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Titolo	The Sephardic frontier [[electronic resource]] : the reconquista and the Jewish community in medieval Iberia // Jonathan Ray
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Descrizione fisica	x, 198 p. : maps
Collana	Conjunctions of religion and power in the medieval past
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Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally presented as the author's thesis (Ph. D.)--Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, 2002.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The migration of Jewish settlers to the frontier -- Jewish landownership -- Moneylending and beyond : the Jews in the economic life of the frontier -- Royal authority and the legal status of Iberian Jewry -- Jewish communal organization and authority -- Communal tensions and the question of Jewish autonomy -- Maintenance of social boundaries on the Iberian frontier.
Sommario/riassunto	No subject looms larger over the historical landscape of medieval Spain than that of the reconquista, the rapid expansion of the power of the Christian kingdoms into the Muslim-populated lands of southern Iberia, which created a broad frontier zone that for two centuries remained a region of warfare and peril. Drawing on a large fund of unpublished material in royal, ecclesiastical, and municipal archives as well as rabbinic literature, Jonathan Ray reveals a fluid, often volatile society that transcended religious boundaries and attracted Jewish

colonists from throughout the peninsula and beyond. The result was a wave of Jewish settlements marked by a high degree of openness, mobility, and interaction with both Christians and Muslims. Ray's view challenges the traditional historiography, which holds that Sephardic communities, already fully developed, were simply reestablished on the frontier. In the early years of settlement, Iberia's crusader kings actively supported Jewish economic and political activity, and Jewish interaction with their Christian neighbors was extensive. Only as the frontier was firmly incorporated into the political life of the peninsular states did these frontier Sephardic populations begin to forge the communal structures that resembled the older Jewish communities of the North and the interior. By the end of the thirteenth century, royal intervention had begun to restrict the amount of contact between Jewish and Christian communities, signaling the end of the open society that had marked the frontier for most of the century.
