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Convivencia: A model for Living Together?

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Course description: How is it possible that different cultures, religions and civilizations come together without clashing? “*Convivencia*” has become a new term of formulating this need for a peaceful way to live together, hereby referring to historical experiences. A long period in Spanish history, namely *al-Andalus*, has been characterized by this concept *convivencia*. Is it a pure myth? Or merely an ideology? What are the realistic elements in this naming of *convivencia* as an analytical category? Understanding this historical situation and its normative context, in particular whether there has been a “constitution of *convivencia*”, through the legal figure of *dhimmi* may help transfer those experiences as *connubium*, *commercium* and *commensality*. A careful reading of these examples may lead to cautious propositions for finding some interesting solutions to ethnic, religious and civilizational tensions in a world that lives through communication and societal interchange in the “global age”.