The theme of "Al-Andalus" has featured prominently in the Arabic novel from the novel's earliest stages to its most recent diverse and complex maturation. This article examines the connections between the temporal and spatial significations of Al-Andalus and how they function within three Arabic novels, from the historical/romantic, social realist, and modernist genres. It argues that writing Al-Andalus entails more than nostalgia for a glorious past. These novelists take a critical view of contemporary society and rework Al-Andalus as a blueprint for a more hopeful future. That is, the historical consciousness of the "Andalusian" novel reflects on, explains, and critiques the current state of affairs in the Arab world. More generally, this study reiterates the homologous relationship between the political and intellectual trajectory of modern Arabic thought.
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