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## “*Don Quijote* and the Moors”

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‡Over the course of the sixteenth century, Spain tried with mixed success to assimilate the *Moriscos* or *nuevos convertidos de moros* (Muslims who had been forcibly converted to Christianity) and their descendants, while ostracizing their culture and language. Cervantes' *Don Quijote* explores the problem of Spain's Moorishness at every level of the text, from its narrative voice to its generic intertexts to the fantasies of its protagonist. In its multifaceted engagement, the novel considers the place of Moors within Spain in the tragic aftermath of the fall of Granada, offering literary inclusion as a response to the pressing problem of Morisco assimilation.‡