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Autore	Beinart Haim
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Kingdom of Aragon 223 -- Departure by Land 229 -- Departure by Sea 238 -- iv. Implementation of the Edict in the Kingdom of Castile 244 -- Conversion instead of Exile or Prison 244 -- Tribulations of Departure 253 -- Exploitation on the Border: Ciudad Rodrigo 261 -- The Passage from Castile into Portugal 272 -- Departure by Sea 274 -- v. Implementation of the Edict in Sardinia and Sicily 279 -- vi. Navarre: Asylum and Expulsion 28i -- vii. The Number of Jews Expelled 284 -- 6. Smuggling 291 -- 7. Return and Conversion 329 -- i. Return and Conversion among the Jews of Castile 338 -- i. Return and Conversion among the Jews of Aragon 402 -- 8. The Senior Dynasty 413 -- i. The Origins of the Family and its First Steps in -- Government 413 -- n. The Case of Juan de Talavera 424 -- in. Abraham Senior's Public Service before Conversion 428 -- iv. Abraham Senior's Property 434 -- v. Abraham Senior as Tax-Farmer and Tax-Collector 443 -- vi. Abraham Senior as Treasurer of the Hermandad 456 -- vii. Expulsion and Conversion 460 -- viii. Fernan Niniez Coronel's General Financial Activity 469 -- IX. Rabbi Meir Melamed and his Sons 475 -- x. Solomon Senior, the Sons of Abraham Senior, and -- Other Family Members 490 -- 9. The House of Abravanel, 1483-1492 501 -- 10. Contemporaries Describe the Expulsion 520.

Sommario/riassunto

The Expulsion of the Jews from Spain' is a detailed study of the events surrounding this infamous chapter in Spanish history. Based on hundreds of documents discovered, deciphered, and analyzed during decades of intensive archival research, this work focuses on the practical consequences of the expulsion both for those expelled and those remaining behind. It responds to basic questions such as: What became of property owned by Jewish individuals and communities? What became of outstanding debts between Jews and Christians? How was the edict of expulsion implemented? Who was in charge? How did they operate? What happened to those who converted to Christianity in order to remain in Spain or return to that country? The material summarized and analyzed in this study also sheds light on Jewish life in Spain preceding the expulsion. For example, Jews are shown to have been present in remote villages where they were not hitherto known to have lived, and documents detailing lawsuits between Christians related to debts left behind by Jews reveal much about business and financial relations between Jews and Christians. By focusing on the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in such detail - for example, by naming the magistrates who presided over the confiscation of Jewish communal property - Professor Beinart takes history out of the realm of abstraction and gives it concrete reality.
