

Thirty Years of Research on the History of the Medieval Maghrib (Seventh to Sixteenth Centuries)

Mounira Chapoutot-Remadi

Université de Tunis

Because of the extensive but widely dispersed research on North Africa in the Middle Ages, carried out not only in the three countries of the Maghrib, but also in France, England, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United States, and elsewhere, this sketch cannot by any means be exhaustive. Further adding to the difficulty of compiling a survey such as this is the poor circulation of information, especially within the three Maghrib countries. For the purposes of this paper, "the Maghrib" means Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. The information available on Libya is too fragmentary to take into account in an analysis of this kind.

Researchers in several countries share common preoccupations: virtually everywhere, they have felt the need to sketch an overview, whether complete (that is, Maghrib-wide) or partial (Tunisian, Algerian, or Moroccan). Needless to say, I have relied on these important works, many of which are mentioned below.

REFERENCE WORKS

The national libraries of all three Maghrib countries have published bibliographies.

The *Bibliographie Nationale Tunisienne* was established in 1970. Two retrospective series (1958–1968 and 1969–1973) were issued in 1974–1975, and regular periodical publications have appeared since in Arabic and French. The National Library has also published some fifty specialized bibliographies in conjunction with cultural or political events. Among their subjects have been Ibn Hanī al-Andalusī (the first such publication, in 1973); Imam Mazrī (1975); Ibn Khaldūn (1980); Ibn Sīnā (1980); and Ibn Jazzar (1983). The Algerian National Library, created after independence in 1962, also maintains bilingual listings.

Other useful works include the bilingual *Catalogue de la bibliothèque: Occident musulman* (3 vols.; Casablanca: King Abdul Aziz ibn Saud Foundation for Islamic Studies and the Humanities, 1987); Marcelle Beaudiquez, ed., *Inventaire général des bibliographies nationales rétrospectives* (Munich: K. G. Saur, 1986); and Jean Déjeux, *Dictionnaire des auteurs maghrébins de langue française* (Paris: Karthala, 1984).

Overviews and broad historiographical surveys published in North Africa include 'Abd al-Salam ibn Suda, *Dalil mu'arrikh al-Maghrib al-Aqsa* (Tetouan: Institut Moulay Hassan, 1950. 2d ed.; 2 vols.; Casablanca: Dar al-Kitab, 1960–1965); Muhammed Manuni, *Al-Masadir al-'arabiyya li-ta'rikh al-Maghrib* (Rabat: Manshurat Kulliyyat al-Adab wa-l-'Ulum al-Insaniyya, 1983); Université de Tunis, *Esquisse d'un bilan de la production scientifique, 1958–1983* (Tunis: Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique, 1983); Jean Fontaine, *Fihris ta'rikh al-mu'allifat al-tunisiyya* [with Arabic text by Hammadi Sammud] (Tunis: Bait al-Hikma, 1986); and Mohamed Yalaoui, "Les Recherches sur la Tunisie médiévale au cours des trentes dernières années (1956–1986)," in *IBLA*, no. 159 (1986), pp. 61–72, an overview done on the fiftieth anniversary of the journal.

Among the surveys compiled or published abroad are those of the Association Française des Arabisants, *Dix ans de recherche universitaire française sur le monde arabe et islamique* (Paris: Editions Recherche sur les Civilisations, 1982); *Mille et une livres sur le monde arabe* (Paris: Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, 1984); and Mohamed Ben Madani, "Thèses soutenues sur le Maghreb dans les universités françaises en 1987," in *The Maghreb Review* XIII, nos. 1–2 (1988), pp. 136–140. Claude Cahen, *Introduction à l'histoire du monde musulman médiéval, VIIè–XVè siècles. Méthodologie et éléments de bibliographie* (Paris: Maisonneuve, 1982) is, as the author indicates in the introduction, the third of its kind, the first being Jean Sauvaget, *Introduction à l'histoire de l'Orient musulman: Eléments de bibliographie* (Paris: Adrien-Maisonneuve, 1943), which Cahen updated in 1961 and which was revised again in 1982. Also by Cahen is "L'Historiographie arabe des origines au VIIè siècle H" in *Arabica* XXXIII, fasc. 2 (1986), pp. 133–197. Other articles and books of note are Jean-François Clément, "L'Historiographie récente du Maroc. Réunion d'Aix-en-Provence, 2–4 juillet 1987," in *Bulletin de l'Association française d'études sur le monde arabe et musulman*, no. 2 (December 1987), pp. 117–132; Bernard Rosenberger, "Vingt ans de recherches sur l'histoire médiévale marocaine," in *Arabisant*, no. 26 (1987), pp. 9–43; and Pessah Shinar, *Maghrébin contemporain: Essai de bibliographie sélective et annotée sur l'Islam. Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie, Libye (1830–1978)* (Paris: CNRS, 1983).