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## Gypsy Persecution during the Golden Age of Spain

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Poster Presentation 47

**GYPSY PERSECUTION DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF SPAIN**

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The Gypsies of Spain's Golden Age suffered a persecution unknown to any other race in Spanish history. Entering Spain in the mid-fifteenth century, the Gypsies lived in isolated communities governed by strict, self-devised Gypsy laws devised to preserve racial unity and loyalty. The Gypsies lived undisturbed until 1499, a year which marked the beginning of anti-Gypsy laws devised by the Spaniards. While the Gypsy laws fought to maintain their unity and survival as a race, the Spanish laws aimed at destroying Gypsy harmony and culture.

The struggle continued until the end of the eighteenth century, when Spanish king Carlos III initiated a series of laws that marked the decline of Gypsy persecution in Spain. By the end of nineteenth century, the Gypsies integrated with the Andalusian culture in Spain, and the era of Gypsy persecution during the Golden Age came to a close.