Taifa

---

<sup>7</sup> Various online sources (search Pallars and Ribagorza).

<sup>8</sup> Various online sources (search Navarre, Pamplona, Basques).

kingdom from 1018 to 1110, when it was captured by the Almoravids. The last Taifa king, forced from the city, became allied with Basque, Alfonso the Battler, and his Muslim Troops became regulars in Aragon's army. The Aragonese finally took the city in 1118.<sup>9</sup>

### **Portugal (Portucalensis County)**

Portugal started the 9<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Caliphate of Cordoba. The County of Portucalensis was founded 868 by Count Vimara Peres. The County was then known as *Portucale* (i.e., Portugal). It remained a fief of Galicia and later, Leon, until 1139, when Count Alfonso Enriques declared independence. This was disputed until the Battle of Ourique in 1143. Then its independence was recognized by Alfonso VII of Leon and Castile. Aided by military monastic Orders it gradually gained territory southward during the reconquista until it became the modern country of Portugal, though it was often under Spanish control.<sup>10</sup>

### **Vikings**

In 842 the Vikings set up a base at the mouth of the Loire River in France from which they could raid further south. In the 840s a fleet of 150 ships plundered the Garonne region of France and then sailed down to Spain. Some of the invaders settled in Biarritz, France, on the coast, just north of the Pyrenees. In 844, they probably raided Santiago de Compostela at this time (it was sometime in the 9<sup>th</sup> century). They also harried Lisbon (Lisboa) and looted Seville (Sevilla), attacked Cordoba, and then retreated with their loot to an island at the mouth of the Guadalquivir River, from which they raided the neighboring countryside. When the Moorish navy arrived they blockaded the Vikings on their island. Viking raiding parties were captured and several ships were destroyed by Greek fire. The Vikings also lost thirty ships in a naval battle. The Moors took so many prisoners that there weren't enough gallows in Seville and many were hanged from palm trees. The Amir of Cordoba sent 200 severed heads to his allies in Tangier as proof of his victory. Finally the surviving Vikings exchanged their Moorish prisoners for the right to sail away. Others were allowed to stay and live in the Guadalquivir valley, but they were only known for cattle-raising and making cheese. They never contributed any military presence. Few Vikings ever successfully raided the Amirate.<sup>11</sup> In 859 Vikings ravaged the southern coast of France. Many people were killed and whole towns were razed to the ground. Raiders also struck along the coast of Africa.<sup>12</sup>

### **The Basques**

The Basques lived in the mountains and were ruled by chieftains. Their country (*Euskal Herria*) was spread along the Pyrenees on both sides and a little into the lowlands. The Romans called them Vascones. At this time, the 9<sup>th</sup> century, there were a few Christians around but by and large the Basques were Pagans, probably worshipping natural phenomena, the sun, the sky, etc. A trickle of Missionary activity from Asturias and the Franks began in the 9<sup>th</sup> century but mass conversions did not begin until the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. In many cases, a Christian veneer was laid over the old religion. The Moors often referred to them as Magus (Wizards, Pagans).

---

<sup>9</sup> Various online sources (search Aragon, Zaragoza).

<sup>10</sup> Various online sources (search Portugal).

<sup>11</sup> Vikings, Iron Crown Enterprises, page 78.

<sup>12</sup> Saudi Aramco World, September/October 2009, 32-39.

It's difficult to get information on the Basques of this period. The *Saxon Poet*, writing in later times describes the Basque spears, for which they were known. This concurs with later Basque traditions, especially among the Almogavar tribe. Warriors were armed with two short heavy throwing spears and a knife or short sword and did not wear armor. The Almogavars were from the mountains of Aragon and part of Navarre. According to one account they were unarmored foot soldiers who were dressed in skins and carried arms similar to the ancient Romans (two heavy throwing spears, *atzagaia* in Catalan, and a short sword).

In later years, they served as mercenaries with such sponsors as the Catholic Church, Nobles, and even the Byzantines. In the late 1200s Peter III of Aragon assaulted Charles of Anjou. They were contesting the possession of Naples and Sicily and the Almogavars formed the most effective element of his army. Extremely disciplined and fierce they defeated the heavy Angevin cavalry. They fought by attacking the horse instead of the knight and once a knight was on the ground it was easy to finish him off.<sup>13</sup> It's possible that the name Almogavar comes from the Moors, *al-mughawwar*, meaning "the ones wreaking havoc," or "raiders" or "devastators."

### **North Africa**

The Islamic Muwalis (Arab client states) were sharing in the Islamic golden age and the 9<sup>th</sup> century was a flurry of activity. The Idrisid dynasty came to power in Morocco in the late 8<sup>th</sup> century. In Ifriqiya (Tunisia) the Aghlabids consolidated power there circa 820. The Muslims were also extremely active on sea. In 827 the invasion of Sicily and southern Italy began with 100 ships transporting 700 cavalry and 10,000 infantry in three days. In 835 the Islamic fleet included harraqat ships (fire throwing ships). By 866 the Aghlabids had conquered Byzantine Sicily, Apulia, Bari, and Taranto. The Muwalis still continued to dominate the armies with various Berber units and the Berber form of dress dominated these armies. Following a Muwali rebellion in 877 the Aghlabids began recruiting a few black soldiers of African origin as guard units. Also present were a few units of saqaliba (Slavs) that probably included men of other European origins. Also many Greek Byzantine soldiers converted to Islam after those conquests. The Fatimids came to power in Ifriqiya in 909.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Caliphate of Cordoba** (Arabic: *Khilāfat Qurṭūba*)

The first Umayyad Amir was Abd al-Rahman I who began his rule of al-Andalus in 756. He and his family had had to flee Damascus when they were overthrown by the Abbasid rebellion in 750. Upon reaching Iberia he was greeted by local chieftains and quickly gained popular support. His leadership skills pulled the region out of its confused state. The Caliphs were content to use the title Amir or Sultan instead of Caliph until the threat of the Abbasid invasion in the 10<sup>th</sup> century prompted them to assert their authority.

Hisham I or Hisham Al-Reda, was the second Amir of Cordoba, ruling from 788 to 796. Hisham was born in Cordoba. He was the 1st son of Abd ar-Rahman I and his wife, Halul, and the younger half brother of Suleiman. He built many mosques and completed the Mezquita. In 792 he called for a jihad. This attracted many religious volunteers, and Muslims arrived from abroad. The campaign took place in 793 against the Kingdom of Asturias and the County of Toulouse. In the second campaign he was defeated at Orange by William of Gellone, the Frankish count of Toulouse and first cousin to Charles the Great. His rule was marred by controversy regarding the execution of many people.

---

<sup>13</sup> Various online sources (search Basques, Almogavars)

<sup>14</sup> The Moors, Osprey Publishing, pages 16 -17.

Hakam I took over the rule of the Amirate in 796. His personal bodyguard (Hasham) included Christian Mercenaries.<sup>15</sup> He crushed a rebellion in al-Ribad on the south side of the Guadalquivir River and exiled them to Alexandria. He was a controversial figure which some called a great warrior and others a ruthless tyrant. He used force when necessary and peace and conciliation when it was in the public interest. He kept the theologians from gathering too much power, keeping church and state separated. He consolidated the Amirate and extended its boundaries.

Abd-al-Rahman II took over the reigns from his controversial father in 822. After that he was in constant warfare with Alphonso II of Asturias, halting the Spanish southward advance by 842. In 837 he suppressed a Christian and Jewish revolt in Toledo. In 844 he repulsed an attack by Vikings. After that he built up his navy. He was also famous for his public building program. He died in 852.

Muhammad I ruled from 852 to 886. He put down several revolts including the Banu Qasi family who were allied with the kingdom of Navarra, a revolt in Badajoz, which became independent in 875, the revolt of Toledo with support of Ordone I which was defeated, and finally, a tenacious revolt by Umar ibn Hafsun (most likely a Visigoth) which he was unable to quell.

The son of Muhammad I, Al Mundhir, also had a busy career. He led a partly failed campaign in 865 against King Ordone of Asturias. But while on his way back he defeated Burgos Rodrigo, Count of Castile, thus moving the Caliphate border further north again. He tried to conquer Leon in 878 but failed. He was defeated in the same year by the Banu Qasi rebels. But the following year he was able to expel the rebels from Badajoz. He inherited the throne in 886 but was murdered in 888, some say by his brother, Abdullah ibn Muhammad al-Umawi, who succeeded him.

However, contrary to that report, Abdullah was also described as a recluse, an apathetic Emir, who was not interested in governing. His most formidable threat was Umar Ibn Hafsun, still at large and strengthened with many allies. In 889 a small raid of southern Provence turned into an Andalusian colony that lasted 85 years. The location of the colony stretched from the coast near St. Tropez all the way into Switzerland, eventually blocking all the mountain passes of the Alps between France and Italy.<sup>16</sup>

Hafsun was finally defeated in 891. Unfortunately, all Hafsun had accomplished was to goad Abdulla into massacring many rebellious Christians. However, Hafsun was back again the next year and reconquered all the territories he had lost. By this time Hafsun was allied with the powerful Banu Qasi family and the Kingdom of Asturias and was receiving supplies from allies in North Africa.

Upon Abdullah's death in 912 the next couple of years were full of intrigue and political turmoil due to a series of assassinations worthy of Caesarian Rome. Succession finally went to Abdullah's grandson, Abd al-Rahman III. He was described as white-skinned and blue-eyed. He had to dye his hair black. For 20 years he avoided military action against the Spanish Christian kingdoms in the north. Instead he concentrated on suppressing the previous rebellions and in retaking all the lost territory. After rebuilding the Caliphate he finally felt confident enough to claim the title of Caliph in 929, mostly in reaction to the threat of an Abassid invasion.

---

<sup>15</sup> The Moors, Osprey Publishing page 8.

<sup>16</sup> Saudi Aramco World, September/October 2009, 32-39.

He is responsible for the zenith the golden age of Andalusia which lasted throughout the 10<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>17</sup>

### **TIMELINE**

**711** Muslim conquest of Iberia begins and lasts until 722. Most of the peninsula was overrun at one point or another. Though the occupation of the northwestern sections and the areas of the Basques in the north was slim, they were still paying tribute to the Moors.

**717** The Muslim army under General Al-Hurr crosses the Pyrenees and invades France.

**718** A Visigothic noble named Pelagius begins a revolt in Asturias.

**722** The army of Al-Samh ibn Malik al-Khawlani, emir of Al-Andalus, is defeated by Odo the Great, Duke of Aquitaine at the Battle of Toulouse. In the same year Pelagius wins the Battle of Covadonga against a force sent to put him down.

**728** An Andalusian fleet raids the Lerins Islands off Cannes.

**732** Abdul Rahman defeats Odo in the Battle of the River Garonne in 732. A desperate Odo turned to his rival Charles Martel, who decisively beats a small army of Muslims at the Battle of Tours where Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi died. Although it is mistakenly termed a decisive victory the Moors remain in the area for 32 more years.

**756** The first Umayyad Amir, Abd al-Rahman I comes to power in al-Andalusia.

**759** The Franks under Charles Martel's son, Pepin the Short, recapture Narbonne.

**777** Charlemagne receives the envoys of Sulayman al-Arabi, Husayn, and Abu Taur at the Diet of Paderborn. Charlemagne sees an opportunity to expand his kingdom and decides to invade Spain.

**778** Charlemagne crosses the Pyrenees and invests the city of Zaragoza but the stiff defense of the Moors and the Basques harrying his rear cause him to retreat. On his way back to France he destroys the walls of Pamplona. The Basques defeat his rear guard in Roncevaux Pass and run off with the booty from his baggage train. Roland is killed. After this the Muslims return to Pamplona and re-occupy it.

**781** Charlemagne captures Pallars and Ribagorza from the Moors.

**792** Hisham I calls for a jihad; many religious recruits come to Andalusia to join.

**793** Hisham I goes on campaign against the Kingdom of Asturias and the Spanish Marches, but he is defeated by William of Gellone, Count of Toulouse. A Muslim army assaults Narbonne but withdraws after Hisham's defeat.

**795** The Franks take most of Catalonia but not the city of Barcelona. Charlemagne creates the Marca Hispanica.

**797** Sa'dun al Ruayni of Barcelona rebels from the Amirate.

**799** The Amirate retakes Barcelona from al-Ruayni.

**801** Charlemagne's son Louis captures Barcelona.

**802** The Basques take Pamplona from the Moors.

**806** The French retake Pamplona; the Basques take it again.

**812** The Franks take Pamplona again; a 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Roncevaux Pass ends in stalemate.

**814** Relics of St. James are found at Santiago, Galicia.

**820** The Aghlabids take power in Ifriqiya (Tunisia).

**824** The Franks are defeated by Basque leader, Inigo Arista, in the third Battle of Roncevaux Pass; Pamplona becomes independent from the Franks. Inigo is declared King of Pamplona.

---

<sup>17</sup> Various online sources (search Caliphate of Cordoba, Reconquista).

- 827** The Aghlabids begin the invasion of Sicily. Amir Abd-al-Rahman II suppresses a Christian and Jewish revolt in Toledo. The Andalusians raid Oye in Brittany.
- 831** The Andalusians launch a raid on Marseilles and sail up the Rhone River.
- 833** Pallars/Riboagorza is yanked from the Franks by Aznar Galindez.
- 838** Pallars/Ribagorza is retaken by Sunifred I, Count of Barcelona.
- 841** A Muslim force under al-Iskandaruni attempts to take Narbonne but fails.
- 842** Amir Abd-al-Rahman II halts the Spanish attempts to move southward.
- 844** Vikings raid Santiago and Lisboa, sack Sevilla, and attack Cordoba. They are defeated by the Amirate.
- 848** Moslems capture Arles, France.
- 850** (some accounts say 884) Burgos is founded as an outpost of Leon. Diego Rodriguez "Porcelos" becomes the first Count of Castilla. About this time the Andalusians invade Morroco, capturing about half the kingdom.
- 856** Leon is occupied by King Ordone I of Asturias.
- 859** Vikings ravage the southern coast of France.
- 865** Muhammad I fails to take over Asturias but manages to conquer Castile by defeating Count Rodrigo at Bureba. The Spanish strongholds are sacked and the progress of repopulation and expansion is set back for a time.
- 866** The Aghlabids complete the conquest of Sicily from the Byzantines.
- 868** The County of Portucalensis (Portugal) is conquered by Count Vimara Peres. The Basque rebellion in Alava is quelled and, for his assistance, Rodrigo of Castilla is made Count of Alava.
- 869** The Andalusians raid Provence and construct a harbor in the Camargue.
- 872** Pallars/Ribagorza regain their independence from the Franks.
- 875** Badajoz rebels from the Amirate and becomes independent. Muhammad I continues to deal with several revolts, including one by Hafsun, a Visigoth of the Amirate.
- 878** Muhammad I fails to recapture Leon.
- 884** The son of Rodrigo, Diego Rodrigo, dies and Castilla becomes fractured into many smaller counties.
- 886** The rebels are expelled from Badajoz by Muhammad I.
- 889** Andalusians raid southern Provence at Fraxinet, near St. Tropez, and begin a long standing colony there.
- 891** Hafsun is defeated.
- 892** Hafsun returns with powerful allies but he is finally defeated by Abd al-Rahman III in the early 900s.

*(912 begins the first period in the El Cid Supplement.)*